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Thursday, November 21, 2019,
Kartika 30, 1941 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

First Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V Contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 21, 2019/Kartika 30, 1941 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 61 - Dr.Venkatesh Netha Borlakunta Ji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I have given adjournment notice. *...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, please allow me to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the House belongs to you. I always give you a chance to speak, but now the Question Hour is going on. Please have your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, please allow me to speak after the Question Hour. *...(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 61 - Dr.Venkatesh Netha Borlakunta Ji.

(Q. 61)

[English]

DR. VENKATESH NETHA BORLAKUNTA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I would like to wish belated Happy Returns of the day to the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.02 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Hibi Eden and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

As per the answer given by the hon. Minister, for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, funds were not allotted to school games. Schools are the foundation. Schools give mental and physical development to the kids. For girls, particularly, sports act as a defensive mechanism. ...*(Interruptions)*

In this context, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what are the infrastructural facilities being provided in the State of Telangana and pan-India as well. What would be the plan of action for improving the facilities so as to have better standing in the sports arena in international games? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate Hon. Member Venkatesh ji for asking a question about school games, which is very important. It will be difficult to identify future talent until the conditions of games in schools are improved. ...*(Interruptions)* Today I want to tell the house that for the last many years school games were not being organized properly in this country, so we have discussed with the officials of the Ministry and in the coming days, for the first time in India, it has been decided to organize school games at a wider level. ...*(Interruptions)* This will create a good atmosphere for sports in the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)* As far as Telangana is concerned, we have supported Telangana. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to talk about what has been given to Telangana for sports infrastructure. Synthetic track is required for athletics. *[ENGLISH]* In Medak, about Rs. 5.5 crore has already been allocated for the same. About Rs. 7 crores has already been sanctioned for synthetic track in Karimnagar, but the progress is slow. So, I would like to request the hon. Member to pursue and to speed up the matter with the State Government so that they can look for more support in future.

Another synthetic athletic track at Warangal at a cost of Rs. 7 crores has also been sanctioned. Besides that, the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy, located at Hyderabad, has also been funded by the Ministry through Sports Authority of India. So, we are doing everything to support and we will work together. Hyderabad has also become a very important sports city. So, we will further encourage the same.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, would you like to ask supplementary question?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VENKATESH NETHA BORLAKUNTA : Sir, under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund, the sportspersons are getting a monthly pension of Rs. 8000. Most of the sportspersons in India are leading a very miserable and pathetic life because this amount of pension is not at all sufficient to meet the minimum necessities of life ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Government is going to enhance this amount of pension for the sports persons. Does the Government have any proposal to increase this monthly pension of Rs. 8000 for the sportspersons? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, last year only the pension for athletes who represented India in Olympics and World Championships has been enhanced as provided for in the rules. ...(*Interruptions*) Further, if there are any important issues relating to the welfare of the former athletes, the Government is always ready to support them under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Special Scheme which we have for the former athletes. Enough support is already being given. If specific cases are brought to our notice, we will personally take care of the interests of those athletes. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAYAKAR PASUNOORI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister may kindly state whether the Government is providing financial assistance to sportspersons and details of such assistance for the last five years. What are the steps being taken to increase financial assistance to national and international sportspersons and also steps taken to attract sportspersons by providing incentives in keeping with the needs of the present times? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, we definitely provide assistance to all the sportspersons through Sports Federations. Government of India has a comprehensive policy to support sporting activities and the sportspersons. All

Olympic sports, including some, which are recognised by the Government are being given sufficient financial support. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to tell that in the top scheme, under the target Olympic podium, the specialized athletes whom we have selected, we provide financial support to them. For all the international tournaments that take place, the Government provides comprehensive support to these players from their travel expenses to annual training as per their calendar. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why all the federations are also happy with the Government...*(Interruptions)* The Indian Olympic Association is also satisfied with the way we are giving support to sports and sportspersons...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please sit for a while.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask a supplementary question for the first time in the last session and this session. *[English]* Belated Happy Birthday to Hon. Sports Minister, Mr. Rijju.

[Translation]

Sir, I have a very short question. ...*(Interruptions)* Your predecessor, Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore ji, my friend has done a great job in the sports field through 'Khelo India'. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I just want to know that how much is the budget of 'Khelo India' this year? ...*(Interruptions)* Have you fixed any criteria for the team selection in 'Khelo India'? ...*(Interruptions)* The team is selected wrongly ... *(Interruptions)* There is a lot of rigging in that. ...*(Interruptions)* There are many complaints

about this. ...*(Interruptions)* Has the Sports Ministry fixed any criteria for team selection? Thank you*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the Hon. Member has raised a very important point. ...*(Interruptions)* We have a separate budget of Rs 500 crore for 'Khelo India' this time. ...*(Interruptions)* More important than this, he has asked about the selection process. ...*(Interruptions)* If the selection of the players is not correct, then there will not be a good atmosphere in the sports field. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, at this time we have told all the federations through the Sports Ministry that the selection process should be clear, should be done properly, should be according to the rules. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, at present, the selection process of any player, whether it is for the Khelo India games or for the championships held at the international level, is very transparent. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no rigging in this. ...*(Interruptions)* If any such report comes to us, we have told the Federation that we will also take action. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.K. Raghavan.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Benny Behanan.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri T.N. Prathapan.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, important topics like sportspersons and youth of the country are being discussed in the House. I always allow you to speak in this important topic while we are discussing the matter of the young players of the country and, you are sloganeering Zindabad, Murdabad from the Well.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a good practice of the House.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is wrong.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I reiterate to the Hon. Members that it is the responsibility of all of us to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. Never talk to the Chair while standing in the well. Have you not read this, you have formed the practice and procedures.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a good thing, it is wrong.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, all of you, please go to your seats. I am giving ruling.

...(Interruptions)

11.13 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Hibi Eden and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Prathapan Ji, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dada, I have not allowed you. You, please, sit down

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Question Hour is a very important time. This is considered very important for all the Members and of the House. I have not yet

given any ruling on the adjournment motion. When I give you any ruling, then you should come to the Well. This has been the practice in the Parliament.

You are a senior Member. You are a senior Member. I am new Member. I want to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. I have always promised you that I will give an opportunity to all of you to debate and discuss every subject in the Parliament. If I had given you the ruling on the adjournment motion and after that you would have come to the well. Would it have been fair, wouldn't? I haven't given you the ruling, I haven't decided yet whether to accept or reject the adjournment motion, but you have come to the Well. And while in the well you are addressing to the Chair.

I request all the Hon. Members don't speak to the Chair while coming in the Well. It has been the practice.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please wait a minute. Let me finish.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It has been a tradition from the year 1952 till now. No Hon. Member should speak to the chair while standing in the well of the House. This is my request to you. If the House agrees on this, give its consent and if the House says, 'No', we are walking-out, then no problem.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, when one is sitting in the chair, one is not new or senior. You are our Speaker. While in the chair, you yourself had believed that the opposition will cooperate fully with you, so I would like to make the House productive.

HON. SPEAKER: I am still saying this.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, it means that we always support and cooperate with you. Now the issue is that such an issue arises in which the larger interest of the country is involved. Sir, why did we give you adjournment motion? The reason is that it is such a serious issue that we have to give you adjournment motion. We are forced to go for it. Sir, not to insult you, to belittle you, but we had to go for it because the country is being looted. ...(*Interruptions*). The country is being looted through electoral bonds. This is a big scam. It is our responsibility to expose this scam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Ji, one minute. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Sanjay Jaiswal Ji. No, first let him complete. I will give you time after the Question Hour. Let the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs speak first.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, just a minute, I am not going to talk any irrelevant thing. I want to remind Joshi ji and Jaiswal ji that what they used to do while sitting here regarding 2G scam, Coal scam, Commonwealth scam? For how many days they stalled the House? How many times did they walk out? Now they are imparting knowledge. ...(*Interruptions*). We didn't do anything. We are seeking reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): There was a scam then. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No one will speak except the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Shri Meghwal ji, I have not allowed him. Please have a seat. When the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is speaking, he should not get up and speak like this in the House. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, please continue.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Hon. Speaker Sir, ever since you are holding the post, as a Chair, you are giving opportunity to everyone. The number of 'Zero Hours' you have taken till date has become history. Through you, all I want to say is that whatever they have to raise, let them raise it in 'Zero Hour'. Shri Adhir Ranjan Ji, one minute. He daily gives an adjournment motion and speaks by coming in the Well. ...*(Interruptions)*. Adhir Ranjan ji, I have heard you. [*English*] Did I not listen to you? Please listen to me. [*Translation*] ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Suresh ji, please take your seat. Your leader is speaking.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: They are saying that we came to the Well many times at that time. At that time, due to the C.A.G. report and the intervention of the Supreme Court, we came to the Well on those issues. At present there is not even a single issue of corruption. No one has pointed a finger at Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Whatever issue they want to raise, raise it in the 'Zero Hour'. We agree to this.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Joshi ji, I did not request you, but I have requested the Hon. speaker that we have given an 'adjournment motion'. Please give us a chance to speak.

HON. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, I am giving ruling.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Joshi ji, you may be strict, but our Hon. Speaker is not strict but kind. ...*(Interruptions)*. That's why I am seeking permission from the Hon. Speaker Sir.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 62 - Shri Dean Kuriakos. All Hon. Members, may please speak from their seats. I request the Hon. Minister also to speak from

his seat as name appears on the screen. Shyam ji, you can speak in 'Zero Hour'.
You have been replied. Shyam ji, I have allowed next question, please.

Hon. Member, please speak. What is question? [*English*] We have taken
up the next question – Question no. 62

(Q. 62)

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: As far as Mullaperiyar dam is concerned, safety is the ultimate issue. We have passed Dam Safety Bill during the last Session and I also took part in that discussion. Thirty-six dam failure cases have been reported in our country. Every man-made structure has its own life span. Nineteen year old Tiware dam has been destroyed in the last flood. So many people have lost their lives. The worst dam failure was reported from Gujarat in 1979. Two thousand people have lost their lives. As per the Supreme Court verdict, a Supervisory Committee has been constituted, headed by the Chief Engineer (Dam Safety), Central Water Commission, to oversee the safety issues of Mullaperiyar. In my understanding, the Committee is not at all working properly towards maintaining the safety. My question is whether the Government has any effective full-fledged mechanism for day-to-day monitoring to ensure the safety of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, the concern expressed by the Hon. Member is that, so far 36 incidences of dam breaches have been registered in the country. This is absolutely true also. From this point of view, I would like to thank all the Hon. Members of the House that they unanimously passed the Dam Safety Bill. As far as the safety of Mullaperiyar Dam is concerned, the country is facing this question for the last four decades. After various cases and litigations, the Hon. Supreme Court has passed several orders on this matter. The Committees formed under the decisions of the Hon. Supreme Court, have visited and inspected the safety of this dam on many occasions and have reviewed the safety situation. The Supervisory Committee meeting, mentioned by the Hon. Member, has been directed by the Hon. Supreme Court to conduct a study twice both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon, from the

safety point of view of the dam. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee is the Chief Engineer of the CWC. The Hon. Member has said that its Chairman is the Chairman of the CWC. The Chairman of that Committee is the Chief Engineer of the CWC along with the Principal Secretary, Water Resources from both Tamil Nadu and Kerala States as members. On 4th June, in this year itself, all three went and reviewed the general condition of the dam's security and held a meeting. Earlier also, the Committee formed by the decision of the Hon. Supreme Court, had also clearly mentioned that the dam is safe from all aspects of security concern. Hon. Supreme Court had directed three types of measures as long term, medium term and urgent measures to be taken to further strengthen the safety of this dam. The measures of urgent nature have already been taken. Medium term measures have also been implemented. Of the long term measures that were to be taken on the basis of the Hon. Supreme Court directions, the construction of a concrete wall of thickness of up to ten meters above the dam has also been completed. Out of the pending long term measures, one is the strengthening of baby dam constructed on its side. This baby dam requires strengthening. That work is yet to be completed. The co-operation of the Government of Kerala is required for that work. If the Government of Kerala co-operates then certainly, that too can be completed in time. Through you, in addition to this, I would like to caution this August House and Hon. Members that the basic requirement regarding the safety of this dam, which is power connection for the dam has also not been provided till date. I would like to request the Government of Kerala through this House. I would also like to request the Honorable Member, because apart from the dam being the property of Tamil Nadu, along with the three dams built in its downstream, it could affect a large number of people. Therefore, the co-operation of the Kerala government is expected in implementing the remaining measures considering its priority and urgency. The way to approach the site goes through the forest area.

That way is not properly laid till date. I would like to urge the Hon. Members to co-operate in getting all of these facilities. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I have not allowed you, have I? Now they have their supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: Sir, if anything happened to that dam, surely, we can say that Kerala will be divided into two parts. Lakhs and lakhs of people will be the victims. Already, there are so many reports, including the report of IIT Roorkee, saying that the dam is situated in an earthquake zone. That means, if an earthquake of the magnitude of 6 and above on the Richter scale occurs, the dam cannot sustain. That is the report. In this context, there are so many recommendations from the Central Water Commission from 1980. I would like to know as to why the supervisory committee has not implemented the procedures recommended by the Central Water Commission.

As far as installation of dam instrumentation equipment for safety is concerned, I would like to know whether the Government has any plan to install a highly sensitive oscillograph to assess the impact of earthquake.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, as I have said, this dispute is going on for the last four decades. As I have just explained in detail ...*(Interruptions)* through you, to the House that the proposal to take measures at three-level. Out of these, measures at two levels have been implemented. The co-operation of the Government of Kerala is expected in carrying out the measures at the third level. But at the same time, regarding the high seismic zone that the Hon. Member has mentioned both the Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Central Water Commission and earlier when

there was a flood situation last year and the water level of the dam started to rise above the standard level, which is 142 feet as directed by the Supreme Court, both the Committees, on the basis of the discussion held in the technical survey at that time found this dam to be safe at the highest level in terms of seismic threats.

[English]

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India has noticed that the new dam in Mullaperiyar, proposed by Kerala, is essential keeping in view the safety and security of people living in the command area of the dam. I would also like to know whether the Government has taken any measure for the safety inspection of the existing Mullaperiyar dam.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Sir, I think the same question has been asked by the Hon. Member. I have said earlier in the reply that it has been discussed many times at many levels. As far as the new dam is concerned, regarding the safety of this dam, it is the apprehension of the Government of Kerala that there is a threat to the safety of this dam and it should be constructed again. No such case is under consideration in the Ministry of Jal Shakti. But on the representation of the Government of Kerala to the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change, they have given them the approval to prepare EIA, Environment Assessment Plan and Environment Management Plan by issuing Terms of Reference. But in the order of that acceptance it is clearly mentioned that after the acceptance Tamil Nadu state, since this dam is built on the Inter-State Basin. The dam is owned by Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why, consent of both States is necessary for environment clearance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I am happy to hear from the hon. Minister that the Mullaiperiyar Dam is very safe. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member is from your ally party. Earlier, you did not allow Baalu ji to speak. Now you are not allowing him to speak. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, my specific question is this. I do not know how the Government is functioning. The Minister of Jal Shakti is very categorical before the House that the dam is safe. ...*(Interruptions)* As per the report, as per the assessment that has been done by various Commissions, which the Supreme Court was seized of, the Minister is categorical that the dam is in safe condition. Now, what is incumbent upon the Government? See, you are running Jal Shakti Ministry. There is another Minister for the Ministry of Environment and Forests. But we are under one umbrella in the Government. When the hon. Minister is saying that the dam is in safe hands, what prompted the Environment Ministry to have a pre-feasibility study and why did they approve the terms of reference to construct a new dam in the same place? I do not know why the two Ministries are going in opposite directions within the Government. Let me be apprised regarding this.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Adhir Ranjan ji, please explain to your Hon. Members as those who have already asked two questions during the Question Hour, are also standing up once again. You give them training. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member has said that it is not an inter-state basin. A very small portion of its basin is connected with Tamil Nadu, so if you would want to know about the definition of inter-state basin, I can define that as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am replying to your question. I am coming to your question. Sir, please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: As far as the question of the Hon. Member is concerned, when this issue was sub-judice in the Supreme Court and later when the Committee was formed, it had talked about three measures which are measures of urgent nature, medium term and long term measures. Along with those measures, in its proposal, it had also said that the possibilities of making such as an alternative dam can also be considered. The Government of Kerala had directly reported this to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change has mentioned in it that the EC will be issued only after the consent of both the States. But if any possibility can be explored about it, then it can be explored. As far as water and water resources are concerned, since directly it is a matter pertaining to States, so any State is free to submit its report for building its water resources and to represent before any Ministry of the Government of India for the same.

