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Agrahayana 22, 1943 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVI contains Nos.10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February 11, 2022/Magha 22, 1943 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Sixteen of the Clock.

[HON'BLE SPEAKER: *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the language used by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh against Bengal, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir is highly condemnable...(*Interruptions*) the statement made by Yogi Adityanath Ji...(*Interruptions*) Bengal, Kerala and U.P...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

* Not recorded.

16.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No.141, Kaushlendra Kumar.

... *(Interruptions)*

(Q. 141)

HON. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour.

Hon. Member.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: Sir, Hon. Minister has given an extensive answer ...*(Interruptions)* I was satisfied with that. But, some things were left out. I have a question for the hon. Minister. He has given the answer on the basis of the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16). Now, the question is, the survey which had to be done during the last six years by the Government has not been done ...*(Interruptions)* Thyroid is not a life-threatening disease such as obesity. Today, that disease is increasing. This disease is increasing particularly in North India ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, he has taken the survey of the women belonging to the age group from 15 to 49 whereas the women and men of more than 50 years old are also suffering from thyroid ...*(Interruptions)* According to Survey-5, 94.3 percent are getting iodine. It is my request to conduct an extensive survey on thyroid particularly of North Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please be seated.

... (*Interruptions*)

16.04 hrs

At this stage, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Shri Hussain Masoodi, Prof. Sougata Ray and some other hon. Members left the House.

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a serious question. The survey released on thyroid disease has come after five years. This survey, N.F.H.S-4 and N.F.H.S-5 has been conducted to find out the reason for the thyroid and the deficiency which caused the said disease. This survey is conducted for different age groups.

Through you, I would like to say that as thyroid disorders are rising, many provisions have been made under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme at the national level and under State Iodine Deficiency Control Cell at the state level for this. ...(*Interruptions*) Funds have been allocated to the States too. Through NHM, provisions have also been made for that whether it is for testing or treatment. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no need, please be seated.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please ask the supplementary question.

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: Now, the data has been out that there are around four crore patients in the country. This is a big number. 43.6 percent of pregnant women are suffering from this disease. Whether the Government is trying to conduct any programme to spread awareness under thyroid, Covid, TB, Polio and Corona programmes and to prevent these diseases? The UK and US governments have taken extensive steps related to this. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the view of the Government regarding this.

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR: Through you, I would definitely like to say to the hon. Member that the Central Government is working diligently on this. As I have said, work is going on at the district level to supply iodized salt to each person. Salt is tested also through labs, surveys are conducted and there is also a programme to increase health awareness.

I would like to say to the hon. member that ASHA workers help to find out the amount of iodine in the salt used in households through a salt testing kit. Through you, it is my request to increase the number of surveys related to this.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 142, Shri G. Selvam – Not present.

Shri Dhanush M. Kumar.

(Q. 142)

[English]

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: I wish to ask the question in Tamil.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You give notice. Have you given notice?

[English]

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: Yes, Sir, I have given notice.

HON. SPEAKER: You have to give notice half an hour before you wish to speak.

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: Okay, Sir. I will speak in English.

HON. SPEAKER: There is no problem. You can speak in a regional language but you have to give notice half an hour before.

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: Sir, in Tamil Nadu, Agathiyar is considered as the guru of Siddha medicine. He lived in Pothigai Hills, which has a lot of medicinal plants which are being used in Siddha medicines. Though Pothigai has been a centre for Siddha medicine, there is neither a Siddha research centre, nor a medical college.

In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government plans to open a new medical college for Siddha system of medicine and also a research centre in Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu, which is my Parliamentary constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank Hon'ble Member of Parliament Selvam G and Shri Dhanush M. Kumar ji that these people have come up with questions regarding AYUSH. Siddha is a particularly integral part of AYUSH. The question of our Hon'ble Member of Parliament is that in the coming days, will the hospital be built in his constituency?

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to say through you that if a proposal is sent by the State Government in this regard, then I will definitely discuss the matter.

[English]

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: Sir, Siddha system of medicine is mainly practised in Tamil Nadu and southern parts of the country. It is popular among people in these States.

However, due to lack of support from the Government and lack of awareness, Siddha system of medicine could not be made popular among masses in the country. In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken to popularise and promote Siddha system of medicine in all parts of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have mentioned in detail in response to the question of what steps have been taken by the Government to promote Siddha. I think if this answer is read properly, you will get the answer of your question as well.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Hon'ble Minister, AYUSH was a Department in the Ministry of Health. Once upon a time, I was in charge of this Ministry.

There are many Unani hospitals in my constituency on a large scale. I am accustomed to the Unani treatment. The problem is that these hospitals are not getting enough funds. I would like to know whether the total allocation is being made through the Central Government. Has there been any special idea floated?

At that time, we had decided that Unani hospitals could be extended financial support directly from the Central Government. I would like to know whether such a decision has been made or all these hospitals are still under the control of the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I just want to say in response to the question of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament that to implement the National AYUSH Mission, both State and Central Government work together. Therefore, if a hospital of 10 beds, 30 beds and 50 beds is to be set up in a state, then it is very important to get a proposal from the State Government because their state annual action plan is presented and when the same plan is admitted to our ministry, then we take a decision on this subject. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Question number 143, Shri Ravi Kishan.

(Q. 143)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs. He gave a detailed answer to my question. However, I would like to draw his attention to an error in the Hindi version. The first name in the names of the five Central Asian countries mentioned in the reply has been mistakenly written Tajikistan instead of Kazakhstan.

The main feature of the conference was that a Secretariat would be set up in New Delhi to ensure deepening of bilateral relations to institutionalise the summit mechanism. Has any framework been prepared? If so, the time by when will it be set up? What will be the major subjects under its jurisdiction?

[English]

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: The first India-Central Asia Summit was held on 27th of January and it coincided with the 30th year of India's establishment of diplomatic relationship with the Central Asian countries. I would like to say that the historic outcome of the Summit -- as the hon. Member has just mentioned -- was the institutionalisation of the Summit mechanism which will be held once in two years. So, I would like to say that this reflects the common desire of the Leaders of India and the Central Asian countries. The institutional mechanism, including the establishment of the Secretariat, is being worked out.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, there was talk of creating a Ministerial platform for various subjects such as political matters, cooperation, trade promotion, environment and defence cooperation. My question is, apart from this, has any decision been taken about the interaction of private

institutions like Chambers of Commerce, industrial houses and enlightened persons? If so, I request the Hon'ble Minister to share the details. What will be the checks and balances in it to prevent any kind of misuse?

[English]

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, of course, for any such engagement, it will include our engagement in the field of business, the bilateral relations within that country and people to people ties. India and Central Asian countries enjoy a very long history of people to people ties.

So, all the aspects that have been mentioned become part of the ties and to improve those ties from time to time, necessary steps will be taken.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ravindra Kushwaha – Not present.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the current situation, Central Asia has strategic importance for India. Sadly, the virtual summit was held on January 27. On January 26, Republic Day, these countries were invited, but they did not come. Did we tell these countries not to come as there is Covid or they said that they couldn't come because of Covid. The reason for these countries not coming is not known. Eight days later, the leaders of the same country went to China and held a physical meeting with the Government there. There is a trade of \$40 billion with China, while currently there is a trade of \$2 billion with India. The Government of Turkmenistan made a special request and in the year 2015, the Government of India gave its commitment on the TAPI pipeline.

I want to ask the Government, if the Government of India is committed to the TAPI pipeline today? There is a Taliban Government in Afghanistan, and

there are security risks with Pakistan. Turkmenistan requests that India should be active on the TAPI pipeline. What is the Government's stand on this?

[English]

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, as the Hon'ble Member mentioned, the invitation to the Heads of States of these five countries were extended much earlier to attend the Republic Day Parade as well as the India-Central Asia Summit. But as we all know the COVID-19 situation prevented the physical visit of these Heads of States to India. So, it could not happen.

But at the same time, I am sure that all the Members will appreciate that the Summit happened in the virtual form and also, all the member participants in the virtual Summit brought out a declaration reiterating the commitment to take forward this engagement to establish an institutional mechanism to have a Summit once in two years. So, I must say for the benefit of all our Members that our relationship with any country does not depend upon their relationship with any other third country. So, India has engagement with many countries in the world with the consideration of mutual/bilateral benefit and also improvement of our relations.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, this is a very important question and Mr. Jaishankar should have been present here. I saw in papers that he had gone to visit Australia. He is new to this system. You please advise him to be present while the Parliament session is on so that we can get a proper reply.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: He has informed me.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: You must have been informed. He could have gone after two days. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have given the permission.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): It demeans the Hon'ble Minister. The MoS also has the responsibility. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Is Rijju Ji a Minister of External Affairs? Why is he replying? ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Your statement is not correct, as another Minister can also make statements in lieu of the Minister. *[English]* How come you say that he should have been here? *[Translation]* This is not right. This is wrong. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, he is answering. Are you allowing this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I will come to the question. The five Republics are called the Former Soviet Republic. They were all in the Soviet Union.
 ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You disturb everyone.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, this is a very serious question.... (*Interruptions*)
 I'll come to my question in two sentences. India has a very deep connection with it. You must be aware that Emperor Babur came to India from Uzbekistan. He was born in a small town called Fergana. But, right now, these five countries ...(*Interruptions*) You demolished Babur's mosque, that is another thing. My question is very simple. You know Tajikistan is on the border of Afghanistan. Afghanistan, Amu Darya, followed by Tajikistan. It is surrounded by Afghanistan on all sides. It is written here that [*English*] there is a broad regional consensus on Afghanistan. Afghanistan, owing to the fault of the Americans, are in the hands of the Taliban. Since it is the gateway to India, it is threatening the security of the country. May I know from the hon. Minister what was the broad regional consensus on Afghanistan which is being ruled by extremists, the Taliban forces, which are hostile to India. The hon. Minister may please tell the House what was the broad regional consensus.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Before I proceed to reply to this question, I would like to reply to the question raised by the hon. Member before him regarding the TAPI project. Of course, it was discussed and emphasised by the President of Turkmenistan during the Summit and discussions are going on at

the level of the TAPI Consortium partners on the business principles of this TAPI project.

Regarding the Afghanistan aspect of the India – Central Asia Summit, I have to inform the hon. Member that the issue of Afghanistan was discussed during the Summit. The situation in Afghanistan is of natural concern for neighbouring countries like India and the Central Asian countries. I would say that, in broad terms, we share the same concerns and similar objectives. The Delhi Declaration which was issued after the Summit reflects the broad consensus on Afghanistan including humanitarian assistance; ensuring formation of a truly representative and inclusive Government; combating terrorism and drug trafficking; and preserving the rights of women, children and minorities.

I would also like to submit that during the Summit, the leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They re-affirmed the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 2593 which demands that Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorism. They also agreed to continue close consultation on Afghanistan, including the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Afghanistan.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 144, Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria.

(Q. 144)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA: I have a question to the Minister that in Rajasthan, even at 4 am in the morning when the temperature is in the minus degree, the youth sweats it out for recruitment in the Army. Even if there is a temperature of 50 degrees, they work so hard, their hard work has no limit.

I would like to say that I had written a letter to the Hon'ble Minister on 12th November, 2020 to organise open recruitment of Army for the youth in my parliamentary constituency and Rajasthan. The Minister had taken cognizance of this and assured me that open recruitment of the Army will be conducted at the earliest. As soon as the order of the Hon'ble Minister came, open recruitment of Army was organised from 8th March to 30th March 2021 in my parliamentary constituency district Tonk, Sikar and Jaipur, in which lakhs of youth participated. About 17,000 of them have cleared both physical and medical tests, but the written examination of those youths has not been done yet.

I request the Minister to conduct a written examination so that they are selected somewhere and can join the Army. I request the Hon'ble Minister to reply on this.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the recruitment process of the Indian Army is known to all. There are regional headquarters at different places across the country ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please ask them to keep silence. They are disturbing a lot. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you please continue.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, he is a senior Member of Parliament, so I want to speak now, he was speaking before as well. Just when the Minister

of State for External Affairs was speaking, he was saying why there is no Cabinet Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sougata Roy ji, you have also been a Minister of State once. I have also been a Minister of State. We used to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Minister even then. Now, when the Minister of State was replying, the language you have used is not right. He was speaking on behalf of Minister of Defence...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Attending Parliament is the most important job of the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Nobody should demean the importance of Parliament. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: It is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is a collective responsibility. Right now, I am replying on the behalf of the Minister of Defence. This is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. How can you question that? It's not right. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, please reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the recruitment rallies held in large numbers from Rajasthan, candidates have participated. Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapurja ji is an Hon'ble Minister of Parliament from Rajasthan, he has rightly said that a large number of candidates from Rajasthan have participated in those rallies. When 47 rallies were conducted across the country, at that time, a severe Covid situation had arisen in the month of July, Then the recruitment process was stopped. This process has not been permanently stopped. There is still an outbreak of new variants of Covid in this country, due to which there is some delay. The reason for this is known to all.

Sir, I want to assure this House that the recruitment process, medical and physical tests, written tests, documents, etc., have been done. As soon as the atmosphere is fine, the final written test is to be held, and that test will also be conducted very soon. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to say one thing to Danish Aliji and Saugata Royji that I have asked the question, the Hon'ble Minister is answering, I cannot say that, but why are you having trouble in between? I don't understand that. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, through you, I want to request the Hon'ble Minister that the manner in which he has talked about recruitment, that is really getting delayed due to Covid right now; but despite Covid, many other recruitments are also taking place. I request that their written test should be conducted as soon as possible, so that the aspirants from that area can get a chance. Aspirants from Tonk and Sawai Madhopur should be given an exclusive opportunity for recruitment.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker Sir, I have given an assurance earlier also. I have got the information by talking to the officers of the Army and the officials of the Ministry of Defence. I want to assure the Hon. Member that the recruitment which is still incomplete, will be completed at the earliest.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete - Not present.

Shri Uday Pratap Singh.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, through you I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that in the Army recruitments 7,000 youths have been recruited from Madhya Pradesh, 12,000 from Haryana, 12,000 from Himachal Pradesh, 9,000 from Jammu and Kashmir and 14,000 from Rajasthan during the last three years. It is not that youths from Madhya Pradesh do not want to join the Army.

Since the number of Army recruitment offices, which are AROs offices, are less in Madhya Pradesh. There are 4 such offices in Haryana, 4 in Himachal Pradesh, 6 in Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh is bigger than these States but it has only 2 headquarters. One ARO headquarter is in Jabalpur and the other ARO headquarter is in Gwalior.

Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister that we have an Army Headquarter in Pachmarhi. Considering rail connectivity, my parliamentary constituency Narmadapuram - Hoshangabad has rail connectivity from Pipariya and Itarsi and youths can easily reach there. I also request that an Army recruitment camp may be organized there in the coming time. Whether you also have any such plan?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the army recruitments that are going on across the country at present are divided into 11 zones. There are 48 Regimental Centres, 2 Gorkha Regimental Officers and there is an Independent

Recruitment Office at New Delhi. Madhya Pradesh, from where the Hon. Member hails, has headquarter of the Recruitment Office at Jabalpur. Apart from this, there are a total of four Army recruitment centers including Gwalior, Mau and Bhopal. The Hon. Member has rightly said that Madhya Pradesh is a very big State, but as per the present arrangement, the recruitment centers and the related correspondence area are fine. Apart from this, regarding the request made by the Hon. Member to connect the places with rail connectivity, we will tell the Ministry as to what can be done on that, but the present arrangement is fine.

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Sir, thank you so much. If I look at the answer, it is found that you have not recruited since July, 2021. Now, the issue is that you have mentioned about the centers and you have pointed out that there are four centers in Maharashtra. These centers are in main Maharashtra – Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad. These are all metropolitan cities.

If you see the recruitment percentage, it is 78.32 per cent in rural areas and 21.68 per cent in urban areas. In 2019-20, it was 77.20 per cent in rural areas and 22.80 per cent in urban areas. *[Translation]* Now as to why is this difference existing, we have to find out reasons. Sir, most importantly the youths from poor family cannot travel such far distance. If you have four centres, then you ask them to open their subcentres. You organize it in Aurangabad or in Nagpur and we recently visited Sambhajinagar and like Garh Chirauli is in Nagpur, but you think how a poor youth will travel to faraway places. *[English]* So, you should have some sub-centers. I think you can have a scrutiny process in those sub-centres and those who are finally selected can be recruited ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Are you going to do that or not? When are you going to do the next recruitment?

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, as has been mentioned about Maharashtra. Maharashtra and Goa have joint center in Kolhapur and also in Nagpur, Mumbai and Pune. Headquarter is in Pune. I think it necessary to tell you that the recruitment center does not mean that it recruits only local people. That is a zone, recruitment can be done anywhere in that area. There is a policy of the Army to bring people from the places where there is less representation for recruitment. Therefore, it is not like that only the people from the place where recruitment is being conducted will be recruited. For example, there is a center in Pune and there are many Districts in Pune, where recruitment process can be conducted. Therefore, it is not necessary. You rest assured. Maharashtra is a very progressive State and there are a good number of representations for the Indian Army from there.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Thank you, Sir. I need a clarification from the Minister who is actually answering on behalf of the Defence Minister. The only thing I want to understand is that three figures have been given in the answer sheet. In the first part, *[Translation]* where the total intake in the three-year recruiting is written as 53,431 in the year 2018-19 and 80,572 in the year 2019-20.

[English]

In the second page, that is the annexure to the reply, Sir, I need your indulgence. *[Translation]* State-wise intake of the last three years has been written in it. In this, 57,040 is written as vacant allotted position for the year 2018-19 and for the year 2019-20 it is written as 87,152. So there is difference between these two figures. After this, the total number written is 78,692. All these three figures are different for the same year. What are the number of vacancies, number of recruitments done and the position of total recruitment done? Kindly explain these three numbers to us.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, vacancies in Army, Navy and Air Force are created as per the number of personnel retiring and recruitment drive is carried out accordingly. If the Hon'ble Member wanted to know about any particular figure, then it would not be possible for me to calculate the figure immediately. ...*(Interruptions)* No Minister is a magician to calculate the figure here only; but I would like to assure....*(Interruptions)* The Hon'ble Member is a senior Parliamentarian. We have been together for many years. He has raised a query. I would like to assure you that if there is any error in the calculation, I will get it rectified. However, the Ministry of Defence works very sensitively and carefully. If there is any anomaly, it will be rectified, but there is no lack in the intent and principal by the Ministry.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No.145, Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

(Q.145)

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL: Sir, first of all I would like to thank the Government very much that I have received the desired data for the last three years pertaining to Ladakh, especially related to cancer. Many other good works have been done there. Earlier, we did not get so many medical facilities there. I will not repeat all those things. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister through you that many patients from Ladakh, especially related to cancer, have to come to either Delhi or Srinagar or Chandigarh for treatment. There are many costly medicines related to chemotherapy, narcotic pain medicine and morphine. Such patients have to buy these medicine and many of them cannot even afford them. In other States, NGOs help such people, but there are no such NGOs available in Ladakh as of now. One of our NGO named Ashoka Mission is doing good work in Delhi.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister that till the time the NGOs start working there, there should be palliative care facilities. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy ji, you are having discussion on this side as well as on that side.

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL: Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister that there is a need for palliative care facilities, including home care service, to assist the patients of Ladakh.

Secondly, I would like to know that if cancer patients are to be sent from Ladakh; then where to send them? I am not able to understand it. If they are sent from there, then cancer patients are going in search of hospitals according to their convenience. Could we nominate some particular hospitals for this, so that after sending such serious patients from there, they can get admission here immediately? Every State has its own priority. Obviously, it should be there; but

in that our patients have to visit Delhi and wait for up to six months. This is what I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the question has been asked by the Hon'ble Member that there should be facility for cancer treatment in Ladakh region. It is true that cancer treatment is a bit expensive. Cancer is such a disease that its treatment and medicines are also expensive. Continuous efforts are being made by the Government to ensure that a patient gets affordable medicines.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that there are more than 8,500 Jan Aushadhi Stores in the country. Arrangements have been made to make available the cheapest medicine for every type of cancer at Jan Aushadhi Stores. Apart from that, earlier, cancer medicine was expensive. We have fixed the trade margin to reduce it. Many times the first sale of medicine between the manufacture and the retailer chain is done for Rs 100, but the same medicine is available in retail for Rs 500. That's why we have fixed trade margin for that, so that the patient gets cheap medicine.

The Hon'ble Member has asked the second question that some hospitals should be earmarked for the patients from Ladakh region. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member that it is not necessary for a patient to go to a particular hospital to get the treatment. The Government has made such arrangements in the entire country for the patient to go to any tertiary care institute of any state be it Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh or Delhi. They would get good treatment.

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL: Thank you very much, Sir.

Sir, pain management and manpower training is very much needed in Ladakh, because Oncologist's prescription is required for chemotherapy.

Chemotherapy facility is available in Ladakh, but due to non-availability of oncologists in Ladakh, there are many hindrances in chemotherapy.

We don't even have onco-surgeons. Hon'ble Minister has just explained in detail and have also replied in writing. However, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that the Government has launched many good schemes to help and assist the patients, but the public is not aware about them. You have told that people can go anywhere and get treatment. This is a good thing. But in priority OPDs, waiting list are already fixed. I would like to tell that our patients have to wait for around six months after reaching here. The people spend their entire money on it. What steps will be taken in the coming days to remove these problems for the convenience of the people by giving instructions to the UT Administration through the Ministry? I would like to know this from the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, they can employ cancer experts in their State. We also provide financial support to them under the National Mission and they can engage them. The concern expressed by the Hon'ble Member that when cancer patients come to Delhi, they have to wait for four to six months for treatment. Now that does not happen anymore. Hon'ble Member, if you find any such cancer patient waiting for treatment, then you must inform me. I will make arrangements for them.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: Sir, the details given by the Hon'ble Minister are very alarming about the incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. It was 12,726 for the year 2020 and the mortality number has been close to 7,027. Ladakh is also in the same condition and this problem is increasing day by day. My request would be that the patients of Ladakh are also dependent, whether you prefer to build any Cancer hospital in Srinagar and Jammu, if those patients also move to Srinagar?

Secondly, early diagnosis is very important in Cancer. Early diagnosis is very important after preventive measures. There is still no facility of PAT scan there in the hospitals, in the District hospitals. What efforts will you make to increase the facility of diagnostics?

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member has asked a very important question that cancer patients are increasing in far-flung areas. There are many reasons for increasing cancer patients. Tobacco is one of them and apart from food, lifestyle, there are many reasons. But you have said one thing right that when cancer is detected in the primary stage, the chances of survival are high. Therefore, Hon'ble Prime Minister has decided that 1 lakh, 50 thousand health and wellness centers will be setup in the country. Out of them, more than 80 thousand health and wellness centers have been started till date. The Health and Wellness Center will conduct primary screening for three types of cancers – Oral, Breast, and Cervical. If these primary screenings will be done from there, we will be able to immediately refer and get them admitted to the tertiary care hospital. As far as Srinagar is concerned, AIIMS is being built in Srinagar so that the people could get Cancer treatment. All types of Cancer will be treated in AIIMS.

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: Sir, the number of cancer patients is increasing day by day. According to medical science, prevention and early detection of cancer can reduce the number drastically. Through prevention alone, we can reduce it by 30 per cent according to the medical science.

Sir, preventive cancer awareness steps should be taken at a very, very early stage. It would be best if cancer awareness is made as a part of syllabus in schools so that children are correctly educated on it.

Similarly, early detection of cancer is also necessary. This procedure is done by the hospitals. So, can we introduce mobile screening units for early detection of cancer everywhere so that we can spread this service to more and more areas?

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon. Member has stated, his first question is what should be done for Cancer patients so that their number should not increase, no one should suffer from Cancer. The best thing is not to suffer from Cancer. In order not to suffer from cancer, as I mentioned, our lifestyle should also be changed. Today we use chemical fertilizer, chemical insecticide-pesticide, this is also one of the reasons for suffering from Cancer. Apart from tobacco, there are number of reasons in our lifestyle, due to which the number of Cancer patients is increasing.

To check the growing number of Cancer patients is one thing and second thing is that if someone has Cancer and if there is early detection and early treatment, we can save the patient. As I mentioned earlier, we are trying to do this through health and wellness centres.

The Hon. Member also wanted to know that how will you be able to do their mammography, will you be able to do it through mobile screening? This facility has been created in many hospitals, many NGOs have created this facility, many private hospitals and many Central Government hospitals have also created this facility. Mobile van has mammography screening machine installed therein. They go to the villages, set up a camp there and only if it is diagnosed, they are brought for treatment. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, the number is not realistic because in my constituency alone it will be more than 50,000. Now, you have stated that there are a total number of 57,155 cases of cancer reported in the State of Kerala in the year 2022. Is it realistic? In my constituency alone, it there is more than 50,000. How is this statistical data arrived at?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him, so you also do not answer. You have listened to him.

...(Interruptions.)

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Sir, then I cannot answer.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: N. K. Premchandran ji, you should have asked for my permission.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: Thank you very much, Sir. In the reply, I see that there is a scheme where the Government is providing financial assistance using Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi where upto Rs. 15 lakh is being provided. There is also the Health Minister's discretionary grant of Rs. 1.5 lakh which is being provided for the poor. I am not sure as to how many Members are aware of this. It is because we usually write only to the Prime Minister's National Relief fund. Can the Members apply for this?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, this is an important question, everyone would like to know about it.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants to know whether the Minister has the power to help the patients. If a BPL beneficiary is a patient, there is a serious disease like Cancer, in such a situation; the Minister has been given power that he can assist up to Rs. 20 lakh for his treatment in a Government hospital. I haven't used it yet.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members of Parliaments have come to know about this for the first time. Till now we knew only about the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

... (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You repeatedly stand up without permission, so I am not allowing you to ask questions.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 146, Shri S. R. Parthiban - Not present.

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

(Q. 146)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are facing problem of shortage of fertilisers all over the country. They are not getting the fertiliser in time. The increased prices of fertilisers are also not affordable for the farmers.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government or the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers is taking any immediate step to make the fertilisers available at a reasonable price to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the first point is that there is no shortage of fertilisers in the country. Another point raised by the Hon'ble Member is that the farmers should get fertilisers on cheaper rates.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member through you that there is requirement of three hundred to three hundred twenty five lakh metric tonnes of urea in the country.

Approximately 240 - 295 lakh metric tonnes of urea is manufactured indigenously and 60 - 70 lakh metric tonnes of urea has to be imported. As far as making it available on cheaper rates, I would like to inform that the prices of urea are the same as were fixed by them. We have not increased even a single rupee in prices in the last seven and half years while the price of urea in the international market has touched \$ 900 i.e. ₹ 2,750. We did not increase the price of urea despite the price reaching ₹ 2,750 in the international market and provided a subsidy of ₹ 2,500 per bag. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you also.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: I have quoted the price in dollars.

HON. SPEAKER: You have provided it in your reply.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Government has ensured availability of urea in the country even after providing subsidy of ₹2,500 per bag. There is no shortage of urea.

There is a requirement of approximately one hundred to one hundred twenty five lakh metric tonnes of DAP and an equal quantity of NPK in the country. The price of DAP has increased considerably in the international market in this season. Another factor is, there was problem in shipping due to COVID crisis. DAP fertiliser was procured from various countries in the world and it was made available even in such circumstances. It used to be sold at a price of ₹ 1250 per bag in open market and we did not let its prices increase. We have helped out the farmers by providing them subsidy at a rate of ₹ 1,650 per bag. This is a Government led by Modi ji and we are committed to our farmers.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, the Members of Parliament have opined that you should utilise your discretionary fund also.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to ask a short question to the Hon'ble Minister.

There are numerous complaints in our rural areas that the weight of the DAP and NPK bags which used to be 50 Kg earlier has been reduced to 45 Kg now while the price remains the same. This reduction in weight has not affected the price and they continue to sell at the old price only. I would like to request the Minister through you to fix their prices as per the quantity so that the farmers may get benefitted. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Have you asked your entire question or part of it still remains to be asked?

HON. SPEAKER: I have not given him permission to ask question.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the weight of a bag of DAP still weighs 50 Kg and there has not been any reduction in its weight. The quantity of urea in a bag has been reduced by five Kg but accordingly, we have reduced the price also. We have kept the same price per Kg as earlier so that there is no extra burden on the farmers due to this.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 147, Shri Vijaykumar Alias Vijay Vasanth - Not Present.

Shri B. Manickam Tagore.

(Q. 147)

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE: Thank you so much, Sir.

Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has said that India's total development portfolio in Sri Lanka is nearly 4 billion US Dollars, out of which the grant component is 7 million US Dollars. It is a welcome thing. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken note of the China's closeness in Sri Lankan Affairs. Also, what steps have been taken by the Government for implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, particularly with regard to the 13th Amendment which gives powers to the Northern and the Eastern provinces?

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, during the last seven years of the Government of Shri Narendra Modiji, our foreign policy has received more

attention and focus. It has also reflected in the ties with our neighbours. The Government has adopted the policy of Neighbourhood-First. Through that policy, we have been trying to develop our bilateral engagements with all our neighbours including Sri Lanka. Through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Government has noted the participation of the Chinese companies in some port-related development projects in Sri Lanka, but through you, I would also like to tell the hon. Member that India's relationship with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.

However, I would like to assure the House that the Government carefully monitors any development having a bearing on India's security and economic interests, and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 148, Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

(Q. 148)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I have been looking very carefully at the response of the hon. Minister. I think it is not entirely accurate to say that we cannot predict accidents; we cannot identify danger areas because in Kerala, we have on the coast the Vizhinjam Port in my constituency, the Kochi Port, the BPCL refinery, and of course, the new Mangalore Port which is just north of us, which also impact us. I have spoken with the Minister about how oil spills like that of February, 2021 can impact the fisherfolk who are already in a desperate position and they are people below the poverty line, and, of course, the tourist industry suffers terribly when breaches are closed because of oil spills. I would, therefore, request the Minister to take proactive steps in co-operation with the State Government to identify suitable areas, and prevent this from happening in future.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Respected Speaker, Sir, our learned friend Dr. Shashi Tharoor ji has highlighted a very sensitive issue. But in my statement, as you have asked me to mention the spot of the marine oil spills, you might have noticed that there is a mention that it is confined to the shore line. I believe you have studied the matter in detail. You are a learned friend. So, I believe, as you have expected proactive steps from me in the near future, as you know, the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan provides for consultation with all the stakeholders, the coastal States and the Ports Authority, whether it is major Ports Authority or non-major Ports Authority, the coastal guards and other agencies like the petroleum handling agencies. So, we have to work with integration and integrated efforts need to be put so that pollution does not occur.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, the Government introduced a Maritime Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill in 2015 and then they withdrew it saying they would produce a totally new Bill in response to comments by the Standing Committee, which was a good idea. Unfortunately, they have not introduced the Bill for the seven years since they withdrew the previous Bill. As a result, our oceans, our economy, marine life and fisherfolk are all in danger from the lack of up-to-date legislation to protect their interests.

I would like to ask the Minister whether he has any proposal to introduce a new Bill to cover and to replace the out-of-date Merchant Shipping Act, and whether this will take into account at least four international conventions that India has not yet ratified. They are, the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, the Protocol to Amend the International Fund on Oil Pollution Damage, the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas for Oil Pollution Casualties and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by dumping of wastes. Now these are four international

conventions that India has been considering, and in some cases, it is throughout the tenure of this Government.

I would be grateful to know whether the Government is planning to take any proactive action to save our country from pollution, to sign these conventions and to introduce a new law in this Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as you know, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and a new Bill have also been taken up to make the country pollution free. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me finish. So, as you have asked if the Government is willing to bring any initiative or any kind of a new legislation in the near future, in this regard, let me say that whatever existing laws we have are sufficient enough because it is a question of commitment and sincerity. That sincerity and commitment is very much there within our existing framework to make the people free from this danger and also in the coastal region, our fishermen do not suffer in the near future. So, whatever adequate measures need to be taken, the Government is always there to take this kind of initiative.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**
(Starred Question Nos. 149 to 160
Unstarred Question Nos. 1611 to 1840)
(Page No. 64 to 782)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour ends now.

* 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

17.00 hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Conduct of Business during first part of Budget Session

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, all Hon'ble Members participated actively and extended constructive cooperation during the first part of the Budget Session. Attending the House till late night, the Hon'ble Members have fulfilled their constitutional responsibilities with commitment due to which we could achieve high work productivity of 121 percent. The address of the Hon'ble President was discussed by the House for 15 hours and 13 minutes instead of the allotted 12 hours time in which 60 Hon'ble Members participated. Sixty more Members put up their speeches on the floor of the House.

Similarly, discussion on the General Budget was held for 15 hours and 33 minutes in place of the allotted 12 hours time and 81 Hon'ble Members participated in it. Sixty Three Hon'ble Members put up their speeches on the floor of the House. All the Hon'ble Members extended their positive cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House. Extensive debates and discussion took place on all the issues. This tradition strengthens our democracy. Such rich discussions further strengthen our democratic system. The trust and faith of the citizens in the democratic institutions also increases. I thank all the Hon'ble Members for this. I expect your positive cooperation in future also.

Hon'ble Members, I would like to put up some subjects before you. Several Hon'ble Members requested for Zero Hour today. After that half an hour discussion on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) is also scheduled. There is Resolution also. I will take up all the three subjects. I propose to continue the

proceedings of the House till nine of the clock. I expect all the Hon'ble Members to stay till the prescribed time. First of all, we will take up Zero Hour, then Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen), then Resolution and subsequently Zero Hour. I will take up Matters under Rule-377 also. I want the leave of the House. Whether the House agrees to it?

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes. All of us agree fully.

17.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the papers will be laid on the table

Shri V. Muraleedharan ji, Item Number 2 to 17.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6457/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Jitendra Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6458/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Faggansingh Kulaste, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, for the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6459/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6460/17/22]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6461/17/22]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.38(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 5th January, 2022 constituting the Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years with effect from the date of publication of this Order in official Gazette issued under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6462/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6463/17/22]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6464/17/22]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6465/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi,, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi,, for the year 2019-2020.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6466/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6467/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

(i) The Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.930(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st December, 2021.

(ii) G.S.R.76(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated 30th June, 2017 so as to prescribe effective rate of Basic Customs Duty (BCD).

(iii) G.S.R.77(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend notification No. 11/2018-Customs dated 2nd February, 2018 so as to exempt certain goods from Social Welfare Surcharge (SWS) and to withdraw SWS exemption on certain textile items.

(iv) G.S.R.78(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification Nos. 190/1978-Customs and 191/1978-Customs both dated 22th September, 1978 prescribing additional duty of customs on imports of transformer oil equivalent to such portion of the excise duty leviable on the raw material commonly known as transformer oil base stock or transformer oil feedstock.

(v) G.S.R.79(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification Nos. 10/95-Customs, 26/99-Customs, 27/2004-Customs, 14/2006-Customs, 48/2006-Customs, 90/2007-Customs, 8/2011-Customs, 24/2011-Customs, 49/2013-Customs, 23/2014-Customs, 37/2015-

Customs, 11/2016-Customs, 20/2020-Customs, 40/2020-Customs which have become redundant.

(vi) G.S.R.80(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend Notification Nos. 52/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 and 37/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 to remove entries which are being operated from the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act and certain redundant entries.

(vii) G.S.R.81(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend Notification No. 82/2017-Customs dated 27.10.2017 to prescribe effective rate on certain Textile items upto 30.04.2022.

(viii) G.S.R.82(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification Nos. 104/2010-Customs, 38/96-Customs, 40/2017-Customs, 60/2011-Customs, 148/94-Customs to exempt AIDC/Health cess/RIC on goods imported under the said notifications.

(ix) G.S.R.83(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification Nos. 146/94-Customs, 147/94-Customs, 39/96-Customs, 50/96-Customs, 30/2004-Customs, 81/2005-Customs, 5/2017-Customs, 16/2017-Customs, 32/2017-Customs to prescribe end-dates as per Section 25(4A) of Customs Act, 1962.

(x) G.S.R.84(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification

No. 27/2011-Customs dated 01.03.2011 to omit redundant entries and reduce export duty raw hides and skins of buffalo.

(xi) G.S.R.85(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to implement a graded BCD structure for wearable devices and its parts, sub-parts and sub-assembly.

(xii) G.S.R.86(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to implement a graded BCD structure for hearable devices and its parts, sub-parts and sub-assembly.

(xiii) G.S.R.87(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to implement a graded BCD structure for smart meters and its parts, sub-parts and sub-assembly.

(xiv) G.S.R.88(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 25/1999-Customs dated 28.02.1999 to omit redundant and obsolete entries.

(xv) G.S.R.89(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend various notifications giving exemption to electronic items and medical devices.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6468/17/22]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

(i) G.S.R.90(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend Notification No. 11/2017-Central Excise, dated 30th June, 2017, to increase Basic Excise Duty on Unblended Petrol and Diesel, in order to promote Blending in the country.

(ii) G.S.R.91(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to supersede notification No. 49/2008-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 24.12.2008, in order to align it with the current legal position, post roll-out of GST.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6469/17/22]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

(i) G.S.R.92(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the countervailing duty imposed on imports of “Certain Hot Rolled and Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Flat Products” originating in or exported from China PR vide Notification No. 1/2017-Cus (CVD) dated 07.09.2017.

(ii) G.S.R.43(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th January, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose Anti-dumping Duty on 'Axles for Trailers' originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) regarding the sun-set review of the ant-dumping duty imposed on “Axles for Trailers” originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China vide Notification No. 54/2016-Cus (ADD) dated 29th November, 2016 for further period of 5 years.

(iii) G.S.R.93(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “Straight Length Bars and Rods of alloy-steel” originating in or exported from China PR vide Notification No. 54/2018-Cus (ADD) dated 18.10.2018.

(iv) G.S.R.94(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “High Speed Steel of Non-Cobalt Grade” originating in or exported from Brazil, China PR and Germany vide Notification No. 38/2019-Cus (ADD) dated 25.09.2019.

(v) G.S.R.95(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “Flat rolled product of steel, plated or coated with alloy of Aluminum or Zinc” originating in or exported from China PR, Vietnam and Korea RP vide Notification No. 16/2020-Cus (ADD) dated 23.06.2020.

(vi) G.S.R.96(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017 so as to simplify and automate the procedures.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6470/17/22]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

(i) The Income-tax (33rd Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.851(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th December, 2021, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Income-tax (34th Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.883(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th December, 2021, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) The Income-tax (35th Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.903(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th December, 2021, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6471/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Anupriya Singh Patel, I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the ECGC Limited (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited), Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the ECGC Limited (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited), Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, 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 6472/17/22]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Export Insurance Account Trust, Mumbai, for the years 2006-2007 to 2019-2020, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the National Export Insurance Account Trust, Mumbai, for the years 2006-2007 to 2019-2020.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6473/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 4(d) of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914:-

(1) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Eighth Amendment) Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.5103(E) in Gazette of India dated 9th December, 2021.

(2) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Tenth Amendment) Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.5134(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th December, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6474/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 9 of the Micro Small Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006:-

(1) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Amendment) Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.29(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th January, 2022.

(2) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Fund Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1032(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6475/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6476/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Rameshwar Teli, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 97 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948:-

(i) Notification No. F. No. N-12/13/1/2019-P&D published in Gazette of India dated 16th November, 2021 amending Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.

(ii) Notification No. F. No. N-12/13/1/2019-P&D published in Gazette of India dated 27th January, 2022 amending Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6477/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ajay Bhatt, I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6478/17/22]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6479/17/22]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotel Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotel Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6480/17/22]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puducherry, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puducherry, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6481/17/22]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6482/17/22]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Six statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6483/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6484/17/22]

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ahmedabad, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6485/17/22]

(5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Guwahati, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6486/17/22]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of the Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

(i) The Drugs (Prices Control) Amendment Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.508(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd February, 2021.

(ii) The Drugs (Prices Control) Third Amendment Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.3249(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th August, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6487/17/22]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF**

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Subhas Sarkar, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the EdCIL (India) Limited and the Ministry of Education for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6488/17/22]

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

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the EdCIL (India) Limited, Noida, for the year 2020-2021.