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, while providing full water supply to Tamil Nadu, our concern is about addressing safety issues of Kerala. If anything

happens to Mullaiperiyar Dam, 35 lakh Keralites will be killed and four districts namely Alappuzha, Kochi, Idukki and Kottayam will be washed out. Only for that reason, we have requested for construction of a new dam near the present Mullaiperiyar Dam. So, I would like to know whether the Central Government will allow us to construct a new dam near the present dam.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I have replied to this matter very elaborately that regarding the report presented by the Government of Kerala so far, the MoEF had released terms of reference to them in this regard. If the two States want to construct Dam with consensus after releasing Terms of Reference, I think that the Government of India will have no objection to it.

(Q. 63)

[English]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR: Thank you, Speaker, Sir. As we are all very well aware that water problem in India is growing day by day. Earlier this year, another city ran out of water.

This time, it was Chennai, a metropolitan city in South India that is home to over ten million people. The city has been dependent on monsoon showers to fill up its reservoirs, which is a primary bank to supply water to the ever-burgeoning population. However, Chennai is not the only dry city in India. India's business capital – Mumbai and information technology capitals - Bengaluru and Hyderabad, which houses the new Amazon India headquarters, are suffering from water scarcity.

Unfortunately, the dire situation is not isolated to urban centres. India's rural communities are also suffering from an acute water shortage that has had a severe impact on the country's crops so much so that the leading cause for farmers' suicides in India's agrarian states has been a lack of access to water for agriculture.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, the question is asked in brief during the Question Hour. I had urged all of you to raise your question in brief so that all the Hon. Members get the opportunity to ask maximum questions. And now I am urging you again for the same.

[English]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR: Therefore, my first question to the hon. Minister is this.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you can ask about other subjects in another supplementary question.

[English]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR: In Chandrapur and in Yavatmal districts, there are many river interlinking irrigation projects like lower Painganga project, Ghosikhurd irrigation projects, Wadner irrigation project etc. which are pending for a long time.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What you have brought in written, you will ask about that subject in length. I urge you that you ask questions in brief only during the Question hour.

[English]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR: Why are these irrigation projects so delayed to get complete? How much time will it take to complete these projects?

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Sir, regarding the question that has been raised by the Hon. Member, I think that it has no direct connection with the original question.

HON. SPEAKER: I request you to answer in brief.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the Hon. Member that regarding the links under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana which have been talked about by the Hon. Member, an

additional financial assistance of 40 thousand crore rupees has been provided under different items.

[English]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR: My second supplementary question is whether the Government is working on desalination of sea water for the irrigation purpose and other necessities. If yes, please share the details. Why is the Government not planning to build barrages on rivers so that the stored water could be used for irrigation and for drinking purposes?

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Sir, through you, I would like to present a small perspective before the House. Every year four thousand billion cubic meters of water in the form of snow and rainfall is received by us here. In this four thousand billion cubic meters of water, the water that comes from the International rivers and the water coming through international basin, is also included. Out of this, about two thousand billion cubic meters of water is suitable for storage, conservation and consumption. Out of that two thousand billion cubic meters of water, 40 percent water is in the North-Eastern region, where there is no scope for irrigation. It is true that even now about 17-18 percent of the country experiences floods every year and nearly 12-13 percent of the country experiences drought every year. The Government of the country has prepared a model of inter-linkage of rivers from this point of view. In perspective to this question, through you, I would like to urge the House and all the Hon. members to make a broad consensus on this, by conducting a meeting in the various States we represent. We should talk with an open heart and work towards building a broad consensus. If all of us work in this direction and can make such

a consensus among our respective States, we can definitely save the water enough for times to come.

The question asked by Hon. Member that there are many examples in the world today where sea water is used for drinking water through desalination. The work is also going on in our country in this direction. Remarkable work has been done in the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and in some Union Territories. About 30 per cent of Chennai City's share of drinking water, which was discussed in the previous question, will be received through desalination in times to come. There is only Israel and a few other countries in the world where desalinated water is being used for agriculture purpose. As far as India's perspective is concerned, we have been given so many resources by nature, if we discuss this supply side management which we talk about every day and talk about demand side management as well, the most unproductive water in the world today, if there is any least productive water anywhere, it is the water of India. If we all together talk about how there can be maximum use and maximum judicious use of irrigation water in our area, and if we can reduce even 10 percent of water in irrigation, the country can be made self-sufficient in the drinking water requirements for the coming 50 years.

HON. SPEAKER: Sh.K.Navaskani – absent.

Shrimati Hema Malini.

[English]

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Thank you very much, Speaker Sir.

According to a recent study by the NITI Aayog, nearly 600 million Indians face 'high to extreme' water stress, with about two lakh people dying each year because of inadequate access to safe water. This is high time that 'right to water' should be made as a fundamental right in the country. My question to the Minister

is this. Is there any proposal for guaranteeing right to water to the people of the country either through the Constitution or through making legal provisions?

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Member that no such proposal is under consideration either in the Government or in the Parliament. But, at the same time, I would like to mention for the information of the House that about 18 percent of the rural houses in the country, more than 18 crore rural houses today have been assumed, out of which only a little over three crore houses have access to clean drinking water. Our Prime Minister has announced that 15 crore houses will be provided with drinking water through taps and through a budgetary allocation of Rs 3.25 lakh crore, and for this purpose, our country and State Governments and all of us are resolved and determined.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there was a discussion on this subject within B.A.C and I think general consensus is emerging on this. We are going to discuss this subject in detail.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, in the last Session you promised us that we would have an elaborate discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* I am requesting you to make sure that we take up this in this Session.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE: I thank the Minister for giving a detailed answer.

In the reply, it has been given that Feasibility Report on the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link has been completed. This Feasibility Report has been

pending for many years. Will we move to the next stage from that? Or, is there any other thing that we will be doing? It is because the southern Tamil Nadu districts, namely, Virudhunagar and Ramnad districts, will be having water problem. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister that what step the Government of India has taken in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This is the specialty of India - One party, different States and diverse opinions.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, regarding the concern expressed by the Hon. Member, I had said in reply to the first question that I had urged all the Hon. Members from different States and different parties to sit together in their respective States and work towards building a consensus.

The current link that the Hon. Member has discussed, is a part of the system which is a complete link system from Mahanadi to Kaveri. The particular link that he has discussed, its hydrology will be ensured only when all the above links are constructed. I hope that soon we will be able to take some decisions in this direction, so that we can take a step forward towards the same.

(Q. 64)

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN SAO: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister and thank him for providing a large sum of about three thousand crore rupees for the development of National Highways in Chhattisgarh during the year 2018-19.

The construction of Bilaspur-Raipur National Highway has been going on for about four years. I think the pace of construction is slow. It has already taken a very long time. People are facing inconvenience. Similarly, the construction work of Bilaspur-Raigarh National Highway is also going on at a very slow pace.

Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the probable date of completion of the said two National Highways.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, some roadblocks were faced by both the said projects. There were problems on the part of contractors as well as in land acquisition due to which the project also got delayed. I have conducted a review meeting of both these projects recently. Amidst all this, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh also met me eight days ago and had a discussion on the subject. It is being considered to replace the present contractor with another. I guess that both these projects will get completed within the coming one year.

SHRI ARUN SAO: The National Highway number 130-A is approved from Bilaspur to Mungeli. The proposal regarding Mungeli to Podi is lying pending with the Union Government. When is it likely to get the due approval of the Government? Bilaspur, Katghora and Champa National Highway is in very bad shape. This 80 km stretch takes up to four hours to travel. People are troubled due to this. When are these road projects likely to be completed?

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the DPR for construction of about 300 km length of National Highways is being prepared. Along with that, the DPR as well as the estimates have also been prepared for the two National Highways as mentioned by the Hon. Member just now. This is being taken up by the State PWD. The award in this respect will be sanctioned by mid-2019.

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ: Hon. Speaker Sir, this is certainly a very important question concerning Chhattisgarh. The distance between my Parliamentary Constituency Bastar and the capital city of Raipur is 300 kms and it is a Naxal affected area. There is only single road there which is under construction for the last three years. The road construction work on the 45 km stretch is going on at a very slow pace and the condition of road is very poor.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the date of completion of the said road because people are facing difficulties at many places there. I would like the Hon. Minister to reply this question. Sir, I would also request that this stretch of road may be completed within the next two-three months by onset of summer season.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the fact is that we face problems. I would like to apprise the Hon. Member that there are problems of forests at several places beyond Bastar. The required Forest Clearance is not readily issued. We get stuck on the issue of permission for felling the trees. Several places see problems due to land acquisition. When the work stalls, the banks stop financing the contractors. I have personally reviewed all the projects of the State. Hon. Chief Minister was present there and I have also discussed the matter with him. We have found a way out for the problems with the cooperation of the State Government. I would like to assure that the road construction will start soon and will be completed expeditiously. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The question does not concern West Bengal and Kerala. This questions concerns Chhattisgarh only. That is why I have asked the Hon. Member.

(Q. 65)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Hon. Speaker Sir, Metro train network is planned to be constructed in Patna. A tripartite agreement has been signed by the Union Government, Government of Bihar and the Patna Metro Rail Corporation for construction of Patna Metro. According to the agreement, the metro project is to implemented as a Central Sector project and the responsibility of its implementation has been entrusted with the Patna Metro Rail Corporation.

Sir, the Union Government and the State Government are its joint promoters. The project is planned to be completed in five years but the issue of nomination for the posts of Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation and four of its directors lies pending with the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. The project will automatically get delayed if these nominations remain pending for long.

Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister regarding the date by which the nominations for the posts of the Chairman and four of the directors are likely to be made.

[English]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, a project to construct the Patna Metro Rail for 32 kilometres has been approved a few months ago. So, we have, as a part of that, made some money available for some preliminary work to be done, and the nominations of all the people concerned will be done very shortly, but this does not hold up the preliminary work like soil testing and other activities which are being carried out.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': The decisions regarding the Metro project are quite naturally to be taken by the Patna Metro Rail Corporation as the responsibility of implementation of the project has been entrusted with them. The project implementation will naturally be delayed if the Chairman and the directors are not nominated.

Hon. Minister, let me ask my second Supplementary question also so that you may reply to both questions together. There is plan to avail a soft loan of Rs. 5,520 crore from JICA under the project. The Department of Economic Affairs has invited comments from NITI Aayog regarding the said loan. The same lies pending with the Aayog since months. The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India is the nodal department for the project and the Union Government is partner in it. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to get it approved at the earliest by monitoring all these points so that the implementation of the scheme can be further expedited.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Hon. Chairman Sir, I would like to apprise the Hon. Member that I personally monitor the Patna Metro Rail Project. All other Metro projects are also monitored personally by me. This project has been approved this year in February. ... (*Interruptions*) This is a 32 km long project. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker Sir, it is correct that I am a Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha and [*English*] that was a slip of the tongue and I acknowledge that. I thank you for pointing out. ...(*Interruptions*) Okay.

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You please stick to giving reply only.

[*English*]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: The work on this Rs. 13,000 crore project has been initiated for which Delhi Metro Rail Corporation is the consultant. The preliminary work is already underway. The topographical survey agencies have been finalised. The work is in progress on both the corridors. Geotechnical investigation works of both the corridors have been awarded and the work is in progress. *[Translation]* An amount of Rs. 50 crore has already been provided to them and as regards nominations, it will be done within a month. The names are already being processed right now.

As far as JICA loan is concerned, this proposal has already been sent to the Department of Economic Affairs. *[English]* They are in touch with the concerned agency which has to finance the project. So, I want to assure the hon. Member that all work is in hand and that even pending the nomination of the Chair and the four Directors, the work has not been held up. Work is underway, both on the North-South and the West-East corridors.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Minister that he has assured to complete the first metro project in Bihar in 5 years. The 60 percent loan amount for the Patna Metro project is to be taken from JICA, which is a Japanese company. I am MP from Nalanda Parliament Constituency. Nalanda is associated with the Buddhist circuit. Many tourists and Buddhist people come to Rajgir. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has any plan to extend this metro project up to Nalanda?

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Hon. Speaker Sir, this is only a 30 kms length proposal for North-South and West-East Corridors in Patna of. We have neither received any proposal nor are any such proposal is under consideration at present to extend this metro Project to Nalanda.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 66 - Dr. Umesh G. Jadav - Not present.

Hon. Minister.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No.67 - Shri M. V. V. Satyanarayana - Not present.

Hon. Minister.

(Q.68)

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker Sir. Time is limited. *[English]* The deadline for this Project has been extended to 2021 and an unprecedented amount of funds have been allocated to this Project. *[Translation]* Projects worth more than twenty thousand crore rupees have been allocated. The deadline was extended till the year 2021, which should have been completed by the year 2019. The target of Namami Gange should have been completed by the year 2019 but the deadline has been extended till the year 2021. What are the setbacks in the policy making and implementation process, due to which the Central Pollution Control Board has declared that the River Ganga water in stretches from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is not fit and clean even for bathing. What is clarification by the Hon. Minister on this matter? Leave aside the matter of drinking; the water of Ganga is not clean even for bathing in the stretch from UP to West Bengal. What are the reasons for this and what would be the policy of Government on this? How would this target be achieved?

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, as far as the question of the purity, cleanliness and continuous flow of the Ganga is concerned; the Government is fully committed to it. A total of 305 Projects have been launched so far to ensure the cleanliness of Ganga. Out of those 305 Projects, more than 100 Projects have already been completed. The initial two years were used for preparing the initial DPR, consultations with the States and the study for the probable structures. In the last three years, work is being done on it rapidly. We got Rs 20,000 crore for this infrastructure. However, we have allocated work worth more than Rs 28,000 crore against it. As far as the purity of the Ganga is concerned, it is definitely linked to the continuity of the river flow. We have

issued an e-notification to ensure uninterrupted flow of water in the river Ganga by taking as many soft measures as possible. As far as the deadline for the cleanliness of Ganga is concerned; I would like to tell the Hon. Member that the cleanliness of Ganga is a very complex issue which is bound to confront us for a long time. Ganga was here even when we were not here. Ganga will be here even when we would not be here. This question will always remain in front of us. This is world's most lively river. Lakhs of people take bath in this river daily. The daily lifestyle of lakhs of people is dependent on it. I said it in answer to the previous question also. We can conserve and reduce water use in all the irrigation Projects in the area connected to the river Ganga. If we could ensure this, we would be able to ensure the increased water flow in it. If the flow increases in it, its cleanliness would be definitely ensured. The Hon. Member has discussed about the river not having water suitable for bathing.

Through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the figures given by the Central Pollution Control Board regarding River Ganga for the year 2014-2019 are the figures of BOD, Fecal Coliform and Dissolved Oxygen Level. In the entire three fields, remarkable progress has been achieved in the form of cleanliness. As far as the concern expressed by the Hon. Member regarding the issue of Fecal Coliform, I can understand that. As I said that Ganga is a living river. Fecal Coliform is not caused by human excreta only. Animals do also bathe in the river Ganga. River Ganga is home to animals also. Due to the farming done in that area and the manure usage running off in the river, the Fecal Coliform level is increasing. The only parameter through which the purity of a river can be measured, and which is the most scientific measure, is the amount of Dissolved Oxygen. On the parameter of Dissolved Oxygen, all other parameters, be it BOD or Fecal Coliform, both are linked with it. On the Dissolved Oxygen parameter, Ganga is above the standard range almost everywhere from its origin to its end point. Recently, the Government has launched Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan.

I would like to inform Hon. Members that the Government has conducted a campaign from Devprayag, the origin of Ganga, to Bakkhali Beach, where Ganga merges into the sea. It consisted people from the Ministry, wildlife experts, and scientists from the IITs and experts from other fields. They travelled 2600 kms by boat. According to their report, there has been an improvement in the aquatic life and a change in the standards of cleanliness as compared to the earlier visit which took place four years ago.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Hon. Speaker Sir, even after spending Rs. 28,000 crore; the country's pollution board is still not considering River Ganga as clean one.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 69 to 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 920

* Available in Master copy of Original Version of Debate, placed in Library. You can also visit <https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have received notices of adjournments on certain matters. I have not given permission for any adjournment notice.