- (ii) Annual Report of the EdCIL (India) Limited, Noida, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6489/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6490/17/22]

(3) A copy of the Indian Nursing Council (Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Specialty Nursing Residency Program) Regulations, 2020 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 11-1/2019-INC in Gazette of India dated 18th August, 2021 under sub-section (3) of Section 16 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6491/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine, Pasighat, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine, Pasighat, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6492/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6493/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2020-2021.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6494/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2020-2021.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6495/17/22]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6496/17/22]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6497/17/22]

(13) A copy of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.613(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd September, 2021 under sub-section (2) of Section 35 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6498/17/22]

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have received the notices of Adjournment Motion on some subjects from the following Honourable Members:- Shri T. N. Prathapan, Shri N. K. Premachandran, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Shri Manickam Tagore, Adv. A. M. Ariff, Shri V. K. Sreekandan, Shri Benny Behanan and Shri Hibi Eden. I have not granted leave for any notice regarding the Adjournment Motion.

... *(Interruptions)*

17.05 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I allow laying the matters under Rule 377 on the Table. I request the Hon Members to lay the Matters under Rule 377 on the Table of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

(i) Need to set up a solar plant in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): There is thousand acres of barren land lying unused in my Parliamentary Constituency, Gorakhpur. We are aware that generally, there is no use of such lands in the interest of the nation. If Solar Plants are set up on these barren lands or if the Government authorizes any Private Company to install solar plants, then this land can be better utilized for production of Green Energy which will not only benefit the Poorvanchal Districts but other districts also. This will also facilitate adequate power supply to a larger area.

Moreover, installing Solar Plants will generate employment for the local youths which will further help overcome the problem of unemployment of the youths of this area.

Therefore, this is my request to the Central Government that a Solar Power Plant be set up in Gorakhpur with the assistance of the Central Government, so that power generation may be scaled up and employment opportunities be created.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(ii) Regarding increase in budgetary allocation for MGNREGA Scheme

[English]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): The MGNREGA scheme serves as a safety net for many in rural India, especially during times prevailing at present when unemployment has crossed unprecedented levels. Yet budgetary allocations for the scheme in FY 23 have been cut by over 25% from the revised estimates of FY 22. Economic Survey 2021-22 shows that the aggregate demand for MGNREGA remained above pre-pandemic levels of 2019 throughout the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. In December 2021, demand rose as high as 24.9 million households. Rural unemployment for the same month was 7.28%, according to CMIE data. In January 2022, while 21.2 million demanded work, only 13.9 million households worked. The spike in demand is a sign of grave rural distress. Since MGNREGA is a demand-driven scheme, allocations to the same should be increased to meet high demand and to address the issue of unemployment. Continued lack of funds will also suppress demand for work and cause pending payments to accumulate. The reduced allocations for the scheme will not bode well for the economy that is on a K-shaped recovery.

(iii) Regarding release of salaries and pensions to staff of Kazhakootam Sainik School, Kerala

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Defence Minister towards the urgent need to make payment of salaries and pensions to the staff of Kazhakootam Sainik School—the only military school in Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram—to prevent its closure.

The staff members are aggrieved as they received merely 70% of their prescribed salaries for December last year and no salaries were given for January this year, as no amount was disbursed by the Department of Defence of the Central Government, which is responsible for providing their remuneration and benefits. Having waited till the last day of January, they went on a strike. Further, while the state government has agreed, the MoU between the Central Government and the state government regarding the school's operations remains pending.

Serving as a distinguished residential educational institution since 1962, the School nurtures talented and bright students hailing from both urban and rural areas. Given the compelling significance of the school, I urge the Minister to expedite the payment of salaries and pension to the staff, and finalise the MoU with the state government at the earliest to facilitate the smooth functioning of the school and to ensure that access to education in these difficult times is not restricted.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for an Adjournment Motion regarding the statement of hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, ... *....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have already taken up this subject.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, the statement made by the ...** is anti-constitutional and with an ulterior intention to have a religious divide in the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: No-No, you have already discussed this matter.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, my notice for an Adjournment Motion is also there, which is most important.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is your Subject for discussion?

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

* Not recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the Chief Minister of UP, ...* ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No.

Shri Shyam Singh Yadav. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the Zero Hour will begin.

SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV (JAUNPUR): Sir, I salute and express my sincere gratitude to the brave soldiers deployed on the border of the country in bone chilling cold, subzero temperature, harsh climate and adverse conditions for the safeguard of our nation.

The *Ahir* caste which is the cornerstone of Mahabharat, Lord Shri Krishna, Dwarka and Yadukul, is a significant part of Indian Culture. Although, the history of all castes are abundant with the great stories of many valiant and brave warriors, but Ahirs are second to none.

The Ahirs of India are robust, valiant and brave with broad chests measuring more than 56 inches, they are ahead in terms of courage and valour and the most prominent part of their personality is that they are very fearless. Even a terrific enemy starts escaping for his life if a valiant Yadava raises his eyebrows or stares in a wrath.

There is no regiment in the name of Yadavas in the Army despite such brave Jawans of this caste constituting a significant strength of the Army, whereas, several regiments have been named after different castes like – Mahar Regiment, Rajputana Regiment, Sikh Regiment, Gorkha Regiment, Dogra Regiment etc. in the Army.

* Not recorded.

The reason for not commissioning an Ahir Regiment is that the brave warriors from this caste opposed the British vehemently and fought for freedom with might and main.

Sir, the history is witness that Yadavas have never compromised for their self interests and being annoyed with the very fact, the British did not create Ahir Regiment. Be it the Battle of Rezang La of 1962, Battle of Haji Pir Pass of 1965, Battle of Nathu La of 1967, Chola battle, Operation Meghdoot of 1984, Kargil war of 1999, Parliament Attack of 2000 or the Aksharmdham Temple Attack of 2002, Yadava bravehearts have given their supreme sacrifice to the nation and always kept their flag high. The Ahir bravehearts have shown their valour on many occasions and have defended the country till their last breath.

Sir, through you, I would like to request you that a Regiment in the name of Ahirs be created in the Army on enormous demand of Ahir Community.

SHRI SANJAY SETH (RANCHI): Thank you, Sir.

There was a freedom fighter named Jeetram Bediya in Ranchi. Jeetram Bediya contributed to the Indian Freedom Struggle significantly. He assembled the villagers from Ranchi, Ramgarh including hundreds of nearby villages, trained them and declared war against the British. Jeetram Bediya Ji was a Polymath genius, who used to play Flutes with the same ease as to operate Catapult and Bow and Arrow. The revered personality was also a Clinician of Traditional Medicine. He used to treat the people of his village and nearby places with mountain herbs. The name of Jeetram Bediya Ji is prominently remembered among the great freedom fighters who laid their lives to throw away the Britishers from this country.

On 23 April, 1958, many bravehearts including Jeetram Bediya Ji gave their supreme sacrifice in a fight with McDonald of Madras Battalion of the

Britishers. It is my request that a Memorial be built in remembrance of these great Freedom Fighters during this Amrit Mahotsav. Their sacrifices should be well documented so that we may show our gratitude to our proud and great freedom fighter and pay a true homage to them. Thank You.

[English]

SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NOWGONG): Sir, in our country we have a very well-established norm of delivery of justice but there have been very dangerous precedence and aberrations, and many of our Ministers, Chief Ministers, and people who hold the constitutional posts have had aberrations. Many of them might have been influenced by the western cowboy films, like ‘Shooting from the Hip’, or the fictional character of ‘Licence to Kill’, or even fifth freedom of Franklin Roosevelt.

Why I am telling this is because in our country following the footsteps of ... * Assam has also indulged in extra-judicial encounters and killings, and the Assam Police Department has earned this dubious distinction of surpassing ‘Ab Tak Chhappan’. There have been extra-judicial killings and encounters in our State. Since the month of May 2021, as many as 90 cases have been reported. All these cases are extra-judicial cases.

So, I demand that there should be a judicial inquiry and all the culprits should be brought to justice.

[Translation]

DR. RAJDEEP ROY (SILCHAR): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during zero hour. A very grave and serious matter came before us. A few days ago, an oil tanker from Assam had gone to Mizoram and when the vehicle was returning after delivering oil, its driver Praveen Singh,

* Not recorded.

who was 45 years old, was hit and killed by people on the way. *[English]* He was murdered and on charges of his murder his brother who was the handyman, *[Translation]* he was arrested under Section 302 of the IPC. The police tortured him and took his signature on a blank paper and forced him to tell that he had committed the murder and then put him in jail. A few days later, he was transferred to Aizawl jail. After being transferred to Aizawl jail, no one helped him to get legal aid. I went to their village on the 5th. Their houses and families are very close to each other. There is no boundary between their houses and both are brothers. It cannot be possible that the elder brother will kill the younger brother. It is a planned case. Interestingly yesterday, the second brother Nipen Singh, who was 49 years old and was in police custody was reported to have committed suicide inside Aizawl jail.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Home Minister that there is political leadership and political dispensation in the civil society of Aizawl which run separately. Sometimes our Constitution is flouted there. Through you, I demand for investigation and CBI inquiry for the murder of both brothers. This is the demand of our state. I think the Home Minister will consider this matter. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Tejasvi Surya – Not present.

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh – Not present.

Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar.

[English]

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

In Tamil Nadu, there are only four sub-regional offices of ESIC. They are functioning at Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. This has resulted in severe hardships to the beneficiaries. Tiruchirapalli is the fourth largest and centrally located District in Tamil Nadu.

Here there are a number of Central and State Government offices, Railway divisions, educational institutions, major industries like BHEL, gun factory, coach factory and medium and small scale industries functioning properly. A large number of serving and retired employees are settled with their families in and around Tiruchirappalli. To cope with increasing demand, the existing ESI hospital in Periyamilaguparai is not sufficient. This has also served as a referral centre. There is an urgent need to increase the bed strength from 50 to 100. A large number of requests from various quarters is pouring in for its upgradation. ... (*Interruptions*). Give me one more minute. The top priorities are improvement of amenities like water treatment plant, additional wards, and filling up of vacant posts.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment to upgrade the ESI Branch office, Trichy into a sub-regional office urgently.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): My 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of Employees' Pension Scheme or EPS 95. Lakhs and lakhs of pensioners in the country are getting Rs. 1000 as the minimum pension even after decades. HON'BLE SPEAKER: may remember that during the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, I had moved a Private Members' Resolution in the House, and it was discussed in threadbare regarding all the issues concerning the Employees' Pension Scheme or EPS 95.

17.17 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

Also, a High Empowered Monitoring Committee has been constituted by the Government, and the Committee has submitted a report also. In the report, there is a proposal to revise the minimum Employees Provident Fund Pension from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000. There are so many other recommendations also. But it is quite unfortunate to note that none of the recommendations of the High Empowered Monitoring Committee has been implemented by the Government even after an assurance has been given in this House. It is quite unfortunate as far as the PF pensioners are concerned. So, my main demands are this. Number one, increase the minimum pension to Rs. 6,000. The second demand is, revise the higher pension on the basis of the actual salary. The Supreme Court has held it. It is quite unfortunate to note that the Government of India as well as the EPF Organization has approached the Supreme Court and had moved a SLP as well as a review petition. The Chief Justice of India has directed to constitute a larger Bench so as to consider all these issues which are settled. All these issues are settled. The settled issues are going to be unsettled by the act of the Government of India and the EPF Organization. It is against the workforce of the country.

So, my first demand is to implement the recommendation of the High Empowered Monitoring Committee in respect of Employees Pension Scheme 95. My second demand is that the Government of India and the EPF Organization should refrain from rejecting the higher pension, already ordered by the EPF Organization and approved by the Supreme Court since long. I request the Government of India to refrain from all the litigation proceedings and resolve the issues of EPF pensioners.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Manoj Kotak ji – Not present.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to raise a very important issue. It is going to be almost two full years while various universities of the country are closed. Schools have opened, everything has opened, but universities are not being opened in the country. In particular, I will talk about the two universities of which I am a member of the court through this Lok Sabha, Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University. Both universities are yet to be opened. This generation will be left far behind if universities are not opened on time. Secondly, the appointment of the Vice Chancellor in Aligarh Muslim University has a democratic process through the Act. In that Act, it has been mentioned that the court recommends five names and after that the EC recommends three names. After that, the Honourable President ticks one of them.

There are more than 50 per cent vacancies in the AMU court and that process should have been started six months before. The term of the current vice-chancellor is hardly three or three-and-a-half months remaining.

Sir, through you, I demand from the Government that you should not sabotage the democratic process in the country and give directions to hold internal elections for the vacancies of the AMU court as soon as possible.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel ji - Not present.

Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi - Not present.

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, dairy farmers play an important role in our society as we cannot ensure food security of our nation without milk and milk products. The cost of production and price stagnation had made the life of dairy farmers very difficult. The cost of production always depends upon the prices of cattle feed. Very unfortunately, it is rising again and again. This is our

experience for the last five years. Hence, our farmers needed aid from the Government, but our Government is not at all providing adequate support to the dairy farmers.

Of course, our cooperative sector is doing a good job. In our experience, in Kerala, Milma is doing a good job and they are very much supporting this sector, but it is not adequate. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is not only a poverty alleviation programme, but it is also increasing the availability of quality assets in the rural areas. So, it should be extended to our dairy farming community too.

I would urge upon the Government to include dairy farmers also in the approved work list under MGNREGA for security and protection of livelihood of the dairy farmers. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of this august House about the negligence of the Central Government and Indian Railways towards Kerala. I highly doubt if Kerala is even a part of the Indian Railway map. Kerala holds the maximum share in passenger ticket income. However, it is sad that Kerala is the least developed in the Railway sector. The total amount allocated to Kerala during this Budget is only Rs. 1,085 crore. This is very less when compared to the other States. Further, the budget allowed for doubling of lines, automatic signal system, curve and bent straightening, etc. is also very less.

Kerala had already requested for a third line, but unfortunately this Budget does not even mention anything about the same. It is also disappointing to see that Kerala's prime requirements, that is, Sabari Railway and Palakkad Coach Factory have only been allocated a token of Rs. 1,000. Till today, Kerala does not have a Shatabdi train. So, I would request allocation of Shatabdi and Vande

Bharat trains, which are mentioned in this Budget. By providing these trains, we can save Kerala from a big threat, that is, K-Rail.

Thus, I would humbly request, through you, the House to consider all these Railway requirements. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY (AJMER): Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the burning issue of the rural areas of the entire country. Today, in an advanced and progressive era, we are constantly creating new possibilities of development. India is an agricultural country and its major part of India resides in the villages. With the efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi ji for rural India, the gap between the facilities in urban and rural areas has now been bridged.

A new India is now being created by providing the facilities of electricity, water, internet etc. in the rural areas like the urban areas. Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important subject. There is no fire fighting system in the rural areas to deal with the incidents of fire in the villages. Under Article 243(w) of the Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution, fire services are subordinated to urban bodies whereas it should be done at the level of Panchayat Samiti.

Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, there is nothing in the farmer's house except broken cots and torn beds. Think about his property. He keeps everything there, be it agricultural equipment or livestock.

When there is a fire, the fire-fighting vehicle goes from the cities to the villages and by that time everything is destroyed.

Hon'ble Chairperson, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj that the fire fighting system available in the cities, should also be provided in the villages at the Panchayat Samiti level because the farmers there face a lot of loss. This can protect them. This is my request. Thank you so much.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise a very urgent and public importance matter. I am changing my subject matter. Actually, my notice was on a subject that I had raised yesterday. Today, I am going to raise another matter with the permission of the Chair.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir. I know that you are very happy today because you have come to the House after the election campaign. So, your face is very energetic.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, Kuttanad Taluk in Alleppey District, Kerala falls under my Constituency. Kuttanad is an area that is below sea level. Nearly, 90 per cent people of Kuttanad are engaged in paddy cultivation, and 60 per cent of paddy requirement of Kerala is coming from Kuttanad.

The problem that Kuttanad is facing is regular flood and natural calamities. In 2018, Kuttanad was severely affected by floods as thousands of

houses got damaged, many people died as well as school buildings, hospitals, roads, etc. got destroyed. The outer bund of the paddy fields was also destroyed, and loss worth crores of rupees was incurred by the people of Kuttanad. But they are not getting proper compensation from either the State Government or the Central Government.

Now, the problem is that in 2019 also similar floods affected Kuttanad. In 2021, that is the previous year, the people of Kuttanad faced severe flood situations about eight to ten times. If rains occur even for a day or two in Kerala, Kuttanad gets submerged. What is the reason for it?

There is Pamba river, Achankovil river and Manimala river, which are flowing through Kuttanad. These rivers are having a leading channel through Thottappally Spillway to the Arabian Sea. However, renovation, dredging and deepening work of river is not done properly.

The State Government has not taken any steps and the Central Government, that is, the Jal Shakti Ministry has also not given any instruction to the Government of Kerala to get these works done for the relief of the people of Kuttanad.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, place your request what you want.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am coming to the request.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I think that necessary action has to be taken by the State Government.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: No, Sir. The problem is that in Kuttanad area, Kainakary Panchayat and some other panchayats are still submerged in water. People are living in water and their houses are also submerged in water. So, I would like to request the Government of India, through you, Sir, that the Jal

Shakti Ministry should take immediate steps to stop such flood situations in Kuttanad. I would like to make a suggestion. There is a very famous lake, namely, the Vembanad Lake. No renovation or dredging work is taking place on this Lake also. Hence, the flow of water in it is not at all proper.

And also, the Thanneermukkom Bund is not working properly. Therefore, the water flow is totally disturbed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is okay. I get your point.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: This is a very serious matter because in my constituency, people of Kuttanad are facing very serious problems.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I would request the Government and the Jal Shakti Ministry to have a discussion with the State Government to sort out this problem facing the people of Kuttanad.

I would like to request that the State Government and the Central Government set up an authority for Kuttanad.

***SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR (TENKASI):** Hon Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Even though there is no need for collateral security for getting educational loans up to Rs 4 lakh from the Nationalized Banks, the poor, SC and ST students of my constituency face several difficulties in getting such loans. Many students who could not avail these educational loans have become dropouts as they were unable to continue their studies. Sir, the Union Government should do something to rectify this issue.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have changed the subject.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: No Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It should have been about pending Railway projects. Ok. Ok. Now please continue.

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: While fixing the targets for educational loans, it should be made as per reservation to the Backward and Scheduled Castes. Moreover, there is a target that 18 per cent of their total turn over should be earmarked for the agriculture sector by the Nationalised Banks. But the Banks are achieving this target through Gold loans. But in the present scenario, in our country, no farmer is in possession of gold with them. Therefore, the Union Government should strictly follow the guidelines in this regard to ensure that the farmers avail these farm loans to the fullest extent. Sir, I through you, urge upon the Union Government to do the needful to ensure that all the farm loans should be made available to farmers without any hassles.

[Translation]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR (CHANDRAPUR): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity. The Banjara community in our country is educationally and economically backward. In different states, this society is divided into SC, ST, OBC, VJNT categories. Due to this, the economic, educational, social and political development of Banjara community has been stalled.

I would like to request the Government to include Banjara community in the special reserved category for their development, not disturbing the reserved sections of other community. Banjara language is unique in India. Therefore, it should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution to provide it the status of national language.

Sir, the land where the Parliament House stands today, it belonged to the Raja of Jaipur. This land was occupied by Lakisha Banjara, a businessman of Banjara society for many years. There was a Tanda settlement here. The religious sentiments of the Banjara community are attached to this land. This land was donated by businessman Lakisha Banjara to the British Government, but there is no mention of him anywhere here. I demand to give justice by installing the statue of philanthropist Lakisha Banjara in the Parliament complex and renaming the Parliament Street by his name.

SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I belong to an Urban Lok Sabha Constituency. In my Constituency, the basic requirement of water is met by the Bisalpur dam of Tonk district. When the maintenance work starts on the water supply pipeline here, the water supply remains closed for 25 to 60 hours, causing a lot of trouble.

For a permanent solution to the above problem, proposals for the second phase of the Bisalpur-Jaipur drinking water project are lying pending, in which another parallel pipeline is to be laid from Bisalpur to Balawala. An amount of Rs 1,103 crore for the said line is pending for funding to the Ministry of Urban Development, Central Government from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This is the permanent solution to the drinking water system of Jaipur city, which will benefit the people of Jaipur city, Jaipur Rural, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur district along with the Jaipur Lok Sabha constituency if it is supported by the Central Government.