12.02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now the papers will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER;
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

(SHRI R. K. SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the NHPC Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 757/17/19]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the NHDC Limited and the NHPC Limited for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 758/17/19]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 759/17/19]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the THDC India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 760/17/19]

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

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the NTPC Limited, New Delhi, and its subsidiaries for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) Annual Report of the NTPC Limited, New Delhi, and its subsidiaries for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 761/17/19]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2018-2019, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 762/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:-

(i) The Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.333(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th April, 2018, together with an explanatory note.

(ii) The Aircraft (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1096(E) in Gazette of India dated 9th November, 2018, together with an explanatory note.

(iii) The Aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.555(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2018, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 763/17/19]

(2) A copy of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.692(E) in Gazette of India dated 26th September, 2019 under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupant) Act, 1971.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 764/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-

- (i) G.S.R.761(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th October, 2019 approving the Cochin Port Trust (Handling Freight Containers Carrying Dangerous or Hazardous Cargo) Regulations, 2019.
- (ii) G.S.R.778(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th October, 2019 approving the Cochin Port Trust (Licensing of stevedoring and shore handling) Regulations, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 765/17/19]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2018-2019.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2018-2019, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 766/17/19]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2018-2019.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2018-2019, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 767/17/19]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 768/17/19]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2018-2019.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2018-2019, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 769/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): I beg to lay on the Table copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 9 of the Micro Small Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006:-

1. S.O.5621(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2018, regarding instructions in respect of buyers who get supplies of goods and services from Micro and Small Enterprises.
2. S.O.5622(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2018, regarding on-boarding of Large Enterprises on TReDS.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 771/17/19]

12.03 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th November, 2019 agreed without any amendment to the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 2019. ”

12.04 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE – Contd.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)** Sir, I beg to lay
following papers on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013 -
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.
 - (ii) Annual Reports of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 770/17/19]

12.04 ½ hrs

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

[English]

(i) National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (3) and sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made there under.”

[Translation]

HON SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (3) and sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted

[English]

(ii) National Khadi and Village Industries Board

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of Section 10 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 read with rules 15 and 17 of Khadi and Village Industries Commission Rules, 2006 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Khadi and Village Industries Board subject to the other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 10 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 read with rules 15 and 17 of Khadi and Village Industries Commission Rules, 2006 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Khadi and Village Industries Board subject to the other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder.”

The Motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Special Mention.

Shri Manish Tewari

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very sensitive and important issue. Despite the reservation expressed by the Reserve Bank of India and The Election Commission of India, the government issued 'Chunavi Bond' which are called electoral bonds in English language, which made corruption 'official'. ...(Interruptions). Please, listen to me attentively. Sir, a system was in existence before the year 2017, and under this system, there was a control over the interference of avarice people in the politics of the country. But the government made a provision in the General Budget on February 1, 2017 to issue electoral bonds anonymously. Nobody knows the donor or money or the party to which money is given. ...(Interruptions). It has made the corruption 'official'. I, seriously and with responsibility, would like to mention when this scheme was implemented earlier, it was limited only to the Lok Sabha elections. But, tragedy is that on April, 11, 2018 just before the Karnataka election...* ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: He cannot take names like that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Sir, I can table the papers. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not name without any document, proof.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You please put it on the table of the House. I will reply after discussion.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. My Parliamentary Constituency, Gopalganj has a population of around 26 lakhs. No train facility is available from there to Delhi or other metropolitan cities. ...*(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways for the construction of a pit line at Thawe Junction station, Gopalganj. ...*(Interruptions)* It may be noted that the work of electrification has been completed there. With the construction of the pit line, the Government will be able to run long distance trains from Thawe Junction, Gopalganj. Thawe has a historic Durga temple, which is visited by lakhs of tourists. Due to non-availability of trains, about 150 buses of Gopalganj pass through this area, due to which accidents keep happening every now and then and there is loss of life and property both. Therefore, it is requested that kindly a pit line may be constructed from Gopalganj Thawe Junction. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, as the submission of our hon. Member is not being allowed to be completed, we are walking out of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to mention that our Constitution of India came into being 70 years ago. ...(*Interruptions*) We are happy that we are going to celebrate this occasion in Parliament on 26 November, 2019. ...(*Interruptions*) Article 15 (5) of the Indian Constitution gives some special provisions for reservation in educational institutions. ...(*Interruptions*) Accordingly, 15 per cent has been identified for Scheduled Castes; 7.5 per cent has been identified for Scheduled Tribes; 27 per cent for the Other Backward Classes (OBC); and as per the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Government has included 10 per cent reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections. ...(*Interruptions*)

Here, what I want to insist upon this Government is that they have already advised the State Government institutions and private institutions -- offering medical sciences -- to extend 15 per cent of their total seats to the common pool. Every year, they receive seats in the common pool. In 2017-2018, they have received 9,966 seats. Out of these 9,966 seats, 27 per cent of the OBC quota should have been 2,689 seats. Out of that, they have extended only 266 seats to OBC, and that too only in the Central institutions. They have not extended it to State Government institutions or the private institutions. In 2018-19, the total number of seats is 12,595; out of that, 27 per cent comes to 3,400. But only 299 seats have been given to OBC in Central institutions. They have not extended it to the State Government institutions or the private institutions. Sir, the Central Government is allotting seats as per 27 per cent reservation. Our State Government is having 50 per cent reservation for OBCs, according to the State law. So, my request is this.

Why not the Central Government extend 27 per cent reservation holistically and extend 50 per cent seats to Tamil Nadu alone, in filling up the medical seats? I am making this request, only as per our Constitution. I am not

going away from our Constitution. My request to the Government is to act as per the Constitution. Otherwise, we would condemn the Government that it is going against the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Supriya Sule is granted permission to associate herself with the issue raised by Shri T.R. Balu.

SHRI KRIPAL BALAJI TUMANE (RAMTEK): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to place my point regarding a railway related problem in my parliamentary constituency.

My Parliamentary Constituency, Ramtek has Kamti assembly segment. Kamti is also a big city with a population of around two lakhs. The special thing about it is that there is an Army base. No express trains that run from Nagpur, despite being a big city, have stoppage at Kamti.

I would like to request the Government of India and the Hon. Minister of Railways that Train no. 12409-12410 Gondwana Express, which runs from Nizamuddin to Bilaspur and Bilaspur to Nizamuddin, should be given a stoppage there.

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member is getting lucky enough daily in the House.

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR (DINDORI): Hon. Speaker Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency Dindori, the railway crossing was closed and an underpass was constructed so that people and vehicles could move without any hindrance. But during the rainy season, the underpasses built in Chandwad, Nangaon, Manmad, Yeola, Niphad talukas in my Constituency were closed due to water logging. Due to this, the general public, students and patients had to face a lot of difficulties.

Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways to construct proper drainage system to let out the water from such underpasses. I would like to request that there should be a provision for opening the railway crossing gate in emergency situations for the convenience of the common people.

***SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL (SANGLI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you. I would like to draw your kind attention towards the unseasonal rain which had caused heavy damage to standing crops in Maharashtra in October, 2019. It had impacted Sangli district and whole of Maharashtra. The farmers of Maharashtra were badly affected. Due to huge loss, farmers are facing social and financial problems.

Now there is President's Rule in Maharashtra and the immediate relief announced by the Hon. Governor is meagre and insufficient. Bad weather and unseasoned rain had mostly affected horticulture and kharif crops.

Hence, I would like to request the Central Government to give enhanced sufficient financial relief to the farmers of Maharashtra immediately.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. I would like to draw the attention of yours and the Parliament to a very important

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

issue. As the whole country knows that the most important protection group of our country is the Special Protection Group, SPG. The country needed it after the martyrdom of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The SPG was created when the Congress Government was in power and Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. Sir, after that when the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi took place in 1991, before that this group was withdrawn. At that time, I think it was the Government of Chandrashekhar ji or V.P. Singh ji. After that, within a few months, Rajiv Gandhi was martyred and a big assassination took place. Those from whom that security has been withdrawn today, were children at that time. Shri Rahul Gandhi's age was 21 years and Priyanka Gandhi's age was 19 years.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, this issue has come up many times.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Sir, what is a bigger issue than this? This family has given two Prime Ministers to the country. Sir, I do not want to name the Member of the other House, Rajya Sabha, who said that there is no threat to them today. Two capital punishments have been awarded, which I would like to mention here. Who hanged Afzal Guru? UPA Govt did that.

DR. JAI SIDHESHWAR SHIVACHARYA SWAMIJI (SOLAPUR): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. There are 39 sugar mills in my Parliamentary Constituency, Solapur district, out of which about 35 mills are functioning. Solapur bedsheets and Turkish towels are very famous. These are exported both within and outside India. Solapur has NTPC and a University and it is seen as a big market. Apart from having NTPC in Solapur it is being developed as a smart city. The city of Solapur is also a famous pilgrimage center. Apart from this, lakhs of devotees from Maharashtra as well as other States of the country visits Pandharpur, Mangalvedha, Ghanagapur, Tuljapur, Haidra, Akkalkot and Koodal pilgrimage centers but there is no air service available in Solapur city. Due to this,

not only the pilgrims but industrialists and people from different occupations are also facing inconvenience in travelling to Solapur.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to start air service from my Parliamentary Constituency to various cities of the country at the earliest under the UDAN scheme. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH : Sir, ... * ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, one should never comment like this on the chair. I have given you time to present your issues. If you want another chance, will give you time once again, but never talk in this manner about the chair. Hon. Member, No, please, I will give you a chance after the list.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT (MISRIKH): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways towards the delay in the construction of underpass and ROB at a level crossing number 248 and 249 respectively near Sandila railway station of Moradabad Division in my Parliamentary Constituency, Misrikh under Northern Railway.

Sir, the local people have been demanding these construction works for a long time. Due to lack of underpass and ROB, the traffic system here gets worsened. This has an adverse effect on the vehicles engaged in essential services including ambulance, fire or police etc. As per my information, the delay in issuance of No Objection Certificate by the Government of Uttar Pradesh is the reason for the delay in this situation.

* Not recorded

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE) (BIRBHUM): Sir, I would like to express my views on AYUSH. In 2019, the cutoff mark for MBBS is 134. What will happen to the people who have scored 133 marks? The most important thing is that BDS is not covered under AYUSH course. If anyone wants or prepare himself mentally to study AYUSH will concentrate and prepare for the exam other than NEET. The most important thing is that the AYUSH courses are offered either in Government colleges or Government aided colleges only. I do not think the AYUSH course can be popularised unless it has a separate campus or delinked with MBBS. 70 percent seats in Ayush courses remain vacant. I think that if we want to popularize AYUSH as the Government wishes, we have to give attention to all these things. By doing so, I think that the number of students studying AYUSH will increase and they can continue college also.

HON. SPEAKER: Permission is granted to Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma to associate himself with the matter raised by Shrimati Satabdi Roy (Banerjee).

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Sir, in 5 December, 2017, the Ministry of Road Transport and National Highways issued a gazette notification which was to make 10 meter wide National Highway starting from Odisha which starts from Kundei of Raigarh linking Umarmkot, Dabugaon and Papadahandi in Nobarangbur district, Odisha. Till date, neither the PWD department of Odisha nor the Ministry of Road Transport and National Highways is completing the said work. Therefore, it is my request to get the construction work of the said National Highways started by through the Ministry of Road Transport and National Highways at the earliest. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Ramesh Chandra Majhi.

[English]

DR.(Prof.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA (SURENDRANAGAR): Respected Speaker, Sir, our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendrabhai Modi, launched cashless 'Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)'.

This is the world's largest Government-funded health scheme providing coverage to about 50 crore people for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation up to Rs.5 lakh to each person of family on family floater basis.

Most of the States and Union Territories have implemented AB-PMJAY but some States like Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana and Rajasthan are reluctant to implement this holistic health programme. People from non-implementing States of AB-PMJAY do travel to other States as tourists, pilgrims, workers, labourers, etc. When medical or surgical casualties like accidents, burns, heart attack, etc., happen to them, when they are outside their State, the poor people's condition becomes tragic. I know about this as I am also the owner of an ICU and a medical hospital.

So, I request all Chief Ministers of non-implementing States of AB-PMJAY to please adopt this holistic health programme for the benefit of the poor people of our nation, save them from huge medical expenses, and fulfil our Prime Minister's dream of a pan India AB-PMJAY. Thank you.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue. For persons with disability, assistive devices ensure personal mobility, communication, and often mean a difference between a life of seclusion and a life of activity. Being able to lead a normal life, and even beyond that, winning medals for our country is their birth right. But imposition of GST ranging between 5 per cent and 18 per cent has become a hurdle. Instead of assisting them, Government is making their life harder, the extent of which is visible in every State. This approach of the Government has compelled a huge number of people to stop using or switching over to basic prosthetic equipment.

There are pleas from several thousands of people including Paralympic athletes, be it Manisha Singh, or Neeraj George of Kerala, who seek removal of GST on prosthetic equipment. According to him, his five-year-old dream was achieved with a lot of pain only for a reason that he wanted to prove that differently abled persons without prosthetic limbs can achieve their dreams. And you are charging GST on prosthetic equipment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shrimati Pratima Mandal.

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki – Not present.

Shri Rajendra Dhedya Gavit.

SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT (PALGHAR): Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to award Bharat Ratna to Birsa Munda ji, who fought against the British, a tribal hero and someone who is considered a folk deity.

Sir, the great freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji, who is worshipped as Indian tribal freedom fighter and religious leader as well as Loknayak and related to the Mangu tribe, was born in Jharkhand in the Bengal Residency on 15 November, 1875 at the end of 19th century during the rule of British Empire. He led the Tribal Religious Movement at a very young age, which made him a very great leader in the history of Indian Independence Movement. He raised voice against the Zamindars and the Zamindari system. The Britishers started getting afraid about the leadership of Birsa Munda fearing that unless the confidence of tribal society is gained, they will not be able to establish their business and rule in India. Sir, I would like to request the Government again through you to enhance the glory of Bharat Ratna itself by according the said title to the great and brave sons of Mother India like Birsa Munda and Veer Savarkar.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Shri Saptagiri Ulaka and Dr. Bharati Praveen Pawar are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rajendra Dhedya Gavit.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Health Minister towards my parliamentary constituency of Khadoor Sahib, which is also a border area and is facing various health related concerns. Sir, our Prime Minister has a policy, under which a medical college is to be opened in every parliamentary constituency. But there is no medical college or big hospital in my parliamentary constituency, neither in any private sector nor in the Government sector. I request the Hon. Health Minister that, we are ready to provide the land as soon as

possible, so a medical college and hospital should be opened there at the earliest, so that our people may overcome the many difficulties including those caused by every mischief of Pakistan ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: Sir, please let me complete my issue.
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have spoken the issue that GST should not be imposed, everyone has understood.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, everyone's topic is covered in a minute.

Pro. Saugata Roy ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, may I make a request to you?
...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes sure, Please do.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I will speak very briefly, let me complete my point. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have to complete within one minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, you ring the bell while we speak, it is a big insult.
 ...*(Interruptions)* I am a Senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)* You are on the Chair
 ...*(Interruptions)* I will speak very briefly ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No-no, your topic is so lengthy that you will be provided separate time for it.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I do not want to speak for long duration.
 ...*(Interruptions)* You just listen and give me full time. ...*(Interruptions)* I will finish my point in two-three minutes, not much than that...*(Interruptions)* Sir, shall I begin now? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Ruling has been given for one minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I have made a small request to you.
 ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Then other Hon. Members will say that one and a half minutes has been given to Ravneet Singh ji, I have given him one and a half minutes, I allow you one and a half minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I would like to refer to the worsening economic situation in the country, which is the worst in many years. Nominal GDP growth at 5 per cent is at a 15-year low, unemployment at 8.5 per cent is at a 45 year-high, household consumption is at four-decade low, bad loans are at all-time high and the growth in electricity generation is at a 15-year low. Auto industry is on

the brink of closing down and the real estate sector is in a crisis. This economic situation cannot be solved by giving tax concessions to corporates. Now, retail inflation numbers have shown an increase. Prices have increased.

Sir, all I want to say is that this situation can be solved only by boosting demand through fiscal policy and reviving private investment through social policy. Consumer confidence has dipped further. This is very disturbing. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister is showing a cavalier attitude towards this economic crisis. He is not dealing with economic problems. He is only raising nationalistic, jingoistic or communal problems. I would urge upon him to give attention to the very serious situation in the economy.

[Translation]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, there is a huge steel plant in Bokaro under my Parliamentary constituency and in addition to that, there is also an electro steel plant nearby the said plant besides hundreds of other smaller and bigger factories. There are also Chandrapura Thermal Power of DVC and collieries of CCL located in the neighborhood. In Bokaro district, a lot of the work is outsourced and carried out by contractual-labourers. About 60 – 70 thousand contractual labourers employed in private sectors and outsourcing companies have to face difficulties due to unavailability of ESIC Hospitals. Therefore, I demand from the Government that an ESIC Hospital be opened in Bokaro. Thank you.

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ (BASTAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, my Parliamentary constituency is a highly naxal-affected area. There is a railway crossing on the main road connecting Dantewada District Headquarters. The railway line directly connects Bailadila Iron Ore Mine. A long traffic jam takes place on the either sides of the road due to unavailability of over bridge on the railway crossing in the District Headquarters. Major accidents may happen at the said railway

crossing as the said district is the number one mining district in the State. The Central Government is earning revenue of crores of rupees through railways and mining. Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to demand from the Government that an over bridge be constructed on the said railway crossing.

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by many depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Banks due to its financial crisis. Firstly, I would like to demand from the Government to announce a revival package for the bank at the earliest. Secondly, under the 1993 law, the deposit insurance cover of Rs. one lakh is available. I would like to ask whether the Government proposes to increase the deposit insurance cover as 26 years have passed since then. I would like to demand from the Government that the deposit insurance cover be increased from Rs. one lakh to 15 lakh, so that the depositors' money may remain safe with Banks whenever the banks face financial crisis. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Gopal Shetty and Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal are allowed to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri Manoj Kotak.

SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary constituency Bhandara-Gondiya. The Government announced that BPCL would set up a Bio-ethanol plants which would use paddy residuals, also called rice straw. For this, 74 hectare land was allocated in July of this year, wherein it was proposed to be set up with the cost of Rs. 1500 crore and to provide employments to 15 thousand youths.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to start this plant at the earliest. This plant was said to be started within one year. The operation of

this plant will not only facilitate compensation to the farmers of this village, town and both the districts where rice is produced at a large scale, but will also benefit the farmers and provide employments to the youths. Thank you.

DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA (ROHTAK): Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak.

The best thing is that the Hon. Defence Minister is sitting here and my request is also to him. The valour of Indian soldiers and paramilitary forces is acknowledged across the world. My State, Haryana is known for its farmers, soldiers and sports persons. The Ahirwal region of southern Haryana is equally famous. You must have heard about it. In 1962, when China, deceptively waged a war at Rezang-la post in Rezang-la hills, 110 out of 120 soldiers who got martyred belonged to our Ahirwal region.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Defence that Captain Asha Ram Ji and Havildar Abhay Ram of that regiment are still alive and they wish that the Ahirwal Regiment would be established during their lifetime so that upon going to heaven they will tell our martyrs that the Ahirwal Regiment was established during their lifetime. This demand has been raised again and again. Many of our friends have also raised this demand. I would request the Hon. Minister to kindly look into this. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY (MALAPPURAM): Respected Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the severe floods that are repeatedly affecting Kerala, and also some other States. The Central Government should think about it. It is happening every year because of the climate change.

If you take the example of Kerala, during 2018 Kerala floods, about one million people were evacuated, almost 480 people died, and about 140 people

were missing. This time also, the situation is nearly the same. Almost the same number of people died this year also due to such calamities. Almost one sixth of the total population had been affected in the flood related incidents.

Last year, the Central Government helped a little bit. The State Government requested Rs. 4,700 crore as compensation from the Central Government but the Central Government gave Rs. 3,048 crore. This time, there is no help from the Central Government. Nobody knows what is the reason for that. The Central Government says that the State Government has not spent the entire money. We do not know about that. But the people are not getting anything. In certain districts like Wayanad and Malappuram, people are still in relief camps. So, this is a very serious situation. The Central Government has to come forward and help the State Government this time also. Otherwise, people will not get anything, and they will have to continue in the relief camps.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, today is the World Fisheries Day. The mind of fishermen is like the fish, not well on the land. The unsafe sea and land worries them a lot. Fish catch is decreasing day by day. The striking sea and unprecedented restrictions for fishing are destroying the dreams of fishermen. He did not get his remuneration for his efforts. Hon. Speaker Sir, this is very emotional and sentimental to me to tell you that the traditional fishermen are in complete despair in our country. Fish wealth is declining. The entire organic system is changing in the sea. Climate change is doubling the suffering of these fishermen. Frequent coastal erosion and natural calamities are taking away their houses and boats. Poverty is a common thing; education is a far dream. After the Adivasi community, it is the fishermen who are suffering the most. I request the Central Government to give a special package for welfare of fishermen in our country.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is allowed to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri T.N. Prathapan.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Speaker Sir, due to heavy rains in Maharashtra in the month of July-August, there was huge flood in Krishna, Panchganga, Warna and Koyna rivers. Twenty feet high floodwater inundated Kolhapur, Sangli, both the districts for at least fifteen days. More than 50 people and about seven-eight thousand animals also lost their lives. A team of Government of India went and estimated that a loss of more than seven thousand crore rupees has occurred. At that time, the Government of India promised to give 900 crore rupees, but unfortunately, till today, not even a single penny has been given. That's why people approached the Supreme Court and the court expressed a lot of displeasure in strictures.

Sir, therefore, in this Zero Hour, through you, I would like to request the Central Government to make arrangements to provide succour and provide financial assistance to the people of flood effected Kolhapur and Sangli district as soon as possible. Even for a natural disaster, if the court orders, then it is the responsibility of the Government to follow these orders.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri Shrirang Appa Barane, Shri Om Pavan Rajenimbalkar and Shri Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut.

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH RAO MUNDE (BEED): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on an important issue. Before that I would like to thank you for one more thing that you keep an eye on the progress of all of us MPs, you take great care of this and inspire all of us to come forward as much as possible and put forward the issue of our

constituency. It is going to benefit us a lot during our tenure to have a speaker like you sir. I thank you very much.

Sir, I come to my point. As you are aware that due to heavy rainfall in the entire state of Maharashtra for the last few days, farmers are facing huge losses.

Sir, it has badly affected the Kharif crop. Cotton is also affected. If you look at the details of entire Maharashtra, the cotton procurement centers in Vidarbha have started from September, but in Marathwada and other places, these centers have not yet started because of the heavy rains. Heavy rain fall not only damages but its price is also falling. In this situation, if the Government does not start the procurement centers in Marathwada as soon as possible, then the farmers they will feel even more helpless.

In the event of this disaster, both the Central Government and the Governor will definitely help, but through you, I want to request that the Government's cotton procurement centers should be started in Marathwada region as soon as possible.

[English]

SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY (MAHBUBNAGAR): I would like to bring to your kind notice, the need to set up a new Sainik School in Narayanpet district in my Mahbubnagar Parliamentary constituency in Telangana State.

Sir, I would like to state that many poor families, particularly from SC, ST and economically backward classes, are there who cannot afford high fees in private schools to provide quality education to the children. Their parents have requested me many times in this regard. Our Telangana State Government is ready to extend all the required cooperation in this regard. The people of my Constituency are eagerly waiting to start the classes. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am going to raise a crucial matter concerning the country and my Parliamentary Constituency. Today, incidents are reported from various parts of the country regarding the suicide of constables and officers due to stress in Police duty and many times, they shoot at one another also. These kinds of incidents have been reported.

Sir, one Constable, Shri Pravin Kumar of my Parliamentary Constituency posted at Baghat was found dead recently. He was killed by the revolver of the inspector in charge of the same post. I went to meet his family. Constable Shri Pravin Kumar belongs to a poor Dalit family. He has a small house. His family told me that the inspector had killed him. I do not want to say further on this but I would request to complete the investigation in this regard and if possible, transfer the case to the CBI. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has not even filed an FIR. When I talked to the officers, they said... (*Interruptions*) as he is a Dalit, his family will quickly get the compensation under the SC/ST Act... (*Interruptions*)

کنور دانش علی (امروہہ): محترم اسپیکر صاحب، میں ملک اور اپنے پارلیمانی حلقہ سے جڑا ہوا ایک بہت ہی اہم مدعہ یہاں اٹھانے جا رہا ہوں۔ آج ملک کے اندر کئی جگہوں سے اس طرح کی خبریں آتی ہیں، پولس کے اندر اتنا اسٹریس رہتا ہے کہ کئی کانسٹبل اور دوسرے افسران یا تو خودکشی کر لیتے ہیں یا کئی بار ایک دوسرے پر گولی چلا دیتے ہیں۔ اس طرح کی کئی واردات سامنے آ چکی ہیں۔

جناب، ابھی میرے پارلیمانی حلقہ کا ایک کانسٹبل پروین کمار باغپت ضلع میں تعینات تھا، وہاں پر اس کی موت ہو گئی۔ اس کی موت اسی چوکی کے دروغہ انچارج کے ریولور سے ہوئی۔ جب میں اس کے رشتہ داروں سے ملنے گیا، تو اس کے رشتہ داروں کا یہ کہنا تھا کہ آپ دیکھئیے ک کانسٹبل پروین کمار ایک غریب، دلت فیملی کا ایک لڑکا ہے، اس کے پاس ایک چھوٹا سا مکان ہے۔ اس کے رشتہ داروں کا کہنا ہے کہ دروغہ نے اس کی موت کی ہے۔ میں اس میں نہیں جانا چاہتا ہوں۔ لیکن اتنی ضرور گزارش کروں گا کہ اس کی جانچ پوری طریقے سے ہو اور ہو سکے تو

سی۔بی۔آئی۔ سے اس کی جانچ ہو، کیونکہ اتر پردیش سرکار نے ابھی تک ایف۔آئی۔آر۔ بھی درج نہیں کی ہے۔ جب میں نے افسران سے بات کی تو ان کا کہنا تھا کہ (مداخلت)۔ کیونکہ وہ دلت ہے اس لئے اس کو ایس۔سی/ایس۔ٹی۔ ایکٹ میں فوراً معاوضہ مل جائے گا (مداخلت)۔۔۔۔۔

HON.SPEAKER: Shri Malook Nagar is allowed to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Kunwar Danish Ali.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri S. Venkatesan – not present.

Shri M. Selvaraj.

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): Sir, last year the Gaja Cyclone has devastated the Cauvery Delta Region of Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur districts in my Constituency. More than 8 lakh coconut trees were uprooted. All the banana trees and paddy crops were completely damaged by this natural calamity. The farmers were driven to poverty.

The insurance companies, which are supposed to give crop insurance amount, have failed to disburse the insurance amount for more than half of the poor farmers. More than one year has elapsed. They did not disburse the crop insurance amount on flimsy grounds.

The Union Government should intervene and make sure that all the affected agriculturists get the crop insurance amount. It will help the poor farmers who are virtually starving.

Here, I would like to suggest that the Central Government may directly supervise the crop insurance scheme instead of giving it to the private companies. This may reduce the hardships being faced by the poor farmers. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is allowed to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri M. Selvaraj.

Shri Muhammad Akhar Lone Sahab. He is a leader of the National Conference. The people of the National Congress talked yesterday also and they are speaking today also.

SHRI AKBAR LONE (BARAMULLA): How long will you keep it?...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Speaker Sir, the road which connects Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the country is the Jammu-Srinagar road. Jammu-Srinagar Road is not always open because the rocks fall on the road and it is not properly maintained. The department which is supposed to maintain the road does not pay proper attention to it. So, the work is not properly done there. I request you to instruct them to properly maintain the road.

جناب محمد اکبر لون (بارا مولہ): جناب چیرمین صاحب، کب تک آپ اس کو رکھیں گے؟ (مداخلت)۔ جناب اسپیکر صاحب، جموں و کشمیر کو ریست آف دی کنٹری سے ملانے کے لئے جو قومی راستہ ہے، وہ جموں سری نگر کا راستہ ہے۔ جموں سری نگر کا راستہ کبھی کبھی کئی دن تک نہیں کھلتا ہے۔ اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ وہاں جب موسم خراب ہوتا ہے تو چٹانیں گرتی رہتی ہیں۔ اس کو ٹھیک کرنے والا جو محکمہ ہے، وہ اس کو اپنے حساب سے ٹھیک طرح سے اس کا دھیان نہیں دیتے ہیں، اس لئے وہاں ٹھیک طرح سے کام بھی نہیں ہو رہا ہے۔ میری آپ سے گزارش ہے اس کام کے لئے ایک مخصوص رقم رکھی جائے تاکہ وہاں کے لوگوں کو اس تکلیف سے نجات مل سکے۔ اور آپ اپنے ان لوگوں سے کہیں جو اس کو اہم کنڈیشن میں رکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ ان کو ٹھیک طرح سے کام کرنے کے لئے ہدایت بخشی جائے۔ شکریہ

***SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. The recent archeological excavation conducted in Keezhadi by the Tamil Nadu Government has proved that the age of artefacts found in Keezhadi belonged to

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

6th Century BCE. Hon. Union Minister has also endorsed this revelation in Rajya Sabha yesterday. In this context, I urge upon the Union Government that Sangam Age of Tamil Civilization mentioned as 3rd Century BCE in the 6th Standard and 12th Standard textbooks of NCERT should be changed as 6th Century BCE in the textbooks meant for forthcoming academic year. Secondly, it should also be mentioned in the NCERT textbooks that the urban settlements were also formed on the banks of River Vaigai at the places wherever it is mentioned that the big urban settlements were formed on the banks of River Ganges. Thirdly, I urge upon the Government through this August House that it should be prominently mentioned in the NCERT textbooks the fact that the Urban Settlements or Cities thus formed on the banks of river Vaigai in Tamil Nadu were fully literate. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you, Sir. On 31st October, 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs has released a new political map of India. But we are shocked to see that Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh is missing in this map. This is not only an insult to the people of Andhra Pradesh, but it is an insult to the hon. Prime Minister who has laid the foundation stone for Amaravati in 2015. The contention that there was no Gazette Notification issued is a frivolous and trivial argument. If this map goes into circulation, it is going to impact the flow of investments into our new State.

In view of the above, I request the Government of India to immediately rectify this situation and issue a revised map showing Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is allowed to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Jayadev Galla.

[English]

SHRI P. C. GADDIGOUDAR (BAGALKOT): Sir, I hasten to raise an important issue, though belatedly, relating to severe loss of lives and crop damage in my district Bagalkot, Karnataka during the last monsoon, the heaviest in more than hundred years.

Contrary to the perception that my constituency Bagalkot is considered a barren and drought prone area, this time it suffered the heaviest deluge of rains causing intensive crop damages as also loss of precious human lives and livestock. In quick response, the State Government had rushed rescue teams to the flood affected areas and announced compensation for two lakh families along with an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 5 lakh for the kin of each deceased victim. In addition to this, emergency supplies of essential commodities were also provided by the State Government to the marooned people.

It is because of torrential rains, the course of rivers changed causing erosion of river embankments and the surging waters washed away the top soil, thereby making the terrain unproductive until restoration measures were undertaken on a mass scale. The Centre has been apprised of the extent of damage caused by floods and funds needed to restore normalcy in terms of restoration of communication, roads and bridges as also replenishing top soil of a large area raising agricultural and horticultural crops to become productive again. With its meagre resources and fiscal constraints, the State Government expects the Centre to come forward by releasing calamity funds in order that rehabilitation of the flood affected people and restoration of the soil are taken up early in view of the forthcoming crop season.

I urge upon the Centre to respond to my plea with urgency and compassion.
Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I rise to draw your attention and the attention of the House to an alarming financial situation in the country. Today's newspapers have three front-page items, namely, sale of five profit making public undertakings to cough up Rs. 85,000 crore for the Government; at the same time, the Government has given Rs. 42,336 crore moratorium to telecom companies on their payments to the Government; and more disturbing, the Reserve Bank of India takes over the ailing Housing Finance Corporation. Adding to the already confused scenario, the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's new rules for further disclosure of the listed companies on their loan payments and right issues to warn the investors is very worrisome.

Sir, I have been raising the issue of sale of BPCL, a navratna company, earning profits for years, which has a base in my constituency. Now, if we look into the list of PSUs which are for sale this year, they are all profit-making companies like Shipping Corporation, the Container Corporation of India – CONCOR, the Hydro Development Corporation of India and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO).

The Government's notification informed that all these profit-making corporation will undertake a sale of 51 per cent stake and the control of the companies will be with the Government on a case to case basis depending on the stake of the other Government organisations.