I request you that the Government should make efforts to provide financial assistance for the second phase of the Bisalpur-Jaipur drinking water project amounting to Rs 1103 crore. Thank you very much.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government to an important

issue of the increasing population of our country. Perhaps no one knows better than you about this problem of the increasing population in Uttar Pradesh and especially in Meerut, where countless people are visible. This situation is same in the whole of India.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have raised this subject many times inside the Parliament for the last 12-14 years and have been raising this point in many forums outside as well. Through you, I again request the Government that now the time has come to enact that the law of two children in our country. We are seeing that the Government is providing all the resources. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, this country has progressed very fast and has moved towards becoming a developed country.

Because of the population, even if we give one million houses, it seems that many are still left. We make four lane roads but realise later that it six lanes are required. We develop some markets only to realise later that it is not sufficient.

We are constantly increasing the resources, but due to the increasing population, there is constant pressure on them. The geographical position of this country is not even to handle 135 crore people. Imagine the situation after 30-40 years when this population will be 160-165 crore, then what will be the condition of this country?

Through you, I urge the government to work for the betterment and safety of the next young generation. There is no question of caste, religion and sect in this, if this country is to be saved, then the House should enact a law of two children unanimously on population control. Most people also agree with this. Those who do not agree due to their education or various other reasons, I think we have to get them along by explaining them and running awareness programs and the Government will have to take steps towards this.

Through you, I urge the Government that a better law should be made soon for population control in the country, so that we can work to protect and preserve the future youth of this country, who is the future of our country, them. Thank you.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs towards the recent arrests of Kashmiri journalists, Fahad Shah on charges of sedition and Sajad Gul under the Public Safety Act, who have been accused of promoting terrorism, inciting violence and, as the current dispensation likes to call it, anti nationalism behaviour. The prolonged detention in UP of Siddique Kappan under UAPA already remains to be a blot on our conscience. Several organisations including the Editors Guild of India and Reporters Without Borders have condemned these arrests and identified it as part of a larger pattern of deteriorating press freedom in our country. India has been ranked 142nd in the World Press Freedom Index indicating a worrying trend. Yet another report has named India among the five most dangerous countries in the world for journalists, and among the top 10 countries, accounting for three-quarters of fatalities in the last five years. Statistics also reveal the disturbing killings of 18 journalists since 2014, and detention of seven journalists in custody in connection with their work as of 2021.

Sir, journalists in Kashmir or UP or anywhere in India deserve to be able to do their jobs safely without fear of arrest or harassment. The Supreme Court too has recognised the importance of dissent in a vibrant democracy stating that a free and independent press is a vital pillar of democracy which supports an informed and democratically-engaged citizenry, and allows those in power to be held accountable more meaningfully.

I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to facilitate the immediate and unconditional release of Fahad Shah, Sajad Gul, and Siddique Kappan in the interest of preserving the freedom of press in our country. Thank you.
 ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Send a slip to the Table.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, your turn will come later, I will call you then. You please sit first.

[*English*]

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram is an important scheme of the Union Government aiming at multisectoral development of minority sections. The Government has decided to increase the number of States and Districts under this scheme.

In Kerala, this scheme is very active and is available in 13 districts out of 14. The only district which is excluded from this scheme is Thrissur. Thrissur has 42 percentage of combined population of Christians and Muslims. Thrissur deserves a special consideration under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.

I would kindly request the Minority Affairs Minister to include Thrissur district in this scheme.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of this House and also of the Minister that the Odisha Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution for forming a Legislative Council, and this was done three years ago. The resolution was sent to the Union

Government for action because ultimately it is the Central Government which has to move a Bill in the Parliament. Then only, a State can form its Council. But very recently, the Law Minister has said in the House, in the Parliament that as per record, no such resolution has been received by the Government. This is very strange. This demonstrates that one Ministry does not know what the other Ministry has.

As Members of Biju Janata Dal Parliamentary Party, we have come with the resolution and have met the Home Minister. Ultimately, it is the Home Ministry which has to move the resolution in the Parliament. I think, the former Law Minister is very much present here. This was done in the 16th Lok Sabha.

So, it is very strange and I draw the attention of the Government, through you, Sir, that such type of mistake in answering relevant questions should not at all be in this manner, in a lackadaisical manner. There has been a resolution by the State Assembly. Today, I would say that the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly has come out categorically on which date the resolution was passed and on which day the resolution was sent to the Union Government. This is very strange. I believe that the Union Government will correct its mistake while answering that question.

Thank you, Sir.

17.43 hrs

(Shri Kodikunnil Suresh *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, ‘the Citizen Amendment Act’ was brought in the House in the year 2019. There are different set of people in the society in Maharashtra and other States. I want to talk about Maharashtra and especially of Sindhi society. They came from Pakistan before freedom and settled in the country, but till date they have not got

the PR card of Indian citizen. If they do any business or buy property; it cannot be in their own name.

Through you, I request the Government that the State Government and Central Government should come together and all the refugees should be given the right of citizen, who have come from Pakistan before freedom. Especially Sindhi society gives maximum revenue to the country and Maharashtra through business. Many of these people are earning a name for the country.

Through you, I request that they should be declared the citizen of the country and also get the rights of citizen in the country. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): Thank you respected Chairperson, Sir. For the last several years, Kerala has been witnessing a steady rise in all types of cancer year after year. Similarly, the deaths related to it are surpassing all other regions in the country. The affordable treatment facilities for the poor patients in the State are very limited.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to set up an AIIMS in Palakkad urgently with facilities for cancer treatment and research like the one we have in our national capital. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Thank you, Hon'ble Chairperson. My Parliamentary constituency Ambedkar Nagar is a weaver dominated area. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Hon'ble Minister of Textile through you that the GST on Man Made Fibre has been increased to 12 per cent. Due to this, the market of weavers has completely broken. In my constituency Ambedkar Nagar, weavers were being affected by electricity on one side, now they are badly affected by the inflated prices of yarns. Because of this, their small factories have been closed. Now they are forced to migrate to places like South India and Maharashtra.

I want to request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and The Minister of Textile, through you, to reduce the GST on yarn to zero, so that there is a revival of competitiveness and the business of these people can move forward smoothly. Thank you very much.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Thank you, Hon'ble Chairperson. There are two sections 341 and 342 in this Constitution, which explain how scheduled castes and scheduled tribes will be formed. The State I come from, conversions are happening on a large scale there. Due to conversion, our tribal society is losing its civilization, culture and its ideology, because its culture is changing. The rights we give to the tribes or make them tribals because of their civilization and culture. Article 341 of the Constitution says that if a scheduled caste person converts his religion to any religion in India, except Sikh, Buddhist or Jain which are extension of Hinduism, and if he adopts any other religion as Christianity or Muslim instead of the extension of Hinduism, then he cannot remain a scheduled caste.

I urge the Government through you that both 341 and 342 are the same Sections and what our forefathers have said in the Constitution, then what is

applicable for scheduled castes should be applicable for scheduled tribes. Apart from Buddhism, Sikhism or Jainism, if they convert to Christianity or Muslim, all of their tribal rights should be abolished, so that civilization and culture of India remains as it is. This is my request to the Government through you. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are absolutely correct.

[Translation]

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG): Thank you, Hon'ble Chairperson. It is a matter of great trouble that there are two ways to give a disability pension. One way is for the whole country and the other way is for Jammu and Kashmir. The disability pension that is available in Jammu and Kashmir is one-fifth of what is given in the whole country. *(Interruptions)* Even after the removal of Articles 370 and 35A, there was no change in this subject. It is the lowest available today. My request would be that a disability pension of at least Rs 5000 should be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir also.

Secondly, which is the subject of home guards. Today, in Jammu and Kashmir, they get only Rs 2700 a month. In the rest of the country, they get Rs 22,000. What kind of justice is this?

Thirdly, what has been said about Fahad Shah. We used to hear about any other country, if you don't agree with the police, then go to jail. Just now Shashi Tharoor ji also said, if you do not agree with the police administration, then go to the police station. A poet had said about another country. But, our country is known for the First Amendment. Here the Freedom of Expression was equal for everyone. But, here journalists are being tortured and oppressed. Two journalists have been arrested now.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Thank you, Hon'ble Chairperson. I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to the dire situation of the dependents of millions of people who died during the Corona period.

Sir, most of the data of deaths due to Corona is neither with the States nor with the Centre. Because, people died before they could be tested for corona. Reports of some people came negative, but they died of corona. The situation has been very dire.

Now, Sir, I will talk about Rajasthan. Drawing attention to the case of Rajasthan through you, I would like to tell you that the Rajasthan Government considered the death of 3200 women from Corona, despite the fact that their family members were not compensated. In the death of only 8882 men, their families have been compensated.

In such a situation, the dependents of the women dead are being ignored, this needs to be taken care of by the Government. In fact, this figure is four times. According to the Government's data, more than 5,00,055 people have died due to it so far. But the reality is very high and it is the moral responsibility of the Government to help each such victim's family.

Sir, thousands of families have been uprooted due to Corona and millions of people have left the world from amongst us. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government should make a policy to assess the actual number of such families and deaths, so that those whose death records do not show corona as a reason for their death for some reason or the other, they can also get financial support. In such cases, the Centre should give at least Rs 5 to 10 lakh as assistance to the dependents of the deceased instead of Rs 50,000 so that such families can get help.

[English]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir.

North East India needs a new North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy. The current Policy has not led to any new private sector investment for the North East. Various State Governments have had many Summits, as also Assam, which have yielded only MoUs but not created any new investments or jobs.

The previous North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy under Dr. Manmohan Singh, was extremely useful and it is still credited as a successful Policy by the private sector in North East India.

I urge upon the Central Government to scrap the current Policy and bring the provisions of the NEIIPP as it was under Dr. Manmohan Singh.

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH (MANDYA): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir.

I do believe that what I want to convey today is of national interest and I beg you to allow me a little time.

On a recent visit to Kashmir after a gap of many years, what took my breath away was not just the breathtaking beauty of Kashmir but the sight of our beautiful National Flag, flying high and proud for the first time ever in Kashmir.

Sir, I cannot express what kind of joy and pride I felt at seeing that.
...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jawed Ji, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I do believe that every Indian feels that our National Flag is not just a symbol of peace and strength but also a representation of all our religions, ethnic culture, and languages spoken in our great country.

Today, I want to draw the kind attention of this august House and the Government of India to a recent incident which happened in the district of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. Some youth -- belonging to a certain group -- were trying to unfurl our National Flag on a monument called Jinnah Tower in the town circle. They were prevented from doing so. They were lathi charged and were duly arrested by the police. I suppose the police were doing their duty. Similar incidents have occurred in the past in my State of Karnataka and after years of communal tensions and violence, disputes were settled amicably by the hon. Supreme Court of India.

I would like to come to the point which I want to make now. This does raise several questions in my mind. I just want to know whether there are any places in our Nation -- still designated places -- where we are not supposed to unfurl or hoist our National Flag. Are there any places where people are prevented from unfurling or hoisting our National Flag? Why are we okay with this? Why are we protecting the wrong against the right here? This is the question I want to raise.

I will just finish in two minutes.

Sir, in any other country, this would be considered as high treason.
...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH: Should not we take necessary steps to make clear mandates on whether this is allowed? The prevention of

hoisting our Flag is allowed in our country. It should be a matter of shame for all of us. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would urge the Government to take a serious view of this and ensure that any Indian, anywhere in our country, can hoist the Flag without fear and with pride in the great country of India. Jai Hind. Jai Karnataka.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, there is a very serious issue on which I would like to draw your attention. A few months ago, the son of a Mumbai-based film star was caught with some drugs. At that time, the media was running this case in such a way that only one case has happened and for the first time drug has been caught. While the reality is that today drugs are being traded indiscriminately inside every major city and village of this country. Bharati Pawar Madam is sitting here, if I tell her, there will be goosebumps. Let me give you two examples of my city. When a drunk boy killed an innocent boy, he took out pieces of his body and the way kebabs are roasted and eaten, he ate his body parts. In an another case, one of the two drug addicts murdered another, took out his eyes and played marbles with them. When we investigated about it, it was found that a drug of pills is being consumed by the youth nowadays, which is available at medical stores.

Hon'ble Chairperson, our law is such that if drugs are found in small quantity, the guilty gets bail the next day. I would request the Government that there is a need to make strict laws for youngsters of this country, who are being ruined by drugs.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon'ble Chairperson, Meerut is a hub of huge production of handloom and a population of about five lakh depends on this single trade, whether it is weaving, trading, dyeing or processing

etc. But one of the major difficulties there is that due to Meerut coming within the NCR region, many types of NOCs have to be taken by the entrepreneurs there. In particular, the processing of textiles has been kept in the red category. You will be surprised to know that they have to take NOCs from seven departments, which are as follows - Pollution Department of the State, Pollution Department of the Centre, Ground Water Department, CPCD, Chart Third Party Inspection, Air Pollution and NGT.

Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, the result of this is that the work gets a break. The pace of work does not go smoothly and looking at all the officers, it seems that instead of coordinating, instead of following these laws, they are busy in extortion. I request the Government through you to create a single window agency that provides all types of NOCs to these entrepreneurs, who are associated with the handloom sector, and they are not extorted. They are always ready to cooperate. They are also serious about pollution. If such efforts are made, then there will not be pollution and these industries will also flourish. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Kapilvastu, the birth place of Lord Gautam Buddha. The legendary Prime Minister of India has been saying from various international fora across the globe that the world might have given us War, we have given Lord Gautam Buddha to the world and Lord Buddha is becoming relevant in today's world as a symbol of Peace, Non-violence, Kindness and Compassion. There is violence at one place and terrorism at the other place in the world today.

Today, many of the countries follow Buddhism. Whether it is our neighboring country, Southeast Asia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Japan, Korea or Indonesia, lakhs of people from all these countries come to my

Parliamentary Constituency where Lord Buddha was born, they visit Sarnath, Bodhgaya in Bihar and also visit Sri Lanka. They come with faith. As per the Department of Archeology and Calcutta University, some 6 A.D. old artifacts were found after excavation was carried out in that area. I thank the Government of India for building a National Museum in that area to preserve the artifacts found during the excavation. The two '*Asthikalashas*' (pots with relics) which were found during the excavation were sent to the National Museum of New Delhi. If one of the two '*Asthikalashas*' is placed in Kapilvastu, then the lakhs of tourists visiting Sarnath, Bodh Gaya, Kapilvastu and Sravasti would get the opportunity of catching glimpses of the relics of Lord Buddha. ...*(Interruptions)* Besides this, there is a nail/ Tooth of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka. Crores of Buddhists visit Sri Lanka to see those relics. Hon. Chairperson Sir, this is an important issue.

18.00 hrs

Hon. Chairperson Sir, this is an important issue. I think, you have full faith for the religion. This is very serious. I would like to request the Government that a '*Vipasyana Kendra*' may be established and the Asthikalash be placed there, because Gautama Buddha spent 29 years of his life there. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, like every year, this year also I am worrying about huge soil erosion caused by flood in my Parliamentary Constituency. Lands get severely eroded and houses get swept away in the hundreds of villages with the advent of Monsoon in my area. Through you, I would like to request the Honourable Minister to start the embankment works required to check erosion and get the works of Mahananda basin done in the next two years.

Moreover, I would like to request the Home Minister to provide fair compensation, extend financial support for rebuilding houses and correct the land related documents of those people whose lands get eroded, who face severe loss and whose houses get destroyed along with their land papers. I would like to appeal to Home Minister that the Monsoon is yet to arrive, this is the right time when these works should be undertaken, therefore, adequate funds be made available so that Embankment and 'Thokar' works could get completed and Mahananda Project could be extended necessary financial assistance. Thank you very much.

18.01 hrs

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

[*English*]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I shall be very brief. I have great respect and good relation with the hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Two days back he made a comment that people. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, this is not fair. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I have not taken name of anyone. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, this is not fair, then a discussion will start in your name in the State Assembly also. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: What wrong have I said?

[*Translation*]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, we cannot discuss the matters published in a News Paper here. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: He is not even a Member of this House. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: We can. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, How can this be possible? ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Please listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not take names.

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I am not taking any name. You know the rules ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, when he uttered the word "CM of U.P." Is there any other CM of U.P.? This is not fair. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Please listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, there is only one CM of U.P.. Yogi Adityanath ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Let me say it in another way ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, you know that the States of West Bengal, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: No Sir, the plight of West Bengal is deplorable. I have been there. Malda, Murshidabad etc. places have become inhabitable for Hindus. This is the very fact. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I would like to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, there is a place there namely, Kaliachak, where 97 percent ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, will the opposition party be strangled here? Will the BJP leaders do like this only? ... *(Interruptions)* Will you allow it?

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, this is wrong. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Nishikant Dubey Ji, I will give the opportunity to you.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, is discussion possible this way? We all are senior Parliamentarians ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Yes, it is possible ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Nishikant Dubey ji, this House is witness to a series of incidents where the political events taking place outside have been raised in this House. The question is whether it is unconstitutional or against the Rules. If it is so, then definitely it will be looked into. He is not mentioning any name. I will give you an opportunity and you can then counter the argument. There is no problem in that. Please make your submissions within the rules.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: No Sir, such discussions cannot take place ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I am raising the matter in a very proper way ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you have given a good ruling.

The States of West Bengal, Kerala and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir are three important States and Union Territories of the country.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Yes, it is but a lot of Bangladeshis have infiltrated into West Bengal. The Trinmool Congress is making this kind of West Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: They have escaped after their defeat in election. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: No Sir, the condition of Malda and Murshidabad etc. have worsened. Hindus cannot survive there ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, let us confine ourselves to his submissions.
Hon. Member please conclude now.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I am not being allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, conclude please.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have to now take up the Half-an-hour discussion.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: They have come after loosing Bengal. They are not ashamed of that*(Interruptions)* They have lost in West Bengal. Giriraj Singh had also visited West Bengal, he has also been defeated there.*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 23, Half-an-Hour Discussion, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: All I want to say is that I strongly condemn the statement which the Chief Minister of UP made regarding Kerala and West Bengal.... *(Interruptions)*

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Members who raised issues under matters of urgent public importance | Members who associated themselves with the issues raised under matters of |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| | urgent public importance |
| Shri Pradyut Bordoloi Dr. Shashi Tharoor Shri N.K. Premachandran Kunwar Danish Ali Adv. Dean Kuriakose Shri Benny Behanan Shri Kodikunnil Suresh Shri V. K. Sreekandan Shri Hasnain Masoodi | Shri Dhanush M. Kumar Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. |
| Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar | Shri Dhanush M. Kumar Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. Shri B. Manickam Tagore |
| Shri Syed Imtiaz Jaleel | Shri Dhanush M. Kumar Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. Shri Malook Nagar |
| Shri Ritesh Pandey | Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. Shri Malook Nagar |
| Shri Rajendra Agrawal Shri Hanuman Beniwal Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana | Shri Malook Nagar |
| Shrimati Sumalatha Ambareesh | Shri S. C. Udasi Dr. Nishikant Dubey Shri Malook Nagar |
| Shri Dhanush M. Kumar | Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. |
| Dr. Nishikant Dubey | Shri S. C. Udasi |
| Shri Uday Pratap Singh | Dr. Nishikant Dubey Shri Jagdambika Pal |

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Shri Ramcharan Bohra | Shri Nihal Chand Chouhan |
|----------------------|--------------------------|

18.08 hrs

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Beneficiaries under PMAY-G

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I beg to raise a discussion on the points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Rural Development. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): It is constitutionally wrong ...*(Interruptions)* I strongly condemn whatever he has said in the statement*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, ... *(Interruptions)*. Dada, it will be better for your health to sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon'ble Minister, please address the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank Hon'ble Mahtab Sahab. He is an experienced Member of Parliament. As an experienced Member of Parliament ... *(Interruptions)*. Dada, please do not disturb Mahtab Sahab ... *(Interruptions)*. Your microphone has gone off. It is better for your health to sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray, your issue has already gone on record. Please be seated. It has already gone on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Dada, your health will deteriorate, your Blood Pressure will shoot up. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has already gone on record. Please be seated. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: It is constitutionally wrong. I condemn his statement ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I have already said that Hon'ble Mahtab Sahab is an experienced Member of the House and he raised this issue. He is fully aware of the way, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was evaluated and distributed. I would like to put forward two points before you. When the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that we would provide housing for all, it was as per the data of the year 2011, when the Socio Economic census ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I am yet to get a copy of the statement of the hon. Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, let me raise the issue and subsequently, the hon. Minister can give his statement. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Please supply the statement to Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab. Their names are there. They should be given a copy of the statement.