Sir, I strongly suggest to the Government that there must be re-thinking and further expert consultations at the highest level before deciding on the sale of these PSUs.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE (RAVER): Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister wants the farmers to benefit from the Government schemes through banks. But, the actual condition of the rural area is that there is a low number of nationalized banks and the number of employees working in these banks is also less. Through you, I request the Government to appoint officers in the rural areas particularly in Jalgaon district at the earliest. A proper system should be replaced there for the farmers. Yesterday, the State Bank of India in Muktai Nagar tehsil was locked as there were no employees there. Action should be taken in this regard at the earliest. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Pratap Singh and Dr. Pritam Gopinathrao Munde are allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (ARUNACHAL EAST): Hon. Speaker Sir, there is a negative apprehension about the Citizenship Amendment Bill in our North Eastern states particularly in Arunachal Pradesh. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. I would like to mention two points for the good aspect of the said Bill. There is a regulation since the British era for Arunachal tribal rights, land and property protection. NGOs and student organizations in Arunachal Pradesh have been demanding that iff Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations 1873 and Chin Hill Regulation, 1896 Sections 22, 23, 38 and 40 are included in CAB, then, there will be no negative impact or apprehension. *(English)* If Article 371 (A-J) and all six Scheduled States and autonomous districts in the North Eastern Region. *(Translation)* are included in the CAB Bill, the peace will prevail. This is my request. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Sir, I rise to draw the attention with regard to construction of AIIMS at Thoppur. It is situated at Virudhunagar which is an aspirational district. AIIMS was announced in the 2015 Budget, that is, before the 2016 Assembly elections.

Hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation before the Lok Sabha elections in February, 2019. After 10 months, no construction work has started. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government about this project. JICA will fund this to the tune of Rs. 1250 crore. No progress has taken place for the past 10 months. Therefore, I would request the Government to speed it up and start the construction work before 2021 Assembly elections. Thank you Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is allowed to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri B. Manickam Tagore.

DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA (BADAUN): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to my Lok Sabha Constituency, Badaun. Sugarcane is widely produced in my Constituency.

13.00 hrs

Due to the absence of sugar mills in this area, the farmers are not getting wages despite the wide production of Sugarcane. During the field visit done in this area, the farmers in the Mahapanchayat unanimously said that this time they will not sell their sugarcane to private sugar mills because private sugar mills do not pay after buying sugarcane. They said that even if the sugarcane rots in the field this time, they will not give them to the private sugar mills.

Through you, I would like to request that the farmers should be paid the pending dues and a center should be set up at the nearby Government sugar mill so that the farmers can be happy.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not speak to one another. There is Central Hall and Gallery outside to make long conversations. I request once again.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important issue related to the paddy farmers in Kerala, especially in my constituency in Kuttanad. In Kerala, the paddy farmers are facing a serious crisis in getting their PRS from the nationalised banks like the State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Scheduled Banks and Federal Bank. Actually, during the procurement period, the banks are giving the payment of paddy price to the paddy farmers. After that, the State Government and the Central Government give that money to the banks. Now, the payment of this amount is delayed by both the State and the Central Governments. An amount of around Rs.800 crore is pending with the State and the Central Governments. Now, this time the *puncha* procurement has already started in Kuttanad. The farmers are approaching the nationalised and scheduled banks. They are denying them to give the PRS.

Therefore, I would like to request, through you, the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to release the amount of Rs. 450 crore from the Central Government. The Central Government's share of Rs. 450 crore is pending with the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. I request the hon. Minister to release the amount immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. I want to raise a serious issue in the Parliament. A day before, I got a call from home and came to know that there is police in front of the house. I found out, the police had come to the house for security. There was police in front of the houses of MPs and MLAs from Odisha. The reason for this is that farmers' agitation is going on in Odisha and in my constituency. At the time when procurement should be done, farmers should go to the market and sell paddy, they are doing this agitation and sitting on the way. Farmers have blocked the National Highways and the houses of the MLAs. Collector Office, Sub-Collector Office and Tehsildar Office everything have been blocked and due to that now token system has been started there. Only if farmers take the token, they will be able to sell paddy. It will not work like this, it should be on first come first serve basis as it used to be before. There is no token system in any State. There is no such system anywhere in the world but it has been started in Odisha. Farmers will be ruined by this, they will be destroyed. You are our last hope.

I want to request through you that you should talk to the Central Government. The Central Government should talk to the Odisha Government, the token system should be abolished. We should find a solution of how farmers can sell paddy and get the right price.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Saptagiri Ulaka is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Hon. Suresh Pujari.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Speaker, a girl from Kankarkheda area of Meerut, who used to teach in a school near her house, was in contact with a Pakistani youth named Nadeem. The girl's passport was made on November 4, 2019 and on the morning of November 8, 2019, the girl went to school but did not return. The girl's father reported the girl's disappearance to the local police station on the same day, but the police station neither filed an FIR

nor took any action to trace the girl. On November 10, the disappointed father of the girl met me and I spoke to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Meerut. I also apprised the Senior Superintendent of Police about the apprehension of Nadeem taking the girl to Dubai. The department became active on the instructions of the Senior Superintendent of Police, but by then it was probably too late. Now there is a doubt about the girl that she has been taken to Dubai or any other country illegally. I request the Government through you that the Government should kindly get the girl recovered by conducting a detailed inquiry into the matter.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, even after 70 years of independence, the Government has to run many programmes and schemes to make the country malnutrition free. Last three months in my constituency Karjat, 171 children have been detected as malnourished and out of these 74 children have been detected severely malnourished. The government health department at the district level has given this information. On December 5, 2014, I had drawn the attention of the Government to the issue of malnutrition through the House by asking a starred question, then the Minister assured me that the Government would make the country malnutrition free as soon as possible and will also run various programmes in this regard. But, from the year 2014 till today, the number of malnourished children across the country has risen. I want to draw the attention of the Government through you that the Government should take malnutrition seriously and run programmes to make the country malnutrition free.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Shrirang Appa Barne.

SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA (PRATAPGARH): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Through you, I want to draw the attention of Hon. Road & Transport Minister towards the approved bypass in my parliamentary constituency. The work of

Pratapgarh bypass connecting NH-96 and NH-231 of Pratapgarh district and the project of extending the important corridors like Ram Van Gaman Marg have fallen victim to negligence. Compensation money was made available by the Government of India in the year 2016. Even after a long time, the district administration of Pratapgarh could not disburse the amount of compensation received to the farmers. The situation is so bad that urban area Belha Pratapgarh in my Parliamentary constituency is badly affected by the problem of severe traffic jam. Due to non-availability of any other bypass, NH-96 going to Prayagraj-Ayodhya passes through Ghantaghar, the fringe area of the central city. That's why from nine o'clock in the morning the city starts gasping due to the movement of vehicles. People have to face traffic jam for hours to travel 2-3 kms. Apart from traffic jams, due to excessive movement of vehicles, especially heavy goods trucks, the residents of the city are suffering from deadly diseases like asthma due to dust and gusts of wind.

[English]

SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the fate of the National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding (NIRDESH) at Chaliyam under the Department of Defence Production.

Sir, NIRDESH began its operations in 2010 at Chaliyam, part of my constituency, Kozhikode. Conceived as a national centre of excellence to achieve self-reliance in strategic area of warship building, today it is in a very pathetic condition with just one officer to run the business.

The National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding (NIRDESH) requires Cabinet approval and also funds to start its operations in full steam besides the cooperation of defence shipyards to begin with.

Kind intervention of the Defence Minister and the hon. Prime Minister for Cabinet clearance and funding is required. Otherwise, the requirement of self-reliance in shipping sector will be a set back to the nation. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA): Hon. Speaker Sir, my subject is related to the menace of monkeys causing problems to the people living in pilgrimage centers. We all feel funny when we talk about monkeys, but this is a very serious topic, that's why I am raising this topic in front of you today. The people of Mathura, Govardhan and Vrindavan are troubled by monkeys. There used to be a dense forest in Vrindavan, where monkeys used to live and eat happily, but today there are only buildings and very few trees. Because of which the hungry monkeys there create terror by going from house to house and the citizens make them run away by beating them. Pilgrims feed them fruits, samosas, kachoris and Mathura peda, due to which the monkeys have become very ill. This disease is also spreading among the people there. The doctors there also did sterilization to reduce the number of monkeys, as a result of which they have become very violent and they attack people fatally. Due to this many people have died in Vrindavan. It is true, that as much as we humans have the right to live on this earth, animals also have the same right to live on this earth. There should be a solution for this.

Through you, I request the Forest Department to keep the monkeys at one place by making 'Monkey Safari', so that the problems of the citizens and the monkeys can be reduced. Through you, I request the Government to take this matter very seriously and solve this problem and not to consider it on a lighter note. It is a very important matter.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri Rajendra Agarwal, Shri Ganesh Singh, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shri Shreerang Appa Barne, Shri Shrikant Eknath

Shinde, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewle, Shri Om Pavan Rajenimbalkar, Shri Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik and Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Smt. Hema Malini.

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN (JAMUD): Hon. Speaker Sir, this is a serious problem. The way deforestation is being done, monkeys are an issue, in our area, the so-called Lutyens' Zone, where families and children live in homes. There are gardens, but children cannot go to the garden because there is a lot of terror from monkeys. Monkeys bite and disturb. Boards have also been put up in the Lutyens zone to beware of monkeys. This is a matter of grave concern. I would like the Ministry to pay attention to this. Deforestation is happening, their homes are being destroyed, so they are turning to our homes. It is important that we keep their homes safe so that they stay safe in theirs and we stay safe in ours. This is a big topic in Delhi too. I thank those who have raised this topic.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Sir, I have also been a victim of such a situation. I am habitual of visiting Vrindavan. There is Ramakrishna Mission whose headquarters Belur Math is in Kolkata. When I visited, I was wearing my spectacles.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Madam, please be seated. The issue raised by you has been taken notice of.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: I went to Vrindavan to see the Banke Bihari Mandir. I am very much connected with Ramakrishna Mission over there. The Guruji was also accompanying me. I was wearing my spectacles. When I simply stepped out of my car, I had a feeling of some touch and found that there were no spectacles on my eyes. It was so nicely lifted by a monkey that it was unbelievable. The moment eight or ten Fruity packets were thrown by the shopkeepers, *[Translation]* the monkey noticed the Fruity packets, it came down, picked up two Fruity packets and returned the spectacles. *[English]* At few places, I watched some persons waiting, from where the monkeys could get Fruity. *[Translation]* They experience stomach ache after consuming Fruity but they themselves like to have Fruity. So, the situation is very dangerous. You have to safely keep your spectacles, offerings and all your belongings in your pocket before visiting the temple. Those who cannot see without spectacles, also have to make do somehow. *[English]* Sir, you take the issue seriously. Shrimati Hema Malini is the local MP of that area. I hear from the Ramakrishna Mission people that she also goes there and takes up their problems.

Sir, this is a serious issue and can be tackled by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI C. P. JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Prime Minister has launched a scheme named Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kalyan Kosh for the people living in mineral rich areas. The income earned from those areas is deposited into the Government Treasury so that the same could be utilised for betterment of Healthcare facilities, educational facilities and construction of roads in those areas itself. We have a District Mineral Foundation Trust in our area. The Public Representatives were removed from the trust as soon the Government changed in Rajasthan and the entire funds have been blocked. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ji had once said that only 15 rupees reach the rural beneficiaries out of the total 100 rupees sent from Delhi but he did not provide any solution for that.

Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has ensured direct credit of money to the accounts of the beneficiaries for all the schemes be it the wages of MNREGA workers or the funds to the Panchayats for developmental works. The funds which were supposed to go to the Panchayats in Rajasthan as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, have been blocked. Those funds are lying with the Panchayat Samiti. Sir, through you, I would like to request that this fund has been provided by the Union Government, therefore, the said funds must be provided directly to the Panchayats so that Panchayats and rural areas may be developed. This is my only demand from the Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria and Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri C.P. Joshi.

Hon. Member has got the opportunity to raise his issue on the third day itself of his taking oath.

Congratulations to you.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (SATARA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I have been elected as an MP twice earlier. The present term is my third term as an MP. Prior to this, I was in Sikkim as Governor. I requested you and you gave me an opportunity to speak acceding to my request, for which I am grateful to you.

The farmers of my district Satara cultivate high quality products such as fruits, flowers and vegetables since there is a dam on the Western side of my district. The farmers approach the Station Master of the Railway Station for providing train facility to transport their produce to Mumbai and Pune. The people there have informed me that they have to carry their produce to a Railway Junction named Kimbarjekar which is situated 150 km to the south of Satara. It is sent further the next day. If fresh fruits and vegetables are dispatched to be sent a day in advance, they do not remain fresh and thus earn less than expected prices to the farmers.

The DRM, Pune, Central railway should consider loading the agricultural produce in any of the several trains going to Pune and Mumbai or Ahmedabad and Delhi thus ensuring that the fruits and vegetables being produced are carried when still fresh so that the farmers earn handsome prices and do not suffer losses.

[English]

SHRI T.R.V.S. RAMESH (CUDDALORE): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour regarding development of seaport in Cuddalore Parliamentary Constituency. Sir, seaport and harbour should be developed in Cuddalore. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am in front of the pillar, Sir.

A large volume of imports such as raw cashew nuts, coal of Neyveli Lignite Corporation and products from and into SIPCOT industrial park are now handled in Tuticorin and Chennai ports and this transportation and logistics improve efficiencies for these organisations with large-scale employment and benefit in

the development of the port. Harbour should be developed in my Cuddalore constituency.

I, therefore, request you to consider my request to grant approval for opening of seaport in my constituency, Cuddalore so that people from all walks of life can be benefited.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The Cabinet Minister Hon. Mahendra Pandey ji is present here in the House.

... (Interruptions)

PROF SOUGATA RAY: Sir, he is Minister of State. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No. Mahendra ji is a Cabinet Minister. Dada, you should get the information beforehand.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR (THENI): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the need for expeditious new railway line in my Theni constituency between Dindigul and Sabarimalai.

Previously, the Railway Board had sanctioned and done the survey for a new broad-gauge line from Dindigul to Sabarimalai. Since then, this proposal has been pending without any further move. A report was also submitted to the Railway Board in 2014. This line is imperative for the people of three districts as well as tourists and pilgrims of Sabarimalai.

Therefore, I once again urge the Government to take immediate steps for early completion of this new line without further delay.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (BARRACKPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to say something about the call given by the Hon. Prime Minister regarding Plastic and Pollution Free India.

Sir, there used to be Jute industry in our State, West Bengal. There was a time when West Bengal was called the Manchester of Jute industry. But situation at present, after enactment of a law in the year 1992-93 is that according to the law the Industrial land shall not be transferred. However, the status of Industrial Land is being changed in West Bengal ever since the ... * Government has taken charge, subject to approval.

Sir, 66 percent of land is being sold and it is being said that 33 percent of land provided anywhere in Bengal will solve the purpose. That land is not given. There is a huge scam going on in this. The MP from Srirampur is quite vocal. The condition of Jute Mills is such that three factories in his Parliamentary Constituency have remained shut since a long time. The Government is selling the land of these factories. There were seven Government of India Undertaking Jute mills in West Bengal out of which three Jute mills are in my Parliamentary Constituency. Through you, I would only like to urge this Government that the workers shall get benefitted if those Jute mills get revived by auctioning them. At present, Jute fabrics are in demand worldwide. The message of the Hon. Prime Minister that goes out in the world will be greatly beneficial. Thank you.

[English]

* Not recorded.

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS (ALATHUR): Respected Speaker, Sir, it is a great pleasure that all the State Governments have initiated special model residential school for the upliftment of SC/ST students.

I suggest that the Central Government should also intervene in their education. It will help them to achieve more in their life. I suggest the Government to start model residential school for SC/ST students with the standard of Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Sir, my Alathur constituency, with large number of SC/ST population, is the correct destination for such a pilot project, especially in Nelliampathy Grama Panchayat. It has a huge number of backward communities and good atmosphere. I will request the Government to take up this matter for immediate consideration.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is granted permission to associate himself with the issue raised by Shrimati Ramya Haridas.

SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL) (YAVATMAL-WASHIM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to raise a very important issue in the House. The farmers in Maharashtra are ruined completely. In such a situation, there is great need to help them. We have noticed that surveys are being carried out there and announcements too are being made after surveys. However, after the announcements, the decision that should follow and the compensation that should be given to the farmers is not being received by the farmers. At present, there is Governor's rule and the previous Government had also announced that compensation would be given to all the farmers. Our party chief Thackeray sahib had also demanded a compensation of Rs. 25,000 for the farmers. He in fact intends to waive off the entire loan amounts of the farmers. But to waive that off, Government will have to be formed. We

hope support from Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Shri Sharad Pawar ji so that Government is formed and the problems of farmers are solved. ... (*Interruptions*) I would also like to say that we need to take initiative to solve this problem. The decisions taken by the Hon. Governor should be implemented without any delay. Speaker sir, it's not been two minutes yet. Please allow me some more seconds. Today, the condition of farmers is such that they are taking loans from money lenders and are forced to commit suicides. If this situation continues, the farmers will be completely ruined because their Kharif crop has been completely destroyed. They do not have anything with them to prepare for the Rabi crop. Therefore, my demand is that the Government should take decision without any delay.

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE (HOWRAH): Thank you, Sir. Is it my turn to speak?

HON. SPEAKER: Yes. I permit.

[English]

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Sir, I thank you for giving me this chance to raise a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am from the Howrah Constituency where there is Shalimar Station. *[Translation]* There are four Level Crossings from Shalimar Station to Santragachi Station. If there happens to be any medical emergency between the age group of 30 to 50 years, the patients used to die there. I had requested many times that an underpass should be made over there. Through you, I would like to request that there should be an underpass for ambulance. There are four Level Crossings between Shalimar to Santragachi. This is causing inconvenience to all. Therefore I request you to ask the Hon. Minister about this. I have raised this matter four times in the House. This will help people overcome the inconvenience being caused to them. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI B. B. PATIL (ZAHIRABAD): Thank you very much, Sir. My Parliamentary Constituency is Zahirabad which is situated on the border of Telangana. It adjoins on one side by Karnataka and Maharashtra on the other. The farmers from there frequently visit Bidar district in Karnataka and Nanded district in Maharashtra to procure fertilisers and seeds and to sell their farm produce as these districts are situated adjacent to the area. Apart from this, they have to go there for education, medical facilities and shopping also. Through you, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to provide better interstate connectivity between these two States which will be a great convenience for the people of my Constituency. I would like to request you this much only. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): Sir, BSNL is an erstwhile telecommunication company started in the early 2000s. Now, one lakh employees of BSNL have been denied their basic salary. About seven people have already

committed suicide in the State of Kerala, and around 50,000 employees have been forced to take VRS in this company. Almost, the entire system of BSNL has been ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, VRS is taken voluntarily.

SHRI HIBI EDEN: Sir, this is a company which pays Rs. 2000 crore dividend. This Government is destroying this Public Sector Undertaking completely. Yesterday, *[English]* I read in the newspapers that all the profit-making PSUs have been hampered for the interest of corporate companies. The Government has granted waiver to private companies for paying outright for the spectrum waves also. This is a very serious business. BSNL employees have to be protected. The salary arrears have also to be paid. The policy of the Government is for helping the corporate companies. ...*(Interruptions)* So, I would request the Government to take a creative stand on protecting the public sector undertakings of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Hibi Eden.

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA (DAUSA): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. In the context of aim of our Government to double the income of the farmers, I would like to tell that we set the goal of assessing the condition of the farmers during the Gandhi Sankalp Yatra held recently in my Parliamentary Constituency. We made a assessment of the condition of the farmers in 86 villages. There, traditional farming is completely a loss making occupation. Through you, I would like to say that more funds should be allocated to the schemes under Horticulture Mission of the Central Government and they should

be monitored efficiently. The employees working in the Horticulture Mission of the State Governments neither provide technical knowledge to the farmers nor cooperate with them. It is very important to make Krishi Vigyan Kendras functional. During the visit the farmers suggested that lemon, amla, Indian jujube and guava etc. can be produced abundantly in their area and they can earn a good amount of money from it. Soil fertility is also favorable for these crops. These crops can be grown even in the scarcity of water. Due to the apathy of the State Government, the farmers are not getting any benefit of the Government Schemes. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that on one hand, planting saplings will purify environment, on the other hand, the income of the farmers can also be quadrupled. Through you, I would like to request that the Government should pay full attention to the Horticulture Mission.

SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH (BHIWANI-MAHENDRAGARH): Hon. Speaker Sir, district-wise food parks should be set up to fulfill the dream of the Hon. Prime Minister to double the income of the farmers. So that, farmers could sell their crops at a good price at nearby places. At present, plans are underway to set up two Food Parks in Haryana, which would take about 5-7 years. For this, I have a suggestion that private sector should be encouraged and promoted to set up Food Parks quickly. Private companies should be engaged for opening the Food Parks.

Instead of giving money to FCI and HAFED for warehouse subsidy for the preservation of the crop, fund should be given directly to the farmers for the maintenance of their crops so that the farmers can store their crop in their houses. Whenever the Government need it, it should procure the crops from the farmers. For this, the farmers should be provided Rs 400 per quintal of crops. The farmer should be given half the money to beforehand and half the money later. There are two benefits of this system. One, the crop will be safe and second the income of

the farmers would increase. Farmer's entire crop production should be bought on MSP rates. Till now, only 20-25% of crop is being bought on MSP rates. Farmers sell their left over crop to middlemen at low price, which causes a loss to the farmers. That's why I would like to request you to issue guidelines to all the State Governments in this regard. To save water, drip irrigation should be encouraged instead of sprinkler irrigation. Agency employees eat up major portion of the subsidy given for irrigation. I suggest that the farmer should be given direct subsidy for buying Drip Set from any place. Thank you.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Speaker Sir, today, I would like to raise the issue of Post Office Passport Seva Kendra in the House. Today, passport is one of the most important documents of a person which is not just limited to his foreign travel; rather, it is also the biggest identity card of their Indian citizenship. Before the year 2014, there were a total of 77 passport centers in the country. After that, a historic decision was taken in the year 2017, in which it was decided to open 291 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras in all the Head Post Offices of the country in collaboration with the Department of Posts and Ministry of External Affairs. Under this, it was said that there should be at least one Passport Kendras in almost every district. A reply given by the Central Government in the House reveals that till July this year, 37 Passport Offices, 93 Passport Seva Kendras and 412 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras are functional in the country. In my Lok Sabha Constituency, Passport Seva Kendra was sanctioned in Dombivli MIDC but since last one year, the service has not started there. The reason told is that three hundred square feet of space is necessary to start a Passport Seva Kendra, but that place has only two hundred square feet of space. For this, I also did correspondence with the Ministry many times. I told them that there is vacant space around the MIDC post office; from there we can get a space of 500 square feet. It can be done from MPLADS or the Ministry itself

can arrange the land for it. I request through you to get the permission accorded for this and to start Passport Seva Kendra as soon as possible in my Constituency.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the 'Ayushman Bharat Scheme'. This is the world's largest Scheme, in which health security is being provided to about 50 crore people. I also thank the Hon. Prime Minister for this. So far, Golden cards of 'Ayushman Yojana' have been issued to ten crore families. Under this Scheme, treatment up to Rs 5 lakh is free. Apart from the Government hospitals, there are also private hospitals among the hospitals identified under this Scheme. There are many patients in private hospitals. Who are not being treated properly. It needs some improvement. For example, there are patients of cancer, heart disease and kidney disease. There is a need to pay more attention to these patients. For example, as chemotherapy is used in cancer treatment, maybe it is not covered under Ayushman Scheme. Similarly, breast cancer is also not covered. These all are fatal diseases. These deadly diseases should also be included under this Scheme.

On the day of Diwali, on the instructions of the Hon. Prime Minister, we had tea with the beneficiaries. All this information came to the light then. On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, instructions were given to meet all such beneficiaries and know their problems. These cases then came to the light. That's why, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to reconsider this matter and include these deadly diseases under this Scheme. All card holders should get the facility of treatment in accident cases.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma and Dr. Manoj Rajoria are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Ganesh Singh.

***SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA (AMRITSAR):** I thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to raise an important matter of urgent public importance.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the screw industry existing in Amritsar since pre-independence times. Till 2010, this industry had 500 to 600 units in Amritsar. However, China is dumping their screws in our market. Due to Chinese imports, Amritsar now has only 100 screw units. In China, raw material is cheap, labour is cheap and the Chinese Government encourages its screw industry. However, our raw material is expensive. So, we have not been able to successfully compete with China in this sector. We had to import raw material. But big industrial houses got these imports cancelled.

Sir, in 2014, the 'Make in India' slogan gave some hope to this industry. But GST was increased from 6.8% to 18%. Whatever was being manufactured, shut its shop. So, I urge upon the Central Government that import duty on screws imported from China should be either increased or imports of Chinese screws should be banned. Or else, the GST on Ch-83 items should be reduced to 5% so that this industry can be revived and saved. This screw industry of Amritsar had been set-up in pre-independence times and it supplies screws to entire India. So, the need of the hour is to save this industry from closure and extinction. Thank you.

DR. RAJDEEP ROY (SILCHAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government on a very serious issue. Our neighbouring country is Bangladesh. However, we have very good diplomatic relations with Bangladesh. But in Bangladesh even today, minorities – Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists are being persecuted and it keeps making headlines in

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

newspapers. A few days ago, a budding lawyer, who was an activist, was killed under detention. It was also circulated in social media. A few days ago, on the occasion of Durga Puja and Navratri, atrocities were committed on minorities. We have received news from many places that there was restriction on worship etc. I request you and the Government that all this is a serious matter which should be taken up on a serious note. Although our Prime Minister always focus on 'Indian-diaspora. I think it would be good if some action is initiated in it.

[English]

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST) : Sir, my issue pertains to the recruitment in the Central Bank. The Central Bank of India had issued advertisements on 9-11-2012 and 11-11-2012. Subsequently, candidates were called for interview on various dates in January and February 2013. After the interviews, successful candidates were issued appointment letters and were asked to report to duty. This process was conducted for different regions throughout the country. For Mumbai Zone, the process was held for three zones – South Mumbai, North Mumbai and Thane. The candidates in the Thane region were allowed to join the Bank but candidates from South Mumbai and North Mumbai were not allowed to join even after getting appointment letters. In the same case, candidates from Chhattisgarh region were recruited. While in majority regions candidates had already joined the Bank, still the Bank had issued a public notice dated 5-7-2014, 6-7-2014 and 8-7-2014 cancelling the recruitment process undertaken by the authorities for reasons unknown.

When the candidates from other Zones have already joined the Bank, why are the candidates from South Mumbai and North Mumbai being discriminated against? I understand from reliable sources that if the Finance Ministry gives directions to the Central Bank of India, they may reconsider the recruitment process in respect of candidates from South Mumbai and North Mumbai.

I would earnestly request the Minister of Finance, through this House, to reconsider the matter afresh and permit candidates from South Mumbai and North Mumbai to join the Bank. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR (GWALIOR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My father late Narayan Krishna Shejwalkar was a member of the 6th and 7th Lok Sabha. I am fortunate that today I am getting an opportunity to speak in the same House.

Sir, apart from being a famous historical city of the country, Gwalior is also a major center of business, industry and education. Recently, Spice Jet flights were started from Gwalior to Hyderabad, Jammu, Bengaluru and Kolkata. At the same time, Shri Ajay Singh, Chairman of Spice Jet assured to start flights from Gwalior to Pune soon, but till date this facility has not been made available to the people of Gwalior.

Industrialists, businessmen and many young men and women associated with the IT sector from Gwalior will be benefited by the commencement of this flight. There is a need to arrange regular flights from Gwalior to Pune as soon as possible. The need for flights to Pune has been felt for a long time as the rail travelling from Gwalior to Pune is not convenient. Through you, I would like to urge the House and the Government that the above service should be made available to the people of Gwalior as soon as possible.

DR. CHANDRA SEN JADON (FIROZABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I hail from Firozabad Lok Sabha constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Narkhi and Tundla towns in Legislative Assembly Constituency, Tundla of my Parliamentary Constituency, Firozabad are highly troubled by the water related problem. The water here is saline and the

residents here are bound to drink saline water. There are 50-60 villages in these towns where the water salinity level is so high that it is not fit to consume. The bones of most of the men and women have become crooked due to drinking the fluorinated water and they are unable to walk. They are also unable to complete their daily activities. The residents of this place are longing to get even a single drop of soft water. Soft water has to be brought from miles away. Most of their time is spent in arranging water and they are being forced to waste their precious time for agricultural work. The pace of development has also extremely slowed down due to that. Along with this, the water level here has also dropped a lot and there is no water in hand pumps. There is hue and cry due to the scarcity of water. Sirsa and Sengar rivers pass through Tundla Assembly Constituency. Both the said rivers have remained dry for years. Several attempts were made to release water in both the rivers, but due to the stubbornness of the officials, water could not be released from Hathras Minor. The water problem can be solved to some extent, if water is released from Hathras Minor in these rivers.

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I request the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India to resolve the water problem of my Lok Sabha constituency Firozabad as soon as possible, so that the residents here can come out of their hellish life and lead a peaceful life and can remain happy. Thank you.

SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY (AJMER): Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Central Government and the Hon. Minister of Jal Shakti that there is acute drinking water problem in Rajasthan. In the last year, there has been drought in many districts and excess rainfall in some districts of the State. All the water gets wasted during heavy rains, due to lack of proper storage of rain water. This time the gates of Bisalpur dam were open for 64 days. The water flowed to the Bay of Bengal through the Chambal River.

Sir, therefore, I submit that in the last 20 years, there has been rainfall in 7 years i.e. 2001, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2016 and in 2019 and its storage capacity is 38.70 TMC, while it receives more water and it creates problems.

I request that either the height of Bisalpur dam should be increased by one meter or the Isarda dam should be built so that the problem of drinking water can be solved. Thank you.

SHRI MITESH PATEL (BAKABHAI) (ANAND): Sir, thank you for giving me time to speak.

As you would be aware that Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had launched the 508 km long Bullet Train Corridor project between Ahmedabad to Mumbai with 12 stations in September, 2017. One of these stations is Anand in my Parliamentary Constituency. On behalf of the people of the region, I express my gratitude and thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister for this gift.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways that the process of compensation for the acquired land for this project is not justifiable. The entire land of the industries which have been shifted or closed due to the project is not being acquired, while the landowners are ready to give the entire land. The administration is taking as much land as it needs, while the entire land

of the industries is wasting due to acquisition. I have a request that the entire land of industries should be acquired.

I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Railways to direct the concerned administration to acquire the entire land of the industries wasted due to land acquisition, so that the land owners can get proper compensation. Thank you.

[English]

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has created a unique scheme called Samathuvapuram, which means equality village. Under this scheme, model habitations were established with Government fund in rural areas where all the communities live with unity and brotherhood and share all basic infrastructure and amenities without any discrimination.

Each village has 100 houses and is subdivided into 40 houses for Scheduled Castes, 25 houses for Backward Castes, 25 houses for most Backward Castes, and 10 for other communities. To avoid caste discrimination, this village has one community hall for all communities, as well as a common burial ground. Now, there are 145 such equality villages in Tamil Nadu. It is an important model to end caste discrimination and to establish social justice. I request the Government, through you, Sir, to take steps to replicate this model in other parts of our country.

Thank you.

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY (CHEVELLA): Sir, Tandur, which comes under my constituency, which is 100 km away from Hyderabad, is considered as very backward. Tandur Tur Dal is world famous. Tandur is also famous for blue, green, yellow limestone, cement industries, and educational institutions, *[Translation]* yet it is called backward because it is not connected logistically. No train stops after half past six at Bashirabad which is in Tandur.

[English] So, through you, Sir, I request the Railway Minister that the Bangalore-Nanded Express, Hubballi-Secunderabad Express, Bidar-Yesvantpur Express, *[Translation]* may be given stoppage there so that many travellers and students could get benefitted and they feel happy.

[English] We requested for a ROB at Tandur at Railway KM 70/7-9 on Secunderabad-Wadi section. *[Translation]* It has also not been completed since five years. *[English]* We had requested for the stoppage of Padmavathi Express, Garib Rath Express, Hussain Sagar Express and Palnadu Express at Tandur. *[Translation]* The request has not been fulfilled yet.

I also requested for an E.S.I. hospital and a Medical College. There is no Medical College in Vikarabad district. Through you, *[English]* I would request the Ministers concerned to please look into all these and see that Tandur is given a helping hand.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR (OSMANABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. Sir, regarding the pension being given to the farmers through the 'PM-Kisan' Samman Yojana, I think it is related to each and every Member of Parliament. Out of 400 eligible farmers, only 150 farmers are getting the benefit of pension scheme. When I asked the District Magistrate about the rest of

the farmers, he told that he has uploaded the data, but it is showing this due to the online system.