[Translation] Please ask Bhartruhari Mahtab ji to provide a copy.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I think you have already put the question. That is why

...

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I only mentioned the item number.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sorry. Please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I raised this issue as per your instructions. Mahtab Sahab, please raise your issue and I will reply.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, as there were interruptions at that time, that is why. *[English]* There was a little bit of miscommunication. *[Translation]* I would like to inform this House that the Minister had already told it in reply to my question during the question-answer on the 08th.

Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I would like to particularly mention that the initial survey time limit of 31 March, 2018 for Awas Plus for identifying the left out families has been extended four times after that. I am saying it with regard to Odisha. After that, he mentioned that the time limit has been extended four times vide your orders dated 30 June, 2018, 30 September, 2018, 30 November, 2018 and 07 March, 2019. There are Eight lakh, 17 Thousand allotted houses which

remain unallotted after granting time of one year. This is the statement of the Minister on that day in the House. I am not disputing the four dates mentioned by him. We have three facts in front of us. I would like to put up my views in the House on the matter as far as Odisha is concerned. *[English]* Identification of eligible but left-out families could not be completed because of preoccupation of field functionaries in the General Election 2019 work for both Parliament and State Assembly. *[Translation]* The four dates given by you are June, September, November and March. The total election process starts almost six months in advance and the officials of Panchayat and District officials remain occupied with the tasks of enumeration, preparation of voter lists and other tasks. Hence, there was a slight delay in it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (MAINPURI): Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, please allow me to leave.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thankyou, Mulayam Singh ji.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: There is problem of connectivity in Odisha at present also. There are 30 districts at present there. There was a time, when in 2017-18 there were 17 districts affected with left wing extremists and there was problem of network at the same time. Cyclone Fani struck in 2019. The votes had been cast but counting of votes was pending there. A severe cyclone named Fani struck in end April that year. It affected almost 14 districts. Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Odisha Immediately after the cyclone. Our Hon'ble Chief Minsiter of Odisha drew the attention of Hon'ble Prime Minister to the fact that all the houses allotted under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as well as those allotted under the Indira Awas Yojana in the coastal areas have been devastated. The people there have been ruined and there is a need to provide them with pucca houses. So, please allot some more money. One lakh eighty four thousand houses have been sanctioned by the Central Government

but have not been allotted in Odisha till date. The window on the Awas Plus portal for identification of eligible households was opened only till 07 March, 2019. *[English]* State could not complete the identification within the scheduled time because of preoccupation of Government machineries in General Election 2019 work and network connectivity issue, *[Translation]* which I already mentioned. *[English]* After the cyclone Fani, the Awas Plus window was opened during September and October, 2019 for a period of one month only.

[Translation]

It happened in two stages. You told me in September that it was over by Dussehra. As per my knowledge, Dussehra is celebrated extensively in Bihar and Diwali and other celebrations come in the months of October-November. At that time, you have given time to open that window but it was not done. These are the problems. It is not that all these things were not informed to the Central Government by the Government of Odisha, all these things were informed.

[English]

Odisha has requested the Ministry of Rural Development time and again for opening of Awas Plus window for a period of one month more to cover the other eligible households. Since Awas Plus window was not opened, the State identified, on its own, the eligible households which could not be enlisted in the Awas Plus List, through the State developed rural housing portal. The details of 6.65 lakh eligible households are entered in the rural housing portal.

Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development allotted a target of 8,17,000 houses to Odisha in the year 2021-22 and for this, the hon. Chief Minister has written a letter and expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister in the month of December last year.

I mentioned about this the other day also. I hope the Minister will appreciate that the problem today is, those households that have been identified were for Fani cyclone affected districts. Fani cyclone districts are the coastal districts of our State. He will definitely say, 'I am yet to see the statement'. But the other day when he was replying, he said, *[Translation]* We have allotted it but haven't distributed it. Why didn't you do that? It would have led to a discrepancy. Tomorrow the people in your party will say that you have distributed the coastal districts but it was not distributed to the western districts which are tribal districts. Actually, the identification done for Fani was only for 14 districts and the rest of the 16 districts which are left-wing affected districts as well as tribal districts and comparatively under-developed districts were left out and identification was done in these districts after the allocation of the Prime Minister.

Therefore, it is my request to open the window. Now, things are getting normal slowly, the system is working and a hundred percent of workers are working. Now, there is an opportunity. Panchayat elections are also going on now. If you open the window after the 10th for 15 days or for a month, then the Government of Odisha will send you the list prepared by them.

You had given a window to Karnataka recently. By giving a window to Karnataka, you have sanctioned about 18 lakh houses under PMAY. I don't need to talk about other States. For three years, we have been trying to tell the Central Government about the problems faced by Odisha. I am thankful to the Hon'ble Minister that when our party requested him, he immediately gave us time and also organized a meeting for it. It is true that I could not attend the last meeting which was on the 20th due to ill health. Nevertheless, he explained to the rest of the people problems and he drew the attention of our President. There are three things in this. *[English]* Please allow migration of 6.65 lakh eligible households

identified through the rural housing portal to Awas Plus List, sanction 1.84 lakh PMAY-Grameen special houses for the Fani cyclone affected families] and also open the Awas Plus window for one month to cover the eligible households which might have been missed from Awas Plus List and rural housing portal.

These are my three questions on which I would like to have answers from the hon. Minister. Thank you

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Shri Mahtabji.

Now, four other Members are also allowed to seek clarification or putting questions. So, I would request you to please confine to your specific questions.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Honorable Speaker, we are grateful to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, for allowing a half an hour discussion on such an important subject. Honorable Prime Minister tried to remove the basic problems in India which are related to Roti, Kapda and Makaan. Honorable Minister is our very old friend and both of us have been like family for 30-32 years. The Minister is constantly working in this direction. I am saying these things because when I was elected as an MP in the year 2009, the budget for this was Rs.35,000 crores. Later it became Rs 45,000 crore and after that, it became Rs 65,000 crore. But when Honorable Modi ji became the Prime Minister, he increased this budget to Rs. 1,25,000 crore. He didn't conceptualize it, they actually built houses to make someone a millionaire.

Sir, the neediest people of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are those who do not have land. In this, much facility has not been given to the State Government to acquire the land. For the basic aim that we have to provide houses to the poor, I request the Minister to make an agreement with the State Government in this scheme in which the State Government will either acquire the land or provide money to acquire a specific land. One and a half lakh crore rupees have been provided for my friend Udasi ji's constituency and 18 lakh crore rupees were provided to Karnataka. There are three processes of GIS Geotagging. The first stage of the process starts from the Panchayat, then the district and later, it returns here. Due to this, the process takes a long time that its purpose is over. This is a very difficult process. I request the Minister to definitely think about it. I come from an Aspirational district. You also know that there are 114-115 such districts. We should make separate arrangements for the Aspirational districts. It is good that the Minister knows the area as he belongs to that area. Every year, a fire breaks out in this area. If he is not from BPL category or not eligible for

this scheme then his entire house is ruined after the fire. You should also make separate provisions for the house that catches fire. Similarly, there is also rain and flood. You should make provisions for that too.

Sir, earlier with the name of Indira Awaas ...* provided by the Congress party, that house was made only on the words. When we used to conduct meetings in those districts, we came to know that they never got a house. Are you providing new funds to complete such old cases?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is a land problem. The problem of landless and homeless is huge. There is a scheme in Kerala in which land purchase means land allotment.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Gaurav Gogoi.

* Not recorded.

SHRI S.C. UDASI (HAVERI): One minute, Sir.

Sir, as you said and also as Shri Nishikant Dubey explained, there are two types of persons. One is a homeless person where he does not have land; and the other is where one is having land. *[Translation]* As Dubey Ji mentioned about the Landless, *[English]* for landless persons, as he said, you should give directions to the State Governments. *[Translation]* There are no Government lands available in local Panchayats at many places and *[English]* he has to acquire it from private party. Now, the land cost has also gone up. So, to acquire land, if the Government land is there, the District Administration will acquire it through the Government. They will allot sites to the site-less. But when there is no Government land available, the State Government has to acquire it from a private party. *[Translation]* It would be better, if the Government of India carries out the works of provisioning and Cost Sharing for the said purpose.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Transferring Forest Land is very difficult.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Thank you Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Honourable Minister belongs to Bihar, therefore, he must be well aware of the problems of flood and erosion be taking place there every year. The other States including Assam face the same problem. Can the people who are affected mostly by flood and erosion be provided special assistance? Can they be given priority in this regard? You must also be feeling that the people belonging to the flood prone areas of Bihar and Assam are in dire need of assistance from the Government. Sir, in my home State, Assam, people from tribal communities erect their houses on pillars, so that they may not have to leave their houses due to pooling of water inside the houses during floods, because their houses are built at certain heights. But these houses are very weak. They are not climate resilient. Such houses are damaged severely in flood situation. Can we adopt

other flood resilient designs of the houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana? “Housing for all” is the purpose of this campaign. How will the cherished dream of this campaign to provide Housing for all come true, if we cannot provide houses to the flood and erosion affected people.

Sir, what is actually happening today is that the people who lose their houses due to floods and erosion, get displaced and erect their houses somewhere else. They neither possess any documents of their houses nor any other substantial proof against the possession of their houses. Lastly, after a lull, a Bulldozer from Government side arrives on the site. When the Bulldozer comes, again they have to live like a refugee under a tinned roof. After all, which campaign we are moving towards? If we have really dreamt of “Housing for all”, then why do we not find out such a solution to the problem like, any technical problem coming on the way, be it the problem related to Land acquisitions, disasters etc. through bureaucratic means, in a suitable manner like - this is our yearly target and we have to meet it. How can we solve the problems prevalent at the ground level and which is experienced by all of us. The people who are staying in encroachment areas on being displaced and homeless due to floods and erosion are always the first to be at the receiving end. In Assam, it is them who are ill-treated firstly. Their houses are bulldozed if they belong to a particular community of our society. Hence, this has become a social problem. When the houses of the people belonging to a particular community of our society be it tribes or minorities, are bulldozed at first, it causes a kind of tension in society.

Sir, a lot of houses have got destroyed today due to floods, erosion and other disasters in my area as well as many other areas, for example unseasonal rains caused severe damage to the houses in Chennai and hail storms in Meghalaya and Assam destroyed many houses. Therefore, can we bring some

amendments in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana with regard to the houses affected by natural disasters, so that it could become a better and comprehensive scheme.

Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil Ji – (Not Present).

Shri Hasnain Masoodi Ji.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG): Thank You Hon. Chairperson Sir. It is the aim of every welfare state to make arrangements for affordable housing for the shelterless and homeless people of their jurisdiction. Affordable Housing is the dream project of the Prime Minister. It has been focused upon earlier also, but our problem is this that we are not able to achieve the targets announced against the welfare schemes. For example, only the figure of 52 Lakh could be achieved against the fixed target of 1 Crore and 14 Lakh under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). This achievement remained short by 50%. The figures of the rural areas which we have are fake and erroneous, because, the people have been standing in the queues since last 03 years but the windows are not opening. I would say the windows of minds should also open, windows of the Offices should open and portals should open for achieving the goals. Applications are not being able to get uploaded. The people who are completely eligible are not able to get the benefits of the scheme. Thus, we are not able to achieve the dream project of Affordable Housing. In our area, in Pulgam, Shopian, Anantnag and Pulwama, thousands of people are waiting in queue for the opening of the window so that they may upload their applications.

This will be my first request. As Mahtab Ji said, this window, this portal should be opened at least once for a limited time. And the other thing is that I have seen what is happening in the field in the name of fairness of the procedure of the scheme. No one can apply online without making hue and cry. By the time an applicant is in queue and his application is approved, he himself lays the foundation of his house by arranging some money somehow or the other or erects some other structures. These workers or Village Development Workers come to them and say that they have become ineligible, because they have themselves attempted to build their houses. This kind of disability should end so that they may make some attempts to build their houses at their own level, because the cost of constructing houses is increasing due to skyrocketing prices

of building materials. Everyone thinks that he should make some efforts or the other from his side until he gets the financial assistance of Rs. 1.25 Lakh. It is necessary. The first thing is of opening the windows, all kinds of windows including that of change in attitude. Thank you very much.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, Let me also speak together. ...
(*Interruptions*) I am also a Member. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, only those Members, who have given their notices, will be allowed to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the Hon. Minister reply. After that, you can seek your clarification. [*Translation*] Please ask for clarifications, if any, only after the Hon. Minister finishes his speech. There is no problem at all.

Hon. Minister, please continue with your speech.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Sir, when I started speaking, I felt that I would conclude it after replying to the questions raised by Hon'ble Mahtab Sahab. All the Hon'ble Members of the House allowed by you to speak, be it Nishikant ji, Gogoi ji, Udasi ji or Masoodi Sahab; have expressed their feelings in their own way. I will say only this much as I have already mentioned that I had planned to conclude by merely giving details about Odisha only, but now, please allow me to put forward my views in the House. I will take not more than two to four minutes.

Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister has repeated it several times that this development has not happened solely due to him. What were the salient features of the Indira Awas Yojana mentioned earlier? Hon'ble Member of Parliament has mentioned, 75 Thousand rupees were granted under the Indira Awas Yojana.

When Hon'ble Modi ji felt that it was not feasible to build a house with a cost of Seventy Five thousand rupees, he decided in the year 2016 to provide housing to all. It was planned to give house to all. The Indira Awas Yojana had been running for the last 30 years. Houses were provided to the people to the extent possible. As has been mentioned, some were left out. I will later put forward before you the way in which Modi ji has connected himself with the poor. When Modi ji promised in 2016, there must have been some basis. Mahtab Sahab has put it very nicely and in detail. That basis was the Socio-Economic census 2011. This figure of 4.03 cr emerged keeping in mind the same. We forwarded this list of 4.03 cr to the States. In turn, the States forwarded a list of 2.95 cr saying the rest have either already got it or are ineligible. We had an initial target of 4.03 cr houses. We made plans for 2.95 cr houses and presented it before the cabinet.

It was but natural to allot to the States after the finalisation of plan. New figures of 3.57 cr emerged when it was allotted to the States. You can see that we provided 4.03 cr and the State Governments proposed 2.95 cr after scrutiny of data. When the Central Government is providing the States 2.95 cr, and the Cabinet gave its approval for 2.95 cr, then you projected the figure of 3.57 cr houses. They further projected the final figure of 2.15 cr out of 2.95 cr after further rectification and scrutiny of data. Whom should we allot the balance 80 lakh houses because you have amended and interpreted the Socio Economic caste census data in your own way. A committee was constituted for this purpose along with the State Governments to identify the homeless or labourers. A survey was again undertaken. In this way, the 80 lakh houses were handed over to the States and the scheme was termed as Awas Plus. I will come to Indira Awas Yojana also.

Now, I will discuss Odisha particularly regarding which he has very nicely and frankly put forward all his views. The States were given the benefit of extended time limits four times asking them to upload the details regarding the 80 lakh Awas Plus houses on their respective Awas portals. They have projected his problems due to which they could not upload the details. Not being able to upload the details has been a mistake on the part of the States.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I put forward the reasons also.

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Certainly, you have told the reasons also. I am not commenting on that aspect as you already expressed your point that there was an election or other things ... (*Interruptions*) I am also clarifying my position. Sir, initially when the target was 4.03 cr houses, Odisha's share came to be 41,72,420 houses. They said that the number of homeless in their State was not that much. They provided the amended and slashed the figures of 27,64,146. These families came in the category of eligible families. When they were given the

target after passing by the Cabinet, the State projected only 18,36,613 out of the earlier 27,64,146 as has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Member. Now, you can see that I have treated the entire country equally. Be it Jharkhand or other State, I have data regarding all the States. Right now, Karnataka has been mentioned. Karnataka and Odisha have worked closely with the Central Government's portal throughout since its beginning. Karnataka had developed its own portal and they uploaded all the names on the State portal.

They did not provide the data on our portal and we did not allot them. Afterwards, the Karnataka government had been utilising the MIS portal and Karnataka carried out the Awas survey also on their Awas portal only. The data did not come on our portal and consequently we did not allot houses to them. Karnataka completed the Awas survey utilising their own portal, but the last date of survey was 07 March, 2019.

Since they could not link their data with the national Awas portal within the time limit, we did not allot them houses. Then they claimed that they could not get even a single house allotted and also that in this electronic era it could be verified that all the data on their portal was with date and was uploaded before the last date. So I permitted to allot as per date from the portal. It emerged that the State which was not allotted a single house, was given the opportunity to upload their data on the portal. ... (*Interruptions*) You are saying very correctly. Four times, we extended opportunities for Odisha along with the entire country. Unfortunately, cyclone Fani struck as mentioned by the Hon'ble Member. For them also, it was extended for 15 days each time but Odisha uploaded data only for 14 districts. If there are 30 districts and you had full data for all the districts, you did not work in time. I would like to stress that the situation in case of Karnataka was different. We allotted them houses since Karnataka was the only State in the country which did not get even one house allotted. I would like to

atleast emphasise that we are allotting equitably throughout the country. We will not commit injustice with any one through language or deeds. I would like to tell Mahtab Sahab also that we have not done injustice with you nor shall we do it in future. As far as I am concerned and the target of the Central Government of providing housing to all is concerned; I have put forward the complete details that the 74 Lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana have been completed by Hon'ble Modi Ji. As I said on that day also, you can see that 3 Crore 26 lakh houses were built in 30 years while we have built 2 Crore 46 Lakh houses in seven years and have also doubled the amount being granted for it. We have added the MNREGA wages of 90 days and 95 days for One Lakh 20 Thousand houses.... (*Interruptions*) Apart from this, it is 30 instead of 20 for the hilly areas and those in ST areas. Overall, it can be said that we provided houses, doubled the amount, electricity, toilets as well as the benefit of Ujjwala scheme. I would like to request you to look into the commitment of Hon'ble Modi ji because only 11.21 lakh houses were built annually from 1985 to 2014. You can see, the figure comes to 94 Thousand houses per month. If you have a look at the data during Modi ji's time, we have built 35.19 Lakh houses annually till now or 2.62 Lakh houses monthly. They built 3,073 houses daily while we built 8,581 houses daily.

If seen clearly, I will not comment on the way the States have worked on the list of 4.03 cr houses because they would also have seen it honestly. But I am also helpless. We took up 2.95 cr houses in a scheme. Many Member friends said that there would have been some *slashing* (Hin.- कटाव). One was from a 'Hit and Run' party. He has left. Gaurav ji commented and left. If he was here, I would have replied on his comments. There is a committee of the Secretaries of States for the landless people. The Government of India continuously reviews it and promotes it. As you mentioned the example of Kerala, they have made provision of 60,000 rupees for house in Bihar also. There must have been some

provision in Odisha also, which I am not aware of. However, we are working closely with the States to provide for the landless people.

Hon'ble Nishikant ji has talked about aspirational district. It is but natural that we are doing all the planning in aspirational districts keeping in mind the priority set and target allotted for that district.

Sir, I would only like to assure you that the Government of India will never discriminate against Odisha. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the Minister conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: I have answered all three questions. If you ask me to say again in detail, then I will have to recite it all over again.

All I am saying is that there has been no discrimination against Odisha and nor it will be allowed to happen. I assure you about this. Hon'ble Modi ji's resolve is - 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Awas'.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jagdambika Pal ji, do you want any clarification?

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I am very grateful to you. Hon'ble Minister has described everything in detail. He has said that the list for 4.03 crore houses has come to them and after surveying, they have cleared the list of 2.95 crore. This shows the definite commitment of the Government to give houses to everyone by the year 2022. The work has been completed for 2.46 crore houses. For this I congratulate Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Narendra Modi ji.

In Uttar Pradesh, during the tenure of the previous Government, the number of houses constructed under Prime Minister Awas Yojana was 'Zero'. During the last four and a half years, Hon'ble Yogi ji's Government has built 42 lakh houses under this yojana. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jagdambika Pal ji, ask your point.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I just want one clarification from the Hon'ble Minister. As he worked with Karnataka in kindness by allotting 18 lakh houses as there was no house constructed under this yojana. I express my gratitude on behalf of Karnataka and on behalf of the entire country for this kind act. ...(*Interruptions*)

Similarly, like Hon'ble Nishikant ji's district, my district 'Siddharth Nagar' has been designated as an aspirational district. Not even a single house has been built in its three blocks under this yojana. Just as he showed kindness on Karnataka by building houses there despite not being in original plan, similarly, it would be nice if the three blocks of my district are also covered like Karnataka. You have implemented this yojana in the other places at very fast pace, but somehow in three blocks of my districts it has not been able to come on the portal... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Hon'ble Prime Minister had visited Odisha in May, 2019. The Odisha Government had identified 1,84,000 beneficiary under PMAY. The Prime Minister had assured us. Will you not accept that assurance? In addition, there was talk of opening PMAY window for six lakh more units. It is being said that 2.94 crore units under PMAY have been sanctioned.

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I have requested Hon'ble Mahtab Sir and also told the House that we will not allow any discrimination with Odisha.

18.51 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

**Welfare measures for Anganawadi workers and
Anganwadi helpers-Contd...**

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have to resume the Private Member's Resolution.

Shri Rajendra Agrawal Ji has to resume his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, the proposal presented by Shri Ritesh Kumar Pandey ji is about the welfare of Anganwadi workers. I was speaking in the last session regarding this. Continuing my point, I want to make some more points. Sir, there is no doubt about it, which I also mentioned in my last speech.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is your maiden speech in this session.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Yes, Sir.

Sir, Anganwadi workers have a big role. Especially in relation to what we call last mile delivery, they have a big role. Be it nutrition, child care, new born babies, lactating mothers, now be it care of little children under NEP, all have been entrusted to them. Their role is very important. They play their role within the routine health services. Even in times of emergency, like the global pandemic of COVID, they have fulfilled their responsibility with great urgency.

Sir, if I talk about Uttar Pradesh, then under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the corona crisis was conquered, controlled and effective action was taken against it. The work that has been done from each point of view is given as an example in the world. Similarly, the work done in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of our Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji is exemplary in the whole country and has set an example. IIT, Kanpur has also given a report about it. The WHO has also praised his work. In all this works Anganwadi workers have played a big role in the regular services and also in the emergency problems that arise, like the problem of COVID. The Government has also acknowledged it. They have recognized it. In the same sequence, the Government has made efforts to provide them with various types of facilities. This topic is certainly a matter of health, especially primary health care. The subject of health comes under the Central and the State Government both. I would not like to mention it here what the State Governments do at different levels. I am not even aware of what each State Government has done about this matter?

Sir, if we look at the Central Government level, even in the year 2018, they were given honorarium of Rs. 3,000. Hon'ble Narendra Modi's Government has increased it to Rs. 4,500. This increase gave them some financial support. If they did any special program or rendered any special service, then arrangements were made to give an additional five rupees for that also. You will appreciate that while being sensitive about their problems, accepting the importance of their work, such facilities have been gradually expanded by the Hon'ble Modi ji's Government. For example, there are 22.5 lakh such health workers in the total health workers who were present at the time of Corona, who were provided insurance cover of Rs. 5,000,000 each. Our Anganwadi workers or ASHA workers were also taken under this purview.

Today, they have a security insurance of Rs 50 lakh. This is a facility provided to them while working.

Now, even in this Budget presented by our Finance Minister, Anganwadis have been upgraded. It was also proposed to build better and capable Anganwadi centres for which Budget has been allocated.

Efforts have been made to provide assistance to them at all the three levels- technology, products and services and such a budget has been provided by the Finance Minister.

In short, I wish to say that the Government has acknowledged and honoured the importance of the role of Anganwadi workers and has also tried to increase their facilities.

18.55 hrs

(Shri Kodikunnil Suresh *in the Chair*)

Regarding this proposal made by Ritesh Pandey ji, I would definitely like to say that this subject comes under the purview of both the Central Government and the State Government. Therefore, it may be considered that the Central Government should formulate a scheme in coordination with the Ministers of the State Government engaged in healthcare sector or the departments related to child development to provide these Anganwadi workers more stability. Their salary may be regularized, if possible. You will also accept that there is some limit to resources. The demand for this is made by the State Government, it has to take the initiative. In this regard, schemes should be formulated to provide them more facilities so that they can serve with more efficiency.

Recently, during the Covid period, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has provided them mobiles, so that they can keep data of children and mothers in a better way and provide them proper services. Other such facilities can also be provided. It is definitely an important subject. The Central Government and the

State Government should take a decision on it and their facilities should be expanded. By saying this, I conclude and thank you for giving me time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Kankamal Katara Ji.

SHRI KANKAMAL KATARA (BANSWARA): Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, I have nothing much to say. I would like to tell about the steps that need to be taken to improve the condition of Anganwadi workers. Anganwadi workers should get regular employment. It is definitely very important to pay them salary instead of honorarium. They should be made permanent. They are not paid on time. Their work is more but honorarium is less. Their honorarium should be increased by making them permanent. Anganwadi workers work in odd conditions.

There are remote tribal areas in my Constituency. Anganwadi centres there are in a dilapidated condition. New buildings should be constructed there by providing funds. Anganwadi workers should be paid on time. Rented houses are also not available in remote areas. There is a lot of trouble in such a situation. Some arrangements should be made for this. The process of selection of Anganwadi workers should be done in a time bound manner. Anganwadi workers suffer as their selection is not done as per rules, so this process should be done in a time-bound manner. Arrangements are not being made properly to ensure proper weight gain and nutrition for lactating mothers, pregnant mothers and children. It should be organized. There are problems all over the country regarding nutrition. Anganwadi workers at the lower level face a lot of problems. A lot of work pressure is imposed on them. They feel perplexed. Their honorarium is very low. They need to be made permanent at present. They work

in such a low honorarium with this hope that they will be made permanent and then they will be able to take care of their family.

19.00 hrs

I request that this should be taken care of. There is no arrangement for providing safe drinking water at the Anganwadi centers. Anganwadi centers in that area are in a very dilapidated condition, so there is a need to build a new center by allotting the entire fund, only then this work will be done. Due to political pressure in the selection process, this process continues for a year, one and a half years and two years, so how will that Anganwadi center run? Therefore, a simple process of selection should be made so that this system can run properly. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir the Members from BSP are not present here right now. They should have stayed here in the name of humanity if they were true well-wishers of Anganwadi workers, as they introduced the resolution related to Anganwadi workers but it is ok. In the same way, the opposition was sitting all day in front the whole day. It is the misfortune of this country that ASHA workers working in the Anganwadi centers, without which the country cannot run, are in such a condition. Today, their interests should be protected and they should be appreciated in the country which has a population of 125 crore.

During Covid period, the hon'ble Prime Minister appreciated them alongwith the association of doctors and saved the country because a person proves to be more helpful if he is appreciated, he also becomes ready to sacrifice his life. Not a single Member from the Opposition is present in this House on this sensitive issue. Nothing can be more shameful in a democratic system than it.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bidhuri ji, today is the last day of first part of the Session. Many Members from ruling as well as opposition Benches were going back to their constituencies.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, it was already decided that Private Member's Bill will be introduced, so, the hon'ble Members should make their programs accordingly. It was not decided today that Private Member's Bill will be introduced. It has been introduced on Friday many times in the past. It is a matter of sensitivity for the Members and that is why the people of the country had lost faith in the leaders in 70-75 years.

Slowly our Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji has gained credibility and the people have started trusting the leaders. Seeing these activities, the people were fed up with the leaders.

Within our society, in a country like India, whose population is so high, whose infrastructure was already under developed and some of the revenue went into scams, which occurred in the country for a long period of 60 years, those facilities could not reach to poor people. Our sisters do three types of work through Anganwadi and do it on a large scale. Before the child is enrolled in school, the child up to the age of six years should be educated, he should be given nutritious food, he should get proper diet. If the child's health is good, then he will become a good citizen of the country and will work to take the country forward.

Due to high poverty in our country and due to lack of infrastructure, this should also be added to the Private Members' Bill for Anganwadi and I would like to tell the Government that population control bill should be mandatory in this country. Without it, the system of this country cannot move forward. If there are no ASHA workers, the services collapse and the country cannot be managed.

Although, the Anganwadi system was started in the year 1975 under the Ministry of Social Justice but in the year 2021, the Hon. Prime Minister had 27 such States, which were very backward, such as the most backward Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, where having roads was a big deal. If a sister needs any kind of health infrastructure during pregnancy, then there is no education. Due to lack of education to the poor mothers and sisters couldn't get information about what precautions should be taken. Nutrients, milk, vegetables, edible oil and sweets should be given as diet to them through Anganwadi during pregnancy. Diet is given through Anganwadi by Ministry of Social Welfare so that the sisters

remain healthy. Anganwadi workers only do the work of providing service to keep them healthy.

The biggest thing for respect and education of the poor people of the country is that Anganwadi workers are local. Because of this, poor mothers and sisters can easily understand her language. There is some shyness, bashfulness in the women of villages and rural belts and they hesitate to tell their problems. They can openly put their problems in front of the local Anganwadi worker. She motivates them, educates them. If serious illness can be diagnosed early, they can be referred to a good doctor or a good health center through Anganwadi workers.

Sir, earlier, education used to be provided to elderly people through Anganwadis. Now, as time has changed, Anganwadi workers administer injection to mothers and sisters, provide education and counsel them so that the child do not get diseases like polio and measles and do not suffer from malnutrition.

They are told about family planning, how the family can move forward by door-to-door campaign. They also educate about family planning. As I said, people are settled in rural belt, in villages, in remote areas, in small towns, there are also backward Districts, they go door-to-door to serve by telling about the utilization of sanitization.

They educate about how to develop immunity in women during pregnancy and after childbirth. Anganwadi workers encourage nutritious and good diet to prevent serious diseases. Many families are conservative. This system is still in place in the country. If we go to Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, people there are still superstitious. For this reason they believe in exorcisms. In such a situation, the Anganwadi sisters do a better job than the local doctors. Anganwadi sisters are serving them by motivation. NITI Aayog figures state that

they counsel seven crore mothers, sisters, children and families and work to save their lives. Two million Anganwadi workers are working.

In basic health services through Anganwadis, the child below six years should be examined at the right time. Hon. Prime Minister told all the MPs about the quarterly check-up, after giving them food and diet, that a man should do service to show humanity. He told all the MPs many times that we all should go to every street and locality and conduct a competition between young children that whose child is the healthiest. If after motivating a child, the doctors conduct counselling camps and conduct competitions through Anganwadis and say that we will give incentives to the family, the other family members, mothers and sisters will also think about it that they should also take more care of their children. All these Government run schemes face many problems to provide benefit to the poor, but benefits of all these schemes are being provided to them by ASHA workers.

For the bright future of the country, for the development of the country, I want to state that if one wants to make the country strong, the youth coming forward should be healthy. If the child grows up and remains healthy, he can dedicate his whole life in patriotism and in defence of the country.

It is not so easy to handle the growing population of the country. But, now Anganwadi workers have become an important part of the society. Today, it is very difficult to run the system without them. There was a disease like corona. During the corona disease, some politicians spread many types of misconceptions. Someone was saying that if you get administered the vaccine, you will become impotent. Somebody said that the vaccine is of one person, it is of Modi Sahib. They had no intention of saving the lives of the poor for their own benefit. Their goal was to have maximum deaths in the country. If there are deaths, the Government will be criticized, and if the Government is criticized,

they will get a chance to come in power. If anyone has done this work by risking their lives in these adverse circumstances, then they were only the Anganwadi workers. As I said earlier, being a local, they can explain it to anyone in their own language. There are different languages in different States in our country. They can explain them through these languages. If anyone has contributed by participating in service during Covid, the ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers are the one who have made their contribution. The Prime Minister, after producing local vaccine, got rid of the disease by administering vaccine to all. At the same time, we cannot forget the contribution of Anganwadi sisters and Asha workers. We should appreciate their contribution. Along with appreciating, we should also keep in mind that there are some shortcomings in those Anganwadi workers. The NITI Aayog report also states that they are less educated. The reason for this is that they are paid less salary. They should be engaged in this work by educating and training them in training centres because just like a nurse, they serve the people and consider them as member of their family and are sentimental towards them. If there are 70 families under an Anganwadi, they consider those families as their own families and serve them as ANM. I have given an example from the time of Covid. During that time, State Government operated Anganwadis without thinking about any politics and even though there were different State Governments, people of different views, different political parties and being run by the Centre. Even though the scheme is launched by the Centre and the fund is allocated by the Central Government Anganwadis are operated by the State Government. Even though it comes under State Government...* Government like TMC in Bengal does not think of anything other than just ruling. The lowest number of vaccination took place in Bengal. Had it not been for these Anganwadi workers, the situation in Bengal could have worsened. The condition was worsened by the Chief Minister of Bengal. I would

* Not recorded.

like to say his motive once again. His motive was to make more emergencies, and deaths to defame the Government. He had a mentality to run politics over the dead bodies of people by defaming the Government.

Like I said, Anganwadi workers should be trained. They should be given education. If we give education to Anganwadi workers they may be able to do counseling of poor families, mothers and sisters even better. Through you, I would to make this request.

As NITI Aayog said in its recommendation, the State Governments should also pay attention to the fact that the fund that are allocated by the Central Government, was decided to be increased by Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi ji in the year 2021 to provide more facilities, to fulfill small needs in a better way. Whatever schemes there are, it should reach the poor. One of our former Prime Ministers had said that if we send 1 rupee to the poor from the Center, they only get 15 paise. 85 paise is lost during the process because people are not aware of it. They do not know what arrangements and laws have been made by the Government to fulfill their needs. Today, the schemes of the Government can be popularized through Anganwadi workers and there is a need to provide the benefit of the schemes of the Government to the poor people who need them. They motivate them. They inform and advise them to live in a good way. Whether it is Central Government or State Government, they have to be taken such schemes to the ground level.

When the Bharatiya Janata Party Government was in power in Delhi in 1995, Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji introduced polio medicine. India has become polio-free today. Anganwadi sisters used to go door to door to give medicine to a child who is six months, one year or younger and used to motivate them. Even at that time, people used to think about what will happen if we give polio drops to a three or four months old child. Anganwadi and ASHA workers instilled faith in

mothers. Today we can proudly say that India has become polio-free. It was done through the Anganwadi workers.

I am not saying that the mentality of the permanent officers who are working in the health centers in our cities and towns is not right. But they sometimes think that they are doing eight hours of duty and getting this much salary, so my work is done. When the Anganwadi workers replaced them and gave this job to them at the grassroots level, they didn't think that they have to render 8 or 10 hours of service. Anganwadi workers stay there and work to provide service to the people.

As I have said, they have one shortcoming that they are not educated or they have less education. They are not given education and training because if they become skilled, the Government will have to give them minimum wages. It would be good if the Government implements this system. A child should be born healthy and should not have any disease as well as grow up to protect and run the country. We should take this work further. The Government should move forward by taking the initiative. The Anganwadi workers should be skilled for health centers and hospitals but there is a lack of finance and infrastructure. NITI Aayog has also recommended this.

Our hon'ble Prime Minister is completely focused on how to meet the requirements of 125 crore people in the country. Have previous Governments met those needs? But, they could not do what they should have done. Couldn't earlier Governments do this? Due to smoke, the eyes of women used to fill up due to smoke have and their lungs were affected but today, cylinders are being given to poor women through the Ujjwala scheme. Why was it not given earlier? Today, promises are made during election time that two or three free cylinders will be provided. Today, Modi ji has made this possible. Modi ji has implemented this. Now, the Governments make arrangements and they must

have been doing it earlier also, but I want to reiterate again that the arrangements were not made as much as they should have been.

Please bring these schemes to the grassroots level. Our Anganwadi and ASHA workers work to provide the benefits of these schemes to poor people. Therefore, the salary given to them is not satisfactory. At least they should be given salary accordingly. What is their fault now? They are not skilled. As they are not skilled they have been categorized as unskilled. Governments make them work for 4-4, 5-5, 7-7, 10-10 and 12-12 thousand rupees. Their good and honest work or service and their work of taking the country forward, the work of taking care of the health of the generations of the country will be rated in the world when India moves towards becoming a world power. As India has become polio-free, the Social Welfare Department and Ministry of Health work to save the lives of children who are affected by diseases like Polio. It is the Anganwadi workers who have implemented this. Their service condition should definitely be improved. Anganwadi women should have a dress code, because that dress code has respect. Nurse, who works in the hospital, if that nurse comes in front of the patient wearing that dress, then half of the patient's illness goes away from the thought that the nurse is giving an injection of medicine with a sense of honesty, true heart and service. Half the people would not have much faith if the nurse appeared without a dress code. They are confused about whether the nurse is a trainee nurse or not or whether the nurse has done a nursing course or not. So, a dress code should be made for Anganwadi workers. The Government should make a system for this. People should look at them with respect when they come out to the street.

You must have observed during COVID, people used to throw stones and misbehave with them when they came with bags or vaccines. We have seen people trying to insult them by misbehaving and throwing stones at them. It will

be better for the security of their own future also if there is a dress code with them. If the police constable happens to be in civil dress, anyone can dare to say anything to him. On the contrary, if the same constable is going somewhere in his uniform, he can control a crowd of 100 people since he has got the authority of his uniform with him. No one will follow him if the Khaki uniform is removed from him. They work to improve the system of the country.

Similarly, all the States should work towards a dress code for the Anganwardi workers and the ASHA workers. People splurge money on publicity and self praise.

[English]

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): Chairman Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): You have ...* with great difficulties. You might have rushed when I called out. When we are raising the matter in the interest of the country, of the public or of the poor, they are raising the issue of quorum shortage.

Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, please ask them how many Members of their party are present in the House. It is an example of the pot calling the kettle black. He could well have said so, if all the Members of his party were present and the quorum was still short. Fifty Members from only the Treasury Benches are present in the House. Is fulfilling the quorum only the responsibility of the Treasury Benches? This is a task to be completed by everyone's cooperation. If we would care about the welfare of ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers through this Private Member Bill introduced by Hon'ble Member of Parliament

* Not recorded.

of Bahujan Samaj Party Pandit Ji Maharaj; then we would definitely be providing nutrition to the next generation of this country. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Please speak about their salary enhancement also.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: I have definitely asked for enhancement of salary but you, while claiming to be Socialists, never think beyond your dynasty. Your condition is such that your ... * asks to pay 50 crore rupees while allotting Party tickets. When someone gets the ticket by paying 50 crore rupees, how will he serve the nation? He will first fulfill for the expenditure incurred. Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, he is the Hon'ble Member by whom this resolution has been introduced.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I am to inform that four hours time has already been taken on this Resolution. We are almost exhausting the time allotted for its discussion. There are still some Members to speak on the Resolution. If the House agrees, we may extend the time by one hour more.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time has been extended by one more hour for the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Thank you, Sir. Supporting the Motion introduced today through Private Members Bill, I would like to say that all the State Governments and the Central Government should be concerned regarding the Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and work towards making these facilities

* Not recorded.

available to them so that they can wholeheartedly serve the public of the country and work for their welfare. This Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister is dedicated for the welfare of the poor and is working for them. You must have observed that all the decisions taken during the last seven years have been dedicated for the upliftment and development of the poor and for the health of their children. That is why, special attention should be paid towards the remuneration of our ANMs, ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers. With this, I conclude my speech.

Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Private Members' Resolution.

A very good Resolution has been moved by our good friend Shri Ritesh Pandey ji. It is good in the sense that it deals with the welfare measures for Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers. With a view to uplifting their working conditions, he has cited five specific issues. Most of the issues are being discussed throughout the country, by people who know what type of difficulties they are facing, and not just by the Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers. As most of the hon. Members of this House have participated in the discussion on this Resolution and have supported it, I would also support this Resolution.