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I request the Hon. Agriculture Minister that all the shortcomings in the online system should be removed and the pension that is being received by every eligible farmer through the PM-Kisan Samman Yojana, should be deposited in their bank accounts itself.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Malook Nagar is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Om Pavan Rajenimbalkar.

Shri Anil Firojiya – Absent.

Sh. Rajbahadur Singh.

SHRI RAJBAHADUR SINGH (SAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am also a victim of the pillar. It is not clearly visible from here.

HON. SPEAKER: I was also behind the pillar for five years.

SHRI RAJBAHADUR SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, Shipra Express which runs from Indore to Howrah passes through my parliamentary constituency of Sagar. I would like to draw your attention to that. Presently it operates on three days - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. This is an important train connecting Malwa and Bundelkhand. The people of our area have been demanding to run this train seven days a week from a long time.

Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the announcement made by the Hon. Railway Minister. The announcement was made by him at the 63rd National Rail Week Awards program held at Bhopal on 16th April, 2018 to run this train for all seven days. However, this announcement has not been

implemented till date. I would like to request the Hon. Railway Minister through you that this train should be run seven days a week.

SHRI BHOLANATH 'B.P. SAROJ' (MACHHLISHAHR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the reserved Lok Sabha constituency of Machhlishahr, Jaunpur district.

Speaker Sir, my Lok Sabha constituency is an area with a population of about 22 lakhs, which includes Pindra, a Legislative Assembly of Varanasi district, which is adjacent to the Lok Sabha parliamentary constituency of our Hon. Prime Minister. Our Lok Sabha parliamentary constituency is a Scheduled Caste dominated area, which is extremely backward.

Speaker Sir, all the previous Governments neglected Machhlishahr Lok Sabha constituency and did not work for its development. Ever since the Bharatiya Janata Party government has been formed, a lot of development work have been done there.

Sir, through you, I humbly request to get a survey of Machhlishahar reserved Lok Sabha constituency be done so that you can become aware of the problems of Scheduled Caste and Poor Labor farmers there.

Sir, I have a special request to you that a special package be awarded to Machhalishahar (reserved) Lok Sabha constituency, so that the poor people there can avail full benefits of development. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, certain incidents happened recently in Kerala, arose suspicion among general public regarding the credibility of governance of universities in Kerala.

Though universities are autonomous in nature, the Kerala Government is trying to politicise them. Mark moderation in the Mahatma Gandhi University is the latest incident of this kind. The State Higher Education Minister has influenced the University syndicate to grant extra marks after the results were announced. Granting extra marks after the results were published, is a violation of the rules. The syndicate is also granting marks directly without getting any instruction from the Academic Council. It is also a violation of rule. The Private Secretary to the Minister, who has no authority to take part in the proceedings of the University, was present in the meeting which took a decision to award extra marks.

In a similar case, an inquiry is going on in the Kerala University. In another case, the Minister directly issued an order to modify the preparation of question paper and conduct of examination. The Governor of Kerala summoned Vice Chancellor to the Raj Bhavan and asked them to report in this matter.

So, I urge upon the Government to make a CBI inquiry in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE (HOOGHLY): Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to raise a serious issue here regarding the teachers of West Bengal. From November 11 to November 21 i.e. today, 1,000 para teachers are on hunger strike there. The condition of five teachers is serious at present and they are hospitalized. A total 100 para teachers have died, this happened due to lack of treatment during the two years. There are about 50,000 para teachers in West Bengal. They are demanding for their rights and to resolve their issues. The State Government is not able to give the money that goes there from the Central Government. All that money goes there* to their company.*(Interruptions)*.

* Not recorded.

In this regard, I would like to say that if the future of the Teachers who impart education is not good, then how will they educate the children? ...*(Interruptions)*

******If you play with the future of the teachers, what will happen to the students? Teacher is the guru. His future should be secure. So I request you to look into the matter. ****** ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: I would like to know whether the State subject is allowed to be discussed now. ...*(Interruptions)* Everyday she creates a problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: It is unethical. It should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR): Sir, Trinamool MPs should also listen to the issue that I am raising. ...*(Interruptions)* You kindly listen to that. We have just passed the Chit Fund Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, my subject is related to the Chit fund. Even if they listen to it, that will do. ...*(Interruptions)* We passed the Chit fund bill, but... * opened a lottery company. ...*(Interruptions)* Every month a lottery company worth Rs.300 crores was opened. ...*(Interruptions)* Who gives permission for this? ...*(Interruptions)* who are looting 300 crores rupees from the villages. ...*(Interruptions)* Every month they are looting 300 crores rupees in lotteries. Now the chit fund has been closed. ...*(Interruptions)* But they are looting through the lotteries. ... * is ruling. ...*(Interruptions)* See, I am against this newly opened lottery company. ...*(Interruptions)* The Chit fund has been closed, but the lottery company is opened there. ...*(Interruptions)* ... * Because of

*Not Recorded.

** English Translation of this part of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

the.... the lottery company should be closed...*(Interruptions)* Many lottery companies are open. Sir, you did not allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 1500 hrs.

14.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.04 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Four Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(Shrimati Rama Devi in the Chair)

15.04 ½ hrs**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please lay the papers related to matters for discussion under Rule 377 personally within 20 minutes. After the stipulated time, the remaining matters shall be treated as lapsed.

**(i) Need to organize a 'Krishi Mela' in Salempur Parliamentary
Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA (SALEMPUR): The economy of my parliamentary constituency Salempur is predominantly based on Agriculture. Sugarcane is a major crop here. There are many sugar mills in Salempur and its adjoining areas. The land of Poorvanchal is fertile. Other crops are also produced on a large scale here. However, the fertile land of this region has not been optimally utilised. The Farmers need proper guidance. The use of modern agricultural techniques has contributed significantly to increase the agricultural production. The agriculture production also increases with proper guidance given to farmers by the Agriculture Experts from time to time.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

Therefore, it is requested to the Government that a Kisan Mela be organized every year in Salempur. Through this, the farmers of this region will avail many benefits and the agricultural production will increase many times. The farmers will receive guidance from the Experts about the latest Agriculture techniques, high yield variety of seeds, and quality fertilizers which will be immensely beneficial for them. Hon. Prime Minister has set a target of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022. Kisan Mela will prove to be very useful in achieving this goal also. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to organise an Agricultural Fair in my Parliamentary Constituency Salempur.

(ii) Regarding connecting Shillong to Dawki in Meghalaya

[English]

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): The Government of Meghalaya has a plan to connect the capital city, Shillong, to Dawki, a city lying on the border of India and Bangladesh, by upgrading and constructing a National Highway. The project is supposed to be funded by the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA). The land acquisition for the same is in doldrums due to the defence land, which comprises only 1 percent of the total land requirement. I thus urge the Government of India to take prompt action in handing over the required defence land to the National Highways Authority of India without any delay. I am afraid that if we delay the land acquisition any further then the entire JICA fund may be cancelled. This would cause trouble to the people of Meghalaya who face heavy traffic jams on the city roads and national highways.

(iii) Need to increase the percentage of reservation for SCs

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM): The Scheduled Caste population is constantly increasing. State Governments like Uttar Pradesh have included many numerically significant OBC Castes into the Scheduled Castes list recently.

So it is necessary to increase the percentage of reservation for SCs. By giving 10% reservation to EWS, the Centre has already flouted the 50% upper limit fixed by the Supreme Court. So, I request the Government to increase the percentage of reservation for SCs.

**(iv) Regarding including state highway Narsipatnam -Tuni road under
Bharatmala Project**

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): The road Narsipatnam — Tuni is an important State Highway and inter district connectivity road (Visakhapatnam to East Godavari District) connecting the Anakapalli Parliamentary constituency and the Araku Parliamentary constituency. People from the nearby 10 Mandals travel through this road to reach the railway station at Tuni. People use this road to transport the agricultural produce and the products obtained from agency areas to nearby market.

In view of the importance of the road, it is requested to include the above State highway — Narsipatnam — Tuni road for a length of 42 Km under the Bharatmala Project.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to request that let the House first conclude the discussion on Item No. 12 on Air pollution and climate change put up by Shri Manish Tewari ji on which a lot of discussion has been held but some discussion remains. Subsequently, another item may be taken up. This is my request.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: OK. Now, the House will continue the discussion on Air pollution and climate change under Rule 193.

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal ji, please continue with your speech.

15.05 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Air pollution and climate change...Contd.

[Translation]

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN): Hon. Chairperson Madam, the issue raised by me during discussion on air pollution should not involve discussion as India versus villages or rural versus urban discussion. Just have a look at the situation in Delhi yesterday. Yesterday was one of the most polluted days in Delhi. The reason was that the wind wasn't blowing at all. To say that pollution in Delhi is because farmers in Punjab and Haryana burn crop residue is not correct. When the wind was not blowing at all Yesterday, the pollution level in Delhi was very high. This itself shows that the fault lies with all of us but we are finding faults in others.

I discussed the problems yesterday and all the historic steps taken by the Government of India were discussed by me the day before yesterday. Today, I will limit my speech only to the steps that need to be taken. Through you, I would like to give some suggestions to the Hon. Minister so that we can get rid of the prevalent air pollution and climate change. What ought to be done immediately? My focus will be towards that. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister Arjun Meghwal ji has been authorised.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: The same subject is being discussed in Rajya Sabha also.

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Chairperson Madam, they are also discussing air pollution there. Air pollution has become so important. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): It is not air pollution there, but discussion against air pollution is going on there.

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL: No, Hon. Chairperson Madam. The discussion is regarding that only. Today they all are present. The day before yesterday, no one was present. I congratulate you since all the Members of your party are present today. Through you, I would like to urge the Government of Delhi also to spend the funds of Rs. 70-80 crore, presently being used for its promotion, towards constructing air towers at all pollution hot-spots which will purify a lot of air. This is my request.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Madam, air is not manufactured by Kejriwal ji.

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Chairperson Madam, I am grateful to the State In charge Manoj Tiwari ji for deploying water Sprinkler Vehicles which reduce air pollution. I would like to state that cloud seeding has become a very common technology in the past fifteen years. We have seen that rain was induced artificially during Beijing Olympics when there were no timely rains. The Union Government should plan to implement cloud seeding technology in Delhi until some permanent solution is found for big cities. It is very essential to use new technologies in polluting industries. Provide maximum subsidy for using technology at industrial activities such as brick kilns or projects manufacturing paper from agricultural waste. With these, pollution will be controlled. I would like to quote a simple example on this. CSIR has conducted very good research on waterless chrome tanning technology. The single most factor polluting rivers is leather industry. The discovery by CSIR can help the leather industry without making use of water. The Union Government should consider giving subsidy to the State Governments regarding this. Setting up Sewage Treatment Plants is not the solution. The solution lies in the way to reduce the number of polluting industries.

Emission of Methane is one of the world's biggest problems. India has the highest number of livestock. Therefore, there is highest methane emissions in our country. If the Bio Gasifier Projects are well implemented for the poor farmers, then there will be saving of Foreign Exchange reserves in form of the cost of LPG cylinders and the cost of LPG on the farmers will also be reduced.

Bio- fertilizers were being discussed for a long time. Wormy-compost process normally takes three months to get converted into fertilizer. But, if Bio Gasifiers are installed, then the wormy-compost manure gets ready in just 15 days out of its slurry. Hon. Prime Minister has mentioned regarding growth of livestock so many times. Hon. Dharmendra Pradhan ji also mentioned growth of livestock while replying in Lok Sabha. Hon. Minister of New and Renewable Energy Shri R.K. Singh ji also considers it a very good thing and that it should be promoted. Hon. Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh ji is even carrying out a mass level project on it. My request to Hon. Javadekar ji is to install 25,000-30,000 Bio Gasifiers in clusters simultaneously as per the Pilot Project proposed by us. Niti Aayog is ready for it. This proposal keeps lingering in various ministries like NITI Aayog, Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of MSME. I would like to request that the subsidy schemes of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Petroleum and the Khadi Village Industries Department should be merged into one scheme and implemented by consulting with all the Ministries so that we can slash our Methane emissions as per our commitment.

We talk of setting up 50,000 gasifiers in the entire country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. With this scale, five to seven Bio-Gasifiers will be installed in every district. If a farmer somehow sets up seven Bio Gasifiers, a simple defect in its part such as a rubber band will render it unserviceable. It leads to wastage of money of the farmers as well as the subsidy amount. We will have to adopt

centralised approach for it. We will have to focus more on big dairy cooperatives because when large number of Bio Gasifiers will be installed at a single site, then only their effects will manifest.

Some very good things have happened by at national level, such as the National Clean Air Action Plan and the Breathe India Framework by NITI Aayog. The dashboard of Indair is very good. I had the privilege of using the awesome for two days. Anyone can get benefits and utilise the information acquired from Indair which stores the information about all ongoing researches and the inputs pertaining to this field. The Gujarat Government has launched Surat Emission Trading System for the particulate matter. The less polluting industries will be allowed to sell their emission credits which can be bought by the industries which are polluting more than the other industries. This will help generating extra income for the industries which are polluting less. For this, I congratulate the Government of Gujarat.

The Jharkhand Government has implemented the rating system on all the industries this time, wherein, one new gas will be added every year to this rating. This also brings awareness among the public about how the industries in their surroundings are cutting down their emissions. This is providing special ratings to the less polluting industries which will further benefit them. All these reforms cannot take place unless we improve ourselves. All human beings have the onus to handover the beautiful earth inherited from our ancestors safely to the next generation.

Sikkim is a beautiful example where couples adopt trees like their children and protect and nurture trees like their offspring. Last year, I had the opportunity to visit the river Narmada's Guari Ghat. After the *Aarti*, everyone was being made to take the oath that he/ she would not pollute the river by any means. We can succeed only through this kind of mass movement.

I would also like to congratulate the Government of Bihar that they have launched the Jal Jeevan Hariyali Mission and are implementing it very well. This will prove to be a milestone in tackling air pollution. This is possible. In 1952, the London smog was the example of the worst form of pollution in the world. But there is nothing like that in London today. Here, every person has to improve herself/ himself and the entire Parliament will have to put their best efforts towards that.

I conclude with the two lines written by Ramdhari Singh Dinkar ji:

“Samar shesh hai, nahin paap ka bhagi keval vyaadh;

Jo tatasth hai, samay likhega unke bhi aparaadh.”

The people who are not participating in this fight against pollution and are not working to tackle air pollution and climate change, will be derided at and abhorred by the future generation saying that it was the people of 21st century who devastated earth. The entire House needs to unequivocally work together to avoid this stigma.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Hon. Chairperson, please put on your headphone, so that you could understand the translation. Because, I will speak in Punjabi for which I have already given the notice.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I can understand Punjabi.

****SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** Hon. Madam Chairperson, I rise to speak on a grave matter of much significance. Today, we are discussing “Air-pollution and Climate change” under Rule 193.

* ...* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi

Ma'am, today, the current topic of utmost importance is the 'burning of stubble'. It is alleged that the burning of the stubble by farmers of Punjab, Haryana etc. has added to smoke and pollution woes in North India. *[Translation]* Hon. Chairperson Madam, I have a question. Who encourages these farmers to sow such crops where stubble has to be burnt in the end? Our farmers can sow maize, pearl millet, sunflower, oilseeds and pulses. However, there is no marketing facility for these crops. Where will the farmers sell these crops? Who will purchase these crops? There is no any provision of MSP for Millets. You have given MSP for those crops which generate stubbles. These non-stubble crops do not have favorable 'Minimum Support Price'(MSP). Remunerative MSP has been given for rice and wheat. Will such a large area be used only for growing paddy and will this ensure the record production of rice? Farmers are encouraged to sow paddy and wheat where stubble has to be burnt. When there is a bumper production of paddy, the Government is very happy at this record production. However, this is bound to lead to record burning of stubble.

Madam, the farmers of Punjab should be given another option. *

The farmers of Punjab do not want to burn stubbles because, the smoke emitted by the stubbles affects the lungs of their children first. But kindly do provide any alternatives to them. MSP can be sowed. But, there is a huge difference of income when one sows paddy in one acre and when one sows maize in one acre. The farmers can be induced to sow maize. Then, there will be no stubble and no stubble-burning. We are not sowing any illegal crops at all. If this crop is banned then why did you distribute its seeds? What are you doing? While on the one hand, you are procuring rice from us, on the other hand, you are blaming us for stubble burning. The food-grain provider is accused of being a criminal. So, do provide us better MSP for non-stubble crops.