Most of us know in what type of pitiable conditions a large number of these Anganwadi workers have been working. As you are aware, the ICDS programme started in 1975 during Shrimati Gandhi's Prime Ministership. Since the last 46 years, India is having this type of a programme of ICDS. Anganwadi workers and helpers are a part of that. They were added subsequently in this programme. But providing nutritious food to the under-nourished children was something that was started in 1975. This programme of ICDS was started by her in order to honour a commitment of the United Nations where India was a signatory. That is how this programme in most of the districts, especially in my State and in States like Jharkhand of today and Chattisgarh of today started. This programme has become a boon for most of the tribal pockets in the country. It is because providing nutritious food to the tribal children was actually a great challenge for us. Most of the Members of the Lok Sabha preside over the DISHA meetings and also, they preside over another Committee which deals

with health services in their districts. Members get a figure about the maternal mortality rate in their districts and also about the child mortality rate in their districts. From there, I tried to find out why this number is there and wherefrom these families hail. Why were they not provided any medical services at the time of child birth? Invariably, it has come to light that firstly because of marriage of minor girls; secondly, because of lack of access to health facilities; and lastly -- and the most important is -- because of not getting nutritious food there is child mortality. As you are aware, during the UPA regime, the system of ASHA workers developed and the Anganwadi programme started before that.

Sir, I will confine my speech on four specific points. As you are aware, Anganwadi services is a Centrally-sponsored scheme which is implemented through State Governments. The recruitment of Anganwadi workers is undertaken by the State Governments concerned. There are specific guidelines. The Anganwadi workers under the scheme are from the local village and they are selected by a Selection Committee constituted by the State Government as per the ICDS Board Mission Framework. The minimum prescribed qualification is matriculation and the age limit is between 18 and 35 years for being engaged as Anganwadi workers.

Sir, I would first come to the Anganwadi centres. Nowadays, Anganwadi Centres are looking very beautiful. You must be visiting your constituency and different remote areas in your villages. The moment you enter a village, the best house that attracts your eye is the colourful Anganwadi Kendras that have come up. It was not so ten or 15 years ago or even 20 years ago. It was such a dilapidated place. The Anganwadi Centre was a rented place or a ram shackled place but now it is not like that. I asked a number of children whether they love to come to this Anganwadi Centre. They said 'Yes'. I asked whether it was because of the food. They said, 'No'. They said that they feel safe and there are

so many things to play around in the Anganwadi Kendra. They get small chairs where children sit; they get toys which they play with; there is a small toilet also. You have a good Anganwadi helper and a worker who also takes care of those 20 or 25 or 50 or the number of children there. Ultimately, they also get some food in the lunch time. But it is not so everywhere.

In my district, I make it a point that in every three to four months time, I do the review of my constituency. I always ask the concerned Block Development Officer that this much was the target and the construction of Anganwadi Kendras must be completed because MGNREGA is also involved. Why has it not been completed? Specific Sub-Collectors of the concerned district are also entrusted with that job. They should see that if land is not being available, then they should provide the land but the problem is there. The problem is there not because of political reason that one village wants the Anganwadi Kendra to be there in their village and another village will say that it should be there in their village. But it has to be settled. Political leadership is there to settle the issue when there is a dispute but at the same time, land also should be provided. If it is a swampy land, then some arrangement has to be made so that the land can be converted to a place where a building can be constructed.

Here, I come to an answer that has been given today, the 11th February, 2022 relating to the State to which Shri Ritesh Pandey, the Mover of this Resolution belongs to, that is, Uttar Pradesh. The question was about the district wise number of Anganwadi Kendras in the State of Uttar Pradesh which do not have their own building. That number is here. The number of Anganwadi Centres not having their own building comes to 1,47,725. This covers 75 districts and in Varanasi itself, it is 3424. I would not talk about the district of Shri Ritesh Pandey because the whole list is there. It is in today's answer sheet

which the Government has provided on the number of Anganwadi Kendras which are not having their own buildings.

The Government is providing the funds. The State Government is to construct the building and the onus lies with the concerned district administration and the Block Development Officer of the Panchayat Samiti who have to construct those buildings. If it is not there, then the onus lies on us as the public representative to see where the problem lies. It is because this is an investment which is being made by the nation and not by the Government alone. This is an investment made by the nation for the future of this country, for the children of this country as it is always said that child is the father of the man. In that respect, I would say that greater stress should be made on the construction of these buildings.

There are rented places also but it is better that you have a house or an Anganwadi Kendra on its own land. I have invariably been vouchsafing for this. Let the Anganwadi Kendra be nearer to the lower primary school so that the child who is taken by the mother or any relative to the Anganwadi Kendra develops that mentality that this is the Anganwadi Kendra and then, he will go to the primary school.

That fear of going to the school will go away if he goes to a play school, as Anganwadi Kendra is being developed as a play school.

I am coming to the Budget because the Budget has been presented very recently. The Ministry has received an allocation of Rs.25,172.28 crore which is a three per cent increase from last year's budgetary estimate of Rs.24,435 crore. So far so good! There is a three per cent increase.

I think that mover of the Resolution, Shri Ritesh Pandey is very good in Mathematics. The total expenditure percentage-wise has diminished from 0.70

per cent to 0.63 per cent. So, percentage-wise, it has decreased but the budgetary allocation has increased. All of us who are participating in this discussion and those who very much want that the budgetary support should go up for ICDS and especially for Anganwadi Kendras would love to impress upon the Government that we need more funds for this.

My predecessor has just now mentioned one thing about the great work the Anganwadi workers and helpers did during the COVID-19 period. They were provided with safety equipment like masks and sanitisers. That is a great thing which has happened.

But vacancies are still there in Anganwadi Kendras. Vacancies are to be filled up by the State. When I say 'State', the District Administration has to be made accountable as to why there are so many vacancies.

There is a revised guideline and four lakh Anganwadi Kendras are being built across the country. There has been convergence of Anganwadi services with Swachhta Action Plan. A sum of Rs.10,000 is being provided for drinking water facilities. Another sum of Rs.12,000 is being provided for toilet facilities. Grants have been sanctioned for purchase of water filter, furniture, equipment, etc. Anganwadi workers have been provided with smart phones for efficient service delivery. With the POSHAN Tracker, transparency is also there.

I think these are the developments for the last four to five years during this Government's time. It shows how much stress is being given for the development of our younger folk of the country.

Now, I come to the other aspect relating to honorarium and salary. In the Resolution, the mover has stated specifically and he was also prompting the previous speaker that you support my Resolution to convert the honorarium into salary. I will come to that aspect a little later with full details.

Here, I would like to mention that Anganwadi workers are honorary workers. They are not covered under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. They are unskilled. But the question here is, if they are unskilled, there is a provision also in the labour law that the unskilled worker has to be provided with a certain amount of minimum wage. Telling them that you are provided with honorarium and still calling them unskilled, I think that logic does not hold water.

I would say that recently, hon. Supreme Court of India, in a ruling in a civil appeal, State of Karnataka & Ors vs Ameerbi & Ors, has held that Anganwadi workers and helpers do not hold any civil post. This cannot be called as a civil post and everybody will understand that they cannot be termed as Government employees. There is a very small distinction between a worker and an employee. I will come to that aspect a little later. I will inform as to what is the view of our Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development. We deliberated upon the Labour Code in this House.

Sir, I was talking about the shortage of Anganwadi Workers. If we take all the 36 States and Union Territories into account, the number of sanctioned posts is 13,99,697. The number of persons in position is 13,26,982. So, there is a shortfall of about 73,000 posts and these need to be filled up quickly.

When we talk about Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers, during the current COVID period, a number of packages have been announced by the Government. There is Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package where an insurance cover is given for healthcare workers. Similarly, they are also covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana where a life coverage of two lakh rupees is given. Then, there are schemes like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Anganwadi Karyakarta Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana, which is a pension scheme for the unorganised sector workers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana, there is an assured pension of

Rs. 3,000 per month. So, the schemes are there. But how many Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers have actually availed of these benefits? This needs to be looked into. Respective State Governments have to look into this aspect. Many State Governments have their own pension and insurance schemes other than the schemes being implemented by the Union Government. But, I think, it is necessary that this type of support must be provided to Anganwadi Workers.

Now, I would like to refer to the reply given by the Government in the Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 2021 in response to a question asked by an hon. Member from our party. The Standing Committee on Labour, in its 25th Report on the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill, recommended that the benefit of social security proposed under the Bill should also be extended to Anganwadi Workers who are not covered by the existing laws relating to social security either in the organised or in the unorganised sector.

Today, Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers are organised. Thousands of them are sitting together to protect their interest and calling the attention of the Government. They are all called Anganwadi Workers. They are not part of any trade union. But they are organised. Still, we term them as unorganised because there is no regular appointment and all the laws concerning the regular employees are not being applied to them. So, keeping this in mind, when the Labour Code was being framed, a specific recommendation made to the Government was that we should also cover the workers of the unorganised sector. What is their position in our country now? Since the 19th Century, when the Industrial Revolution started, the concept of organised labour force came into being. When trade unions started working in our country, at that time, the organised labour was only confined to industry and that is the position even

today. Their number is not more than eight crores in our country. It may be a little more or less than that number, but it is not more than eight crores.

The number of unorganised sector workers is more than 48 crore in our country. I would not be at fault to say that most of the trade unions in our country always vouchsafe and plead for the organised workers. Be it banks, be it industries or be it anywhere, it is for the organised workers. Very rarely, the trade unions come out and declare something for the interests of unorganised sector.

I would give credit to this Government. For the first time, they said that unorganised sector should also be covered under the Labour Code. I happen to be Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour. While deliberating on social security -- there were a number of laws earlier and we codified them -- in our Report, we brought in the gig workers. They are not employed by anyone. They work for a specific purpose. For instance, the platform workers are not employed, but they work and earn. So, they are all in the unorganised sector.

Similarly, we had recommended that ‘they should be covered under the Social Security Act or Code, that has been implemented.’

In our Report, we said:

“The Ministry have not agreed to the suggestion of many stakeholders to include Scheme workers like Anganwadi, ASHA, Mid-day Meals, etc., in the definition of ‘worker’ on the ground that this is as per the existing provision for the formation of a trade union. The Committee are not convinced --that was our Report -- with the premise advanced by the Ministry. With a view to enabling such workers to avail the benefits of various labour laws, the Committee desire that the Scheme workers, gig workers and all the workers engaged in the unorganised/informal sector should be included in the recommended unified definition of ‘employee/worker.’”

The Committee has further said that the definition of 'employee' in clause 2(26) has left out many types of workers from its ambit though the earlier draft included Anganwadi and ASHA workers.

I think, the mover of the Resolution, Shri Ritesh Pandey, will go further into this because his Resolution says that they should be included as workers.

Further the first proviso to the clause stipulating that 'the wage ceiling for the employees for the purpose of applicability of Chapter III and IV to be notified by the Government' appears to be restrictive in nature in terms of coverage.

Moreover, the prescribed low wage ceiling of Rs. 15,000 for EPF and Rs. 21,000 for ESIC would exclude many informal workers in the formal sector from the ambit of EPF and ESIC benefits. Are we providing this type of support in EPF and ESIC to the workers? Can we not do it? If the remuneration or the honorarium is Rs. 4,500 today, the minimum wage itself, if that is applicable, which is the law of the land, will definitely allow them to get, at least, Rs. 15,000 per month. But that is not being provided.

So, the Committee have said that 'we are not convinced with Ministry's clarification that 'provisions for determining wage threshold by Central Government for EPFO and ESIC through subordinate legislation is as per the existing practice.'

I need not go into further details though it was more scathing in our Report. But I would say that 'yes, you may say that Anganwadi Workers and helpers are working on a part-time basis. It is not an 8-hour job.' You may say that. But is it a part-time job? A worker or a helper who is looking after 20 to 25 or 30 children, looks after them throughout the day. It is not that at the

Anganwadi Kendra, she just looks after them. Even when any child falls ill, that Anganwadi Worker is always referred to. The helper is always referred to because she feeds the child and the parents of these children are mostly illiterate. They are workers or daily wage earners. So, in that respect, I think, it is necessary. It was a great thing that the Central Government is providing some support to the Anganwadi workers. But, it is now necessary that along with providing many things, including smart phones to them, at least, they should get a reasonable amount of money so that they can sustain themselves.

One peculiar thing had happened in my constituency. Once while travelling in the constituency, in a Panchayat, I found that Anganwadi worker was absent. I said: “What happened?” They said: “That girl got married and went to another Panchayat and in that Panchayat, she was not allowed to work as an Anganwadi worker. So, in this Panchayat, they have to select a person.” So, there is a long process that how an Anganwadi worker has to be selected. But this also brings to my mind as to how many CDPOs we have in position today. I think, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment is also present here. I request him to please find out and tell us which are the States which do not have adequate CDPOs or in full strength in their State. Which are the districts where CDPOs are not there? It is because they are in-charge of looking after the functioning of the Anganwadi workers and helpers.

With these words, I fully support the Resolution that our friend Mr. Ritesh Pandey has moved with all the five resolutions. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson sir. Almost all the Members who have spoken have the same demand and I also fully support this resolution moved by Shri Ritesh ji.

Sir, being a public representative, whenever I meet some Anganwadi Helper, Anganwadi worker or ASHA worker, they just ask to do something for their welfare. We are people's representatives and they have great expectations from us. They feel that it is we only who can bring some positive change in their lives. It is quite a different matter how little truth is there in this. Today, I shall speak true to my feelings and I shall wish to get this expectation of theirs fulfilled. Though we belong to different political parties, the fact is that we all have witnessed death from close quarters. A person's status as rich or poor, powerfulness, affiliation to a certain political party, or caste or religion mattered a little during Corona period. Death struck irrespective of all these. We are fortunate enough to have survived and it is now our duty to save those still ill and hence on deathbed.

Sir, Anganwadi and ASHA workers started getting employed during the tenure of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ji in the year 1975. There used to run 38 schemes. When these schemes were started in 1975, an Anganwadi Sevika was paid merely 225 rupees as honourarium. Since then, we have come 50 years hence. Despite toiling hard, how much does an Anganwadi and ASHA worker earn. This should be a matter of utter shame for all of us. I am not politicising the matter, but we are spending thousands of crores of rupees on constructing memorials and statues. What are the Anganwadi Sevikas doing? The story of an Anganwadi Worker from Maharashtra came to light in 2020 which had shaken the conscience of all of us. The yearning of that Anganwadi worker was such that she used to reach a village from Nandurbar by a boat. She used to travel 18

Kms by herself. Even today you can see her video on YouTube. She herself used to go 18 Kms in the water by rowing a boat. So that on the other side of that village she can take care of the children of the tribals, ensure that they are given eggs, milk and taught in the Anganwadi center and monitor the condition of their mothers. Can you imagine how spirited she would be? What do she get in return? What is she getting in return? If today we will see the salary of Anganwadi workers, it is very less. We are MPs, so if we want to increase our salary, we can increase it substantially within no time. What are their salaries? I am talking about the Maharashtra State. There, main Anganwadi worker gets Rs. 8,500. The one who is called Anganwadi worker (mini) is given a salary of Rs 4,500 and the other one is given only Rs 5,000. The salary of Anganwadi workers ranges from Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 8,000. Their working hours are from 08:00 am to 03:00 pm alongwith a detailed work schedule. They cannot sit at home, because their salary is proportionately to the work done by them. Even if these women go for a manual labour job they could get at least Rs.400 to Rs.600 per day. That means they can earn Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 16,000 per month there. Today if so many women are coming with the feeling that they are going for the social service and going to do the work of keeping the children healthy. We are paying them only Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000. By giving them so little money, then we are leaving the children on their fate. We are paying them on the basis that we are calling you, we will give you this much money and you have to do so much work. Today, when this House was commencing, I called some officers of the Zilla Parishad to take a review of the ground reality situation. I asked an official about the child mortality rate in our district, to which he immediately replied that it is very low. I asked how much is the mother mortality rate, who dies while giving birth or during pregnancy, so he told me that the figure is very less. My answer to him was that if even one person dies, if even a child dies after being born or if a mother dies during pregnancy, then we are responsible for that. The

percentage is decreasing, last time 50 women died, now 40 women are dying, last time 100 children were dying, now 80 children are dying. According to me the life of every child is precious. Today I thank the Government of Kerala, the Government of Pondicherry and the Government of Goa. Despite Maharashtra being such a progressive state, what is the reason that you are giving so little money? Then we came to know that the Kerala Government has suo moto increased the salary of Anganwadi workers to Rs. 15,000. Pondicherry and Goa Governments give maximum money to these Anganwadi workers. What is the dilemma of Maharashtra Government that they cannot give money for such a good cause? How much are they asking for? If they are given Rs. 5,000 then can't we give them Rs 10,000 as salary? Why are they being given money only as an honorarium today? As Mahtab ji told, why don't we see them as permanent employees so that they can be given salary at least according to the Minimum Wages Act? They are not doing an ordinary work, today they are going in the village. I will say this to the Government with all sincerity that our Anganwadi workers and Asha workers are doing hard work, but the Government is taking credit for them. The Government is taking all their credit for free. They are working hard and the Government is taking the full credit for them.

20.00 hrs

If they are not there, then you will have only death figures. These women go and tell what should or should not be done? Whether it is to maintain records of baby delivery or COVID medicines, today if most of the vaccinations have taken place in the villages, then how proudly you take credit. Hon'ble Health Minister comes from our Maharashtra. Madam, you also know very well what is their actual condition, what is their pain? You also understand this very well and as a woman, it is your responsibility, we need not say this. We need not to speak about them because you can very well understand their pain in this House,

whether we are in power or in opposition. You can very well understand their troubles. If you want to remain ignorant even after knowing, then who is to blame? I would like to request you with folded hands and tell that these people are doing a very responsible job. If we give them a little more support, I think it will be very good.

Madam, I want to tell you that last year there was a news on all Marathi channels that all the Anganwadi workers were given mobile phones by the Maharashtra Government. That phone didn't work. One lakh Anganwadi workers decided that they do not want this mobile phone. See how the corruption is prevalent everywhere. To do a good work these Anganwadi workers are roaming from village to village, going to work and the phone that was given to them was not working. One lakh Anganwadi workers decided that now they will return it. This is my request to the Government and I would first of all like to thank our Hon'ble Member Ritesh ji in this matter for raising the voice of such people in this House. I would like to tell you that the Anganwadi workers have a union. That union in September... (*Interruptions*) Sir, please give me a minute. Leaders of Anganwadi Employees Union met our Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji in September, 2021 and requested her to think about them in the forthcoming budget. He also met Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development. What did they get in return? They kept waiting that the budget will bring some good news for them. They only got assurance and on this assurance they are working for last so many years. They think that if not today then tomorrow their good days will come. Our Prime Minister has promised good days for everyone, then our Anganwadi sisters will also have good days. That's what we expect. We request the Government to take some decision regarding this. They have a home too, they have to think about themselves also but they go out thinking about others. It is the responsibility of

all of us and the entire House to think about these Anganwadi workers. Thank you very much.

ER. GUMAN SINGH DAMOR (RATLAM): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the welfare of Anganwadi workers and helpers.

Sir, I would like to tell you that Anganwadis are centre of hope and development, particularly in the poor areas. Our Anganwadis do all kinds of work for development of the children of the poor families. The illustrious Prime Minister of our country, hon'ble Modi ji, requested all MPs and social workers of the country to adopt Anganwadis. I am happy to say that there is a competition to adopt Anganwadis in many districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Our little ones will be benefitted from that. By adopting Anganwadis, we will be able to assess the health condition of our children by visiting there. We will know how they are being taken care of and what food they are getting. If we have a birthday or such a happy occasion, then we will celebrate our birthday or happy occasion with those children. I think Pandey ji has raised very important points in this Bill. The status of Anganwadi workers and helpers should be at par with the teachers of play schools, nursery schools or primary schools. The future generation of our country is raised through these workers and helpers. They will work in a better way and will take good care of the children going to Anganwadi centres if they are assured that they are protected, their lives are safe and after retirement, they will not face any kind of problem. Through you, I would also like to thank our sister Smriti Irani ji, Minister of the Government of India that she has done all kinds of work with a view to strengthening Anganwadis. As you know, the biggest problem in the poor districts is malnutrition. These Anganwadis have been given the responsibility of eradicating malnutrition. Alongwith it, as all our speakers said now, Anganwadis had the biggest responsibility in the Corona period to fight Corona and the Government of

Madhya Pradesh had declared our Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers as Corona warriors. These Anganwadi workers, helpers and ASHA workers of our village have all come together and protected the village. As I also live in the village. I also go to Anganwadi. I can understand the problem of Anganwadi and ASHA sisters. I would like to request that we should seriously think about the welfare of these sisters.

The way there are service conditions in Government service, the same kind of service conditions should also be there for these Anganwadi workers and helpers, so that they can feel safe. The entire women and child development depends on our Anganwadi sisters. I believe that the stronger our Anganwadi workers are, the better work we will be able to do in this field.

Just now one of our speakers said that Anganwadi workers were given mobiles. Mobile phones were provided everywhere and in our State, mobile phones are working well particularly through the nutrition tracker, every child is being taken care of. The monitoring system is good and needs to be made even better. As far as the illustrious Prime Minister of our country, hon'ble Modi ji is concerned, he has taken all kinds of steps to strengthen these Anganwadi centres. I wish to say that our NDA Government has done very good work for the betterment of these Anganwadis. The suggestions received regarding this Bill, will be followed to strengthen them further.

All I want to say is that our Anganwadis should have good buildings, they should have ample clean space for sitting, there should be proper arrangement of drinking water, there should be clean toilets and they should have boundary walls for safety of the Anganwadi centres

Sir, in the context of Madhya Pradesh, I would like to say that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is doing a very good job in this regard. New Anganwadi buildings are being constructed there. The dress code has also been

implemented in Madhya Pradesh and a lot of work is being done. Some of the small points that have been raised through this Bill, I support those points as well as the Bill and I believe that our Anganwadi workers and helpers will get regular salaries and service conditions should be applied for them, so that their families are also safe.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, if the House agrees, the matter should be taken up next time. Some Hon'ble Members who wanted to speak during Zero Hour are still left.

MANY HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman - Not present.

Dr. D.N.V. Senthilkumar S.

[English]

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): Vanakkam, Speaker Sir.

Six faculty members of IIT Madras have complained about an attempt by the Institute to sabotage the ongoing mission mode recruitment for SC, ST, OBC faculty. The allegation is that the areas advertised are very narrow, meant to limit the eligible candidates. Also, subjects relating to Dalits were removed from the advertisement. In this context, Dr. Vipin has resigned from IIT Madras because of mental harassment caused by caste discrimination. Many faculties and students of IIT Madras are targeted because of their castes.

Hence, I am requesting the Education Minister to constitute a committee to inquire into the sabotage of the ongoing mission mode special recruitment drive for SC, ST, OBC faculty in IIT Madras, and an inquiry into the caste discrimination and administrative harassment faced by Dr. Vipin while working at IIT Madras. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, thank you.

Sir, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards setting up of software technology parks. At present, 60 software technology park centres have been set up across the country. Services are promoted with the help of information technology. As far as high speed data in rural areas is concerned, 34,495 common service centres are functional across Bihar, out of which 29,684 are in Gram Panchayats. There is a great need for software technology parks in Bihar to run all of them with high speed network.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Communications and the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology to set up software technology park centres in Bihar as well as in my Parliamentary Constituency, Gopalganj so that thousands of youth can get employment.

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL (LADAKH): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, thank you so much.

Sir, I want to raise issues relating to employment in the Union Territory of Ladakh. There are thousands of vacancies in the UT of Ladakh right now. On the other hand, there are thousands of unemployed youth. It is obvious that after formation of new UT, it took time in making recruitment rules and in apportionment from Jammu and Kashmir. I would also like to thank the Government for making recruitment rules on time and for giving two years of relaxation in it and also for providing Ladakh resident certificate.

Sir, through you, I would like to request that all the posts lying vacant, whether they are of district cadres or others, should be advertised as soon as possible, and the recruitment process should be expedited. Recruitment process should be completed at the earliest specifically in case of about 830 posts which have been referred to SSC.

Sir, a people-friendly decision for gazetted posts should be taken as soon as possible and preference should be given to the residents of Ladakh to serve at gazetted posts in Ladakh as far as possible as a large number of well qualified youth want to work for making a new UT of Ladakh.

There should be cadre creation of Ladakh Administrative Service, Ladakh Police Service and Ladakh Forest Service. The number of cadre strength should be fixed for IAS, IPS and IFS for Ladakh.

Sir, my last point is also related to employment. At present, all the officers, who have come to Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir on deputation, have come on high altitude. They should get allowances so that they can contribute more and more to the shortage of Ladakh's manpower. Cost of living

in Ladakh is very high. You have also visited Ladakh. You have also explored it nicely.

Sir, my last point is a request to expedite to the Government the recruitment process as much as possible and to eliminate unemployment as soon as possible. Through you, I demand it from the Government on behalf of the entire unemployed youth of Ladakh.

DR. JAISIDHESHWAR SHIVACHARYA SWAMIJI (SOLAPUR): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak in zero hour.

Sir, school uniforms are exported from Solapur to many countries. The number of trained and total workers working in the field of textile industry in Solapur city is more than 20,000. We got to know that some changes have been made in the uniform of Army soldiers. When the work of stitching the uniform of the soldiers was entrusted to the Solapur Garment Association, they started preparing for stitching in the stipulated time according to the Army's criteria. In the year 2014 in Solapur, the visionary man of India, the Prime Minister of the country, Hon'ble Narendra Modi, publicly expressed confidence that the garment industry of Solapur has the ability to stitch the uniforms of millions of soldiers of the country.

Therefore, I humbly request the Hon'ble Minister of Defence, through you, to take an appropriate decision on an experimental basis to hand over the work of stitching the uniform of soldiers to the Solapur Garment Association.

ER. GUMAN SINGH DAMOR (RATLAM): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in zero hour.

Sir, it is a matter of pleasure for me that the concerned Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development is sitting here when I am going to speak on in zero hour on this subject. Our illustrious and respected Prime Minister of the country, Modi jee is the one who has tried to make the lives of poor people respectful. They have been given houses to live, electricity, Ujjawala gas, piped drinking water and pucca house. All this is being done because of our illustrious Prime Minister Jee.

I would like to draw Hon'ble Minister's attention to two small things through you, Sir. In the tribal area of our country, especially my Lok Sabha constituency, the entire area of Selana, Thandla, Petla, Jhabua, Jorbat and Alirajpur, is tribal area. About 70 to 80 percent of the people here either do farming, or work as farm labourers. In our Madhya Pradesh, a family is being given 100 days of employment on a job card and a day's wages being given to them is Rs. 192. Since the families in Jhabua, Alirajpur and Ratlam districts are an average family of about 10 people and a person gets 100 days of employment in a year makes it a little difficult for him to raise his family. I request to the Hon'ble Minister that those who are living below the poverty line and who are landless farmers should be given at least 200 days of employment in a year. The wages that are being given in our neighboring states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra should also be given in Madhya Pradesh, which is about 300 rupees per day.

Secondly, there is no compulsion to build toilets in the Pradhan Mantri Awas that is being built in our Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, toilets were built in our country under the Total Sanitation Campaign, but the location of the new Pradhan Mantri Awas that are being built has been changed. Due to change of

location, those who were earlier sanctioned toilets are not being given toilets along with the Pradhan Mantri Awas. Due to that, in Jhabua district of my Lok Sabha constituency, which has been declared ODF in the year 2018, now about 25 to 30 percent of the population is going to defecate in the open. I request to the Hon'ble Minister to make construction of toilets mandatory along with the Pradhan Mantri Awas.

[English]

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Respected Speaker, Sir, the Koppal Constituency comes under the special article of 371 (j). In line with Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of 'Vocal for Local' and to boost toy manufacturing, Koppal will have India's first toy manufacturing cluster.

The manufacturing campus is being promoted by Aequs SEZ Private Limited. Aequs is a major player for global toys manufacturing business and is currently specializing in contract manufacturing of toys for some of the biggest brands in the world. Aequs is now setting up India's first global-scale toys manufacturing cluster at Koppal, Karnataka in 400 acres of land. Karnataka State offers a unique plug-and-play proposition. The cluster will cater to all the needs of global toymakers, especially 'Made in India for the world'.

The company intends to set up the cluster in the rural area in Koppal, which would provide employment to more than 20 to 30 thousand people, especially for the people at the bottom of the pyramid, particularly women from rural hinterland by the year 2024-2025 with an outlay turnover target of Rs. 14,000 crore – Rs. 21,000 crore, besides indirectly creating an innumerable number of opportunities of employment by procuring the required raw materials to sell the final products.

In this background, I would like to support setting up of toy clusters by Aequs, and seek help under the Production Linked Incentive. Therefore, I wish to bring to the kind notice of the Hon'ble Speaker Sir that the Ministries concerned be advised to provide PLI benefit to the toy industry to encourage and implement the toy industry cluster. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA (BADAUN): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak on an important issue like education, I express my great thanks and gratitude for this.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Narendra Modi ji, the illustrious Prime Minister of our country is constantly trying to make this country a world leader again. There is a professor in BHU, Uttar Pradesh, who was appointed in the Department of Political Science and is presently the dean of the faculty of social science; I am not taking his name as per parliamentary rules. More recently, inside the University campus, he was telling students how to make cow dung cakes. Of course, in a campus like BHU, if a professor tells students how to make dung cakes, how can we talk about higher level of education of other schools or universities?

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Professor Saheb's behavior towards students is not only condemnable, but also worrisome, not only towards the students, but also towards the country. On such an occasion, we remember the line said by Mahatma Jyotiba Rao Phule ji, “*vidhya bin mati gayi, mati bin neeti gayi, neeti bin gati gayi, gati bin vitta gaya, vitta bin shoodra hua*”, which means when there are so many losses due to education, then why such a mess with students and education in the temple of education?

I want to tell the Government through you that strict action should be taken against the teachers who do such things in the temple of education, so that the lives of our students can also be safe and our country can move forward. Under the leadership of the Respected Prime Minister, this country will move towards becoming a world leader again and this will happen only when our students are safe and educated.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time, and thank you for that; I once again demand that action should be taken against such teachers.

SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI (BHARATPUR): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in the House.

I would like to draw your attention towards the road from Chhokarwada to Dholpur in my parliamentary constituency, Bharatpur via Bhusavar, Bayana, Bandhbaretha, Bari and Basedi.

Sir, the length of the road from Chhokarwada to Dholpur via Bayana is about 105 km. There is a world famous red stone market in Bansi Paharpur of Bayana. This red stone is used in historical buildings across the whole country. We are fortunate that, currently, this stone is also being used in the construction of the grand Ram temple, due to which there is heavy traffic on this road and because of that, the condition of this road is deteriorating. As the road is narrow in some places, the common people have to face traffic jams as well as major accidents on this road. If this road is included in the national highway and made four-lane, then businessmen as well as the public will also be benefited from it.

Sir, along with this, I request you through the House that National Highway 21 which connects Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh from Jaipur to Agra, a very important road in terms of tourism, should also be made six-lane for public interest as there is heavy traffic on the said roads. Thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA): I want to request the hon. Health Minister, through you, Sir, for sanctioning a NEET Examination centre in Kakinada, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.

The parents and students are suffering a lot as the students have to cover a long distance to appear in the NEET Examination. That is why people are asking for a NEET Examination centre for a very long time. Nearly 12,000 students appear in the NEET Examination from East Godavari and West Godavari and there is no NEET Examination centre in East Godavari and West Godavari. So, the students have to travel about 250 to 300 kms to reach Visakhapatnam or Vijayawada to appear in the Examination. I have already given a representation to the hon. Education Minister, the hon. Health Minister and the NEET Chairman also but nothing has happened in this regard. It is my fortune that the hon. Health Minister is also here. Madam, please take it seriously and sanction a NEET Examination centre in East Godavari by the end of this year.

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Sir, today is an important day as the Lok Sabha has recorded 126 per cent productivity in this Session.

I would like to speak about the voiceless people of the firecracker industry and the matchbox industry in Sivakasi. More than six lakh people are dependent on that industry which is facing its existential crisis because of the Supreme Court's rulings and we are facing the most difficult time in history. I have taken it up with the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry but still, no help came from the Central Government. So, I request that there should be some kindness towards the people of the fireworks industry in Sivakasi. Sivakasi is the place where the fireworks industry has existed for hundred years and it is called 'Kutty Japan'. This industry gives employment to more than six lakh people. It is not

the only industry which is suffering. The firecracker industry serves the printing industry and the matchbox industry which are also facing existential crisis. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to help the Sivakasi industry to get out of the crisis.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C.P.Joshi - Not present

Shri Raju Bisht - Not present

Shri Nayab Singh Saini - Not present

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR (GAYA): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the construction work of NH-82 in my parliamentary constituency Gaya, Bihar was awarded to Gayatri Private Limited Company in 2016 and it was to be completed in the year 2019. Till date, this road has not been constructed properly. Along with this, a flyover was also to be constructed. There, the rail gate remains closed for two-and-a-half hours. It is a lifeline road connecting North Bihar and South Bihar. Pilgrims keep coming there for Pind Daan. A flyover should be constructed here as soon as possible and the quality of the road should be checked. Through you, I request the Road Transport Minister to get it checked and the flyover should be constructed as soon as possible. Jail Hind, Jai Bharat.

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important matter. In the past years, Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the work of connecting the common man with banking and Jan-Dhan accounts have also been opened. Mudra loan scheme has also been started for banking for the non-bank, funding for the non-funded. I know that even today, it is not easy for a common man in the country to get a loan from a bank. A large number of app-based companies started in the country

and these companies tried to provide very tempting offers. A large number of loans were also given to people at many places in the country.

Sir, it is good to give a loan and fix the system, but if a customer misses the loan installment or is not able to pay the loan, then the loan companies have been made such a system in which higher interest rates are being charged and torture the customers by charging 20-25 times penalty. This is a very serious issue.

Sir, there have been many such cases in Rajasthan. The newspapers have taken up this issue very well. A case has been reported of sharing an obscene photo of a woman with her. Like this, cases are being reported regarding torturing through digital mafia. Such recoveries are being made and it is not easy for the common man to pay.

Sir, according to a report of RBI there are more than 1100 such app-based companies. More than half of these companies are working in illegal ways. They should be banned. Through you, I would like to say that RBI should ban these companies at the earliest. Their interest rate and penalty should be regulated. Along with this, the public should be educated extensively as a top priority.

Through You, I would like to request the IT Ministry that the companies which have been seized by Google on apps and Androids and from which top most priority complaints are being received and the companies which are also registered on the RBI portal, should be immediately closed. There is no cooperation from the police in the states. FIR is not registered due to which the people are facing difficulties. It reaches a point when people are forced to commit suicide. Many such complaints are being received.

Through you, I would like to request the Home Ministry that if any consumer comes with a complaint against such companies, then FIR should be

registered on topmost priority and the strictest action should be taken. Our country is very vast and there are many international companies here. It is believed that in 2025, this market will reach around 30,000 crores, so it is very important to bring awareness in this regard. Due to these companies, many people's lives are being ruined.

Through you, it is my request to the Government that RBI should take strict action in this regard. Thank you.

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

You know how important water is and how efficiently our government is working towards water conservation. Conservation of ponds for agriculture and drinking water is very important. It has been 75 years since independence, and the ponds that were built and the canal systems along with it have almost been destroyed. Due to lack of proper maintenance of these water bodies, farmers do not get water. Today, irrigation is being done with double the capacity of the old ponds. There is a pond namely Sarrathi in Tikari Village under my Parliamentary Constituency. This is 105 years old. The canal system of the village has become almost non-functional.

Through you, this is my request to the Government that financial assistance be extended to repair the Canal System. The gates and the distributary system of the Canal has got damaged. There is a very old dam built on the river Wainganga. It has become so much silted that it cannot hold water even upto one foot dept. therefore, its desilting should be done.

In addition to that there are 70 to 100 years old ponds in our area, cementing work of which is required to be done so that the irrigation capacity be increased further as it has already doubled. Its water should not get wasted and

sufficient water should be made available for irrigation purposes. We supply water to many ponds for drinking water purposes. The Central Government should help the states as much as possible for restoration of these ponds under Dam Safety, so that their water may not get wasted. Thank you.

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Thank you Hon'ble Speaker, Sir. I would like to speak about 'Ganga River' (the mother Ganga river). My first speech in the Parliament was related to 'Ganga Maiyya'. It Gives me immense pleasure when Modi Ji visits Varanasi. The Budget of this year contains provision for the next 25 years.

Through you, I would like to say that there should be the provisions of Cleaning of Ganga and extending of the Dam built on the river beyond Haridwar till its confluence with the sea by extending the dam by 10 Km, 20 Km or 25 Km on both the banks of the river every year. This will give a beautiful direction to the flow of river Ganga. When the foreign tourists who have heard about 'Ganga Maiyya' find the river in such a beautiful state, then this will give a major boost to tourism.

As we move ahead from Haridwar, there is Purkazi Legislative Constituency area on the way which comes under my Lok Sabha Constituency. In the same way, Meerapur, Hastinapur, Bijnor and Chandipur also fall under my Lok Sabha Constituency. A Training Centre should be established in Purkazi town which is located under Purkazi Legislative Constituency which will further fulfil the dreams of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji to double the income of farmers, to facilitate Digital Payment Currency and to promote agriculture through Drones and consequently, the farmers of North western region will be benefitted by this. Thank you very much.

20.37 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Review of Central Scheme under DISHA

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I need your protection on an issue. Two Ministers, namely Dr. Bhagwat Karad and Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao have been appointed ministers from my Parliamentary Constituency area, Aurangabad. I would like to inform that there is an important committee namely, 'Disha', which is responsible for monitoring the schemes run by the Central Government. Since, they are not able to spare much time, therefore, the meetings of 'Disha' is not being conducted. I would like to give you a small example. Mr. Jagdambika Pal is sitting beside me who is a senior Member of the Parliament and Chairman of the Urban Development Committee.

Sir, while coming here, I was taking note of the status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in my Electoral Constituency. So far, only 355 people could have got their houses out of total 52,000 eligible people. It gives me immense pleasure informing you that we had summoned all the concerned Officers of Maharashtra while reviewing the progress of the Scheme. Since we had taken a review of works, Maharashtra Government has now decided to allocate lands to 50,000 people in my Electoral Constituency area. This is a great step. I need your protection that if you have become a Minister then a Minister should be allowed to take review of his area anytime. Parliamentarian like me is in loss because I am not able to review the committee and Programmes of the Central Government as he has become a Minister.

I would request to make such an arrangement that the parliamentarian on becoming a Minister can convene meeting as and when required. Whatever

review he wants to take or whenever he wants to take the review, he should be allowed to do so. But the Parliamentarians like we, are in a great loss due to such procedure. We are not able to do justice with those Central Government Schemes through such procedures.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a sincere request. Moreover, the 50 points Minority Development Meeting of the Central Government also has not been convened since the last one and half years. This condition prevails throughout the country, I would request you to issue an Order from your end for getting these two meetings convened on regular basis. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, kindly ensure that the meetings are convened on time, all Officers are attending the 'Disha' meeting and agenda are prepared properly. Please issue relevant Circular's from time to time but kindly make a review of this scheme by contacting all Departments.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, this issue has already been raised earlier by Adhir Ranjan Ji and other Hon'ble Members are also raising the same issue. Today, with heavy hearts, I have to say that only one fourth of the required frequency of 'Disha's' meetings are being convened in the country.

We will follow as you direct us to do in this regard. Although, the meeting is convened by the Chairman, but the Collector of the concerned district also has certain responsibilities related to the meetings. If you direct, the Secretaries of all Committees, DoPT, RD etc. altogether can find out some solution to this problem.

HON. SPEAKER: It's all right.

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

| Members, who raised the issues under matters of urgent public importance | Members, who associated themselves with the issues raised under matters of urgent public importance |
|---|--|
| Shri B. Manickam Tagore | Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. |
| Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. | Shri Dhanush M. Kumar |
| Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen Shri Rahul Kaswan Shrimati Ranjeeta Koli | Shri Malook Nagar |

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock on Monday, March 14, 2022.

20.40 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock on

Monday, March 14, 2022/Phalguna 23, 1943 (Saka).

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