V.K. Singh ji is sitting here. General Sahab, how much water does Punjab extract from the earth in a paddy season through Govind Sagar Lake? Our water level has gone down by 500-600 feet and in the coming days, there are apprehensions that Punjab may turn into a desert. We are affected from both the ends. We are hit with water crisis at one end and blamed for stubble burning at another end due to growing rice in Punjab. You tell me what is the fault of the farmers? You can suggest us some alternative crops. The land of Punjab is so fertile that if you sow anything, it will grow easily. But, please give us an alternative. Just sitting in AC rooms and ordering with a green pen will not work. I am also a landlord's son. I do farming myself. The Happy Seeder machines you are talking about is so expensive that it cannot be afforded by an ordinary landlord. For that also, a big tractor is needed which is further unaffordable to an ordinary landlord. What should we do? The landlord himself does not want to do this. Our former Deputy CM, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal alongwith his delegation had visited China to find out how China generates electricity from stubble. But nothing fruitful came out of it. Visit to China without any gains just added to the burden on the Government's exchequer. In China, electricity is also produced from stubble. ... (*Interruptions*) Kindly adopt it as fuel. But please guide us what to do with the stubbles and stop torturing us anymore. Dussehra, Diwali and burning of Stubble take place at an interval of 20 days each. Diwali after 20 days of Dussehra and stubble burning after 20 days of Dussehra, are all smoke-generating events. Now you are not saying anything about Diwali and Dussehra but you are blaming us for stubble burning. Arvind Kejriwal celebrated Diwali this year with a laser cracker in C.P. The laser crackers were set off. When fireworks in Dubai are exhibited, laser crackers are bursted which are not being stopped. Now, the smoke has also been classified into various castes. Please do not do that discrimination. It is enough about Parali. Now, we will follow the decision, what so ever is taken by the Government in this regard.

Secondly, a number of trees are being felled here. If you want to cut a tree in America or Canada, you have to obtain permission from the city administration. The city administration of Canada is a similar body to the municipal corporation of India. You have to obtain permission from the city administration to cut a tree there. You will have to plant 50 trees of the same species first, then you will be allowed to cut one tree, but here the Government itself fells trees. If the width of a road has been increased from 18 feet to 22 feet, the Government cuts all the trees, but what is the Government's program towards planting trees?...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): Delhi Government gives permission to fell or cut trees in Delhi, not the MCD.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Who controls MCD? ...(*Interruptions*) They consider Delhi as the country, everyone talks about Delhi only. ...(*Interruptions*) Madam, please make them sit. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Member, please sit down.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. BHAGWANT MANN: Hon. Madam, I would like to mention an example of water.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: How will you manage the world when you can't manage your own home? Please take your seat. Water supply to Delhi is curtailed only after some formal orders.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Madam, Bhakra canal originates from Bhakra Nangal and Sutlej river also originates from there only. ...(*Interruptions*) Madam,

our State has been named after rivers. Please allow me some more time. The water of Bhakra Canal remains blue in color and why does the water of Sutlej turn black in Ludhiana, because water is not pumped into Bhakra Canal from Punjab and this canal comes from Bhakra Nangal. Dumping is being done in Sutlej river by Budha Nala drain and other drains. The River Thames is in London. It used to be very polluted because of sewage water flowing into it. Sewage treatment plants were set up there and sewage water was ultimately stopped from flowing into the Thames River. Today Thames River is the earning river of London. There are river cruises taking place on this river. There is a similar river in France as well. They have also converted their polluted river into an earning river, so why can't we? Baba Seechewal and Baba Sewa Singh are environment lovers, who are working in this direction but they are not being allowed to work.

We are celebrating the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He has composed many *Vaanis*. If we follow even one line from them, then the climate of the whole world can be saved. 'Pawan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahat'. Wind has been given the status of Guru, water as a father and earth is given the status of a mother, if all the three statuses are maintained, then the climate of the whole world can be saved.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Madam Chairperson, first of all, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak under Rule 193 on this important issue of climate change and air pollution. When you gave permission under Rule 193 two days ago, most of the people talked only about Delhi, whereas not only Delhi is troubled by this problem, but people of many cities of the country are troubled by the problem of pollution.

When we became Member of Parliament and came here, we thought that we will get the admission of our children here. But seeing the pollution here, our children said that they will not study here, they will study in Jaipur only. They do

not want to get their admission in Delhi. The Members of Parliament themselves began to fear how to live in Delhi. Delhi is also one of the ten most polluted cities in the world. If the Government wants then, along with Delhi, Kolkata, Kanpur and many other cities in India, can be made pollution free. The fellow Parliamentarians who spoke before me also said one thing that certainly we have to keep a big vision about the environment. Climate is one of the controlling factors of the environment. Natural vegetation, soil, animals etc. are affected by the climate.

I had raised an issue related to the Sambhar Lake yesterday. This is a big lake, where salt is produced. It is on the border of Nagaur and Jaipur. 15,000 birds have died there and this included Siberian cranes also. The main reason for that was also pollution.

Climate affects the mental and physical activities of human beings. Climate is the most influential of the elements that affect humans, because it also controls other factors of the environment.

I would like to quote a report that the most obvious and overall most dangerous side effect of global warming is the continuous warming of the atmosphere. After years of intensive study, scientists have found that the temperature of the earth is certainly increasing. Since the middle of the 19th century, the temperature of the earth has increased by 0.5 degree Celsius. If this condition continues, then in every decade the temperature of the earth may increase by 0.2 to 0.5 degree Celsius.

All of us together will have to worry about this country, we will have to worry about the mankind. It is the capital of the country. The way Delhi is moving towards pollution continuously for the last three-four years, it is a matter of great concern. If the city from where the country's Government runs is not pollution free, then I don't think other cities would become pollution free.

I do not agree for us to say that pollution is being caused only due to stubble burning. Many friends have shared their views on climate change. Today there are many other reasons including the increasing number of vehicles, due to which pollution increases. Unfortunately, only the farmers were solely held responsible for pollution by stubble burning. Stubble burning contributes only three to four percent pollution.

Just before me, the MP from Punjab had said that when our delegation went to China, they got to know that China is producing electricity from stubble. Before the stubble is burnt in Haryana and Punjab, if the Government of Delhi could direct the Government of Haryana and Punjab to purchase that stubble from the farmers and use it for electricity generation then that will certainly boost the generation of electricity also. ... *(Interruptions)*

All the industries in Delhi-NCR should be shifted out of here. There is a huge garbage dump on the Ghazipur-Delhi bypass, is also a major cause for pollution in Delhi. I believe that for this we have to rise above the party line and work to save mankind. Certainly, our Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are worried in this regard. The statements of the leaders of AAP party regarding pollution of Delhi appear in the newspapers daily. Somewhere or the other they want to make it a political issue. This should not be made a political issue.

I would like to request that the Pusa Agricultural Research Institute has made de-composer pills. With the help of these pills we can make manure without burning the stubble. The Government should find such a way that the farmer does not have to burn stubble so that the farmer is not held responsible for pollution in any way.

If I talk about Rajasthan, there is a lot of pollution is caused from industries in Balotra of Pali-Barmer and many other districts nearby Jaipur, this has also

affected agriculture. That's why I think it is wrong to hold only the farmer responsible.

The rapidly increasing world's population has led to optimum exploitation of natural resources. Large cities devoid of vegetation and greenery are becoming barren due to increasing industrialization. This is also a major cause of pollution. Together we will have to reduce the factors responsible for environmental pollution.

Hon. Madam Chairperson, I have a request regarding Rajasthan. The effluent water being released from factories in Ludhiana gets mixed with drinking water meant for Punjab, Ganganagar and Hanumangarh which comes through Indira Gandhi Canal. It has got maximum cancer patients in that area. A train in that area has been named as 'cancer train'.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Jal Shakti who is from Rajasthan and to the Hon. Prime Minister that half the population of Rajasthan and the entire population of Punjab are affected by this. The untreated water and chemicals of those factories should be prevented from being discharged into the Indira Gandhi Canal and electricity may be generated and used by setting up new plants, processing the waste. In order to save this human race, everyone should rise above the party lines and do such work. Let us come together and rise above party politics to save mankind.

Now, I would like to thank the Hon. Speaker for conducting a discussion on 193 considering the demands of the ruling party and opposition and for giving the opportunity to all the parties to express their views freely for two days. You have also given me the opportunity to speak. We are with you and we will continue to support you. Thank you. Jai Hind.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGPAT): Chairperson Madam, thank you very much. Today, there are two major issues before the whole world and mankind. One issue is related to the environment and the other is terrorism. I congratulate the respected Prime Minister, Modi ji for the initiative he has taken and the leadership he has shown before the world to check the said two issues.

Hon. Chairperson Madam, in today's era, the man forgets what he is leaving behind in the race of science and development. When the constitution of the country was written, there was no article related to air, water and land pollution. The Industrial Revolution came and many facilities came in the name of development such as vehicles, ACs etc. Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides started to be used with the increasing population. In the 1960s, the world realized that we have to be alert and aware.

Madam, through you, I would like to tell that a book named 'Silent Spring' was written in America in 1962. It was written by Rachel Carson. She raised her voice about the adverse effects of chemical fertilizers and insecticides in America, air pollution and how to ban these things.

In 1972, Stockholm Conference was organized at world level. Serious discussions took place in the conference and the Governments all over the world took decisions. After that various countries started to enact laws. The Constitution of India was first amended in 1970 for the first time and Article-48 was added in the Indian Constitution under the name of Directive Principles of State Policy. *[English]* Article 48A of the Indian Constitution states that:

“The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country.”

[Translation] This was the first amendment made in 1970. This amendment incorporated Article 51 which dictates the fundamental duties

of a citizens in the country. *[English]* Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution states that:

“It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.”

[Translation]

Madam, after this in 1974, the World Food Conference was organized. On one side, the discussions were going on about how to provide food for rising population and on the other side, how to control use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Again in 1976, another book was written, - “How the other half dies”. My fellow Members have perhaps not read it. The book talks about the mode of farming being practised outside America, how agriculture education came in India, how research came, how organic farming has ended and how the farmers have incurred loss. This book is worth reading. After that, work on the Air Pollution Act, Water Pollution Act and Forest Act was started in our country. Ever since the Hon. Modi ji’s Government came to power, the Government has taken historical steps to reduce pollution.

Hon. Chairperson Madam, I need some time. Without repetition I would like to say that most people know how greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons affect the environment and how the ozone layer is getting thin or depleted and how our atmosphere which is extending 20 to 30 kilometers high is getting destroyed and how the ozone layer prevents the ultraviolet rays emitted from the sun. India is the signatory at the international level. The Montreal Protocol was there in 1987 and the Earth Summit took place in 1992, the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2016 which were signed by India. Then, India decided to reduce the effects of greenhouse gases by 35

percent by the year 2030. We have also decided that by the year 2020, we will generate at least 40 percent of our electricity from renewable sources.

I would like to also congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji for the fact that under his guidance, the Ministry of Power has done exceptional work under the leadership of Shri Piyush Goyal in the beginning and later under Shri R.K.Singh. Along with them, the work done by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji is also commendable. Under the Ujjwala scheme, gas connections were given to more than 8 crore households. We do stubble burning. Could you imagine if the 8 crore households in village has used earthen cookstoves, how much the air pollution would have caused. We are not thinking it. We only blame thousands of farmers. We should think about how much we have benefited from the scheme. When we give gas connections to 8 crore people, we give clean air. It is a great achievement.

Madam, if we had not given these gas connections, think about the damage we would have caused to the forests. We can estimate the foreign exchange we have saved by not using kerosene. The Ujjala scheme was started in January, 2015. Under this scheme, 36 crore LED bulbs were installed. 8 lakh fans and 23 lakh tube lights were given. Almost 21 lakh LED bulbs were installed on roads. I would congratulate Shri R.K. Singh Ji that under his leadership, 32 billion kilowatt hour of electricity was saved in a year. If we had generated this much electricity, we would have used around 1.9 million tonnes of coal. Due to the LED bulbs installed by the Government of India under the Ujjala scheme, 25 million tonnes of carbon dioxide has been reduced. It has greatly benefited. If we had planted 60 crore trees for 10 years, then we could have benefited this much. Ujjala scheme has saved Rs. 12,400 crore in electricity bills of the people.

Madam, similarly in 2019, India announced in the UN Climate Summit that we will make renewable energy. Our target was to set up 175 GW renewable

energy by the year 2022 but we have increased the target to 450 GW. As compared to 2016, we will generate 16 times more solar power. The Modi Government has fixed such a big target for this. For the first time, Modi ji formed the International Solar Alliance with 21 countries. In comparison to 2014, today, we generate 8-9 times more solar energy. We have crossed our target of 20 GW. By 2022, we will generate 16 GW of solar energy which will stop air pollution in the country. We have set up 42 solar parks. Till September 2019, renewable energy projects of 82580 MW have been installed in India. Therefore, on behalf of all the people, I congratulate the Ministry of Power.

Free electricity connections have been provided to 2.6 crore households under Saubhagya Yojana. If electricity had not reached these houses, how much pollution would have been generated? Vehicles account for 25 to 30 percent of pollution. Earlier, BS-III grade fuel was available across the country. From the year 2016, the Government has started to provide BS-IV grade fuel across the country. Let us talk about Delhi. The Government has started supplying BS-6 grade fuel in Delhi NCR. Metro rail services were introduced. The Government provided an alternate route to about 60,000 heavy duty trucks that used to enter Delhi, by constructing an Eastern-Western peripheral Expressway. The Government has introduced lakhs of e-rickshaws in the country. The Government has built about 500 CNG stations. The Government has introduced new technology for the kilns operation. The Government has come up with a plan to introduce electric vehicles. The Government has introduced the Biofuel Policy. Now, ethanol based clean fuel would be available. The Government has worked on the project for making electricity under the Waste to Energy Programme.

Madam, along with this, I would also like to tell how much progress we have made in the last five years. The Government has modern thinking. It does not mean that the Government has recently started to think about pollution. As I

said, although it has no mention in the Indian Constitution, if you read Kautilya's Arthashastra, Kautilya has written that there are three types of pollution. One is air pollution, second is water pollution and third is land pollution. Air pollution spreads rapidly and can also be controlled quickly. Water pollution takes longer to get cleared. If the land gets polluted, it takes a lot of time to restore it back.

Air is essential for sustaining life. No one can live without air. We too cannot survive without air. We can't survive even in this condition. That's why; a lot of emphasis has been given in our scriptures about how to make air breathable. That's why they have considered air as a form of divinity.

“vayurythaiko bhuvanmbh pravishtho rupam rupam pratirupo babhuvah

Ekastatha Sarvabhutaantratma rupam rupam pratirupo bahishch.”

We saw divinity in the air and hence we made it mandatory to keep the air clean. Each one of us sitting here, however good a person is, however learned, however strong, each one pollutes the air. Whether we do it through our breath or through our excreta, but every single person pollutes the air. When we pollute the air, it also becomes our responsibility to purify it. That's why it is said in our scriptures that every person, every householder should perform Agnihotra and Yagya at least daily. Some people may have doubts about the efficacy of Agnihotra ritual, but this is a scientific thing. Many experiments have been done to verify this ritual. A lot of experiments have been done on this matter. I would also like to request the Government that the way we plant trees to reduce pollution, the same way we should experiment to find out whether air pollution can also be reduced by this ritual? Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Chairperson Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important discussion on pollution and climate change. Today, pollution has become a huge problem at the global level and especially for our own country. That's why it is very important to have a debate on this subject in this House.

Madam, a report on the India Disease Burden Initiative for the year 2017 was published in the Lancet Planetary Health Journal. In which it has been written that air pollution is one of the other major cause of diseases in India at present. Air Pollution contributes ten percent to India's disease burden. I would also like to explain this through an example that the particulate matter which are smaller than ten micrometers in size, is one of the biggest causes of outdoor pollution. If it enters the human body, it directly affects the lungs deeply. It has a serious effect. It becomes the reason for all the respiratory diseases. In this regard, Central Pollution Control Board, along with all the State Pollution Control Boards, has identified 339 cities across the country where pollution level is very high. There, efforts are being made to monitor the air quality. Most of these 339 cities are such where the level of Particulate Matter 10 is much higher than the standard limit. WHO has also said in its report in the year 2018 that out of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of Particulate Matter 2.5 level, 14 such cities are in the India alone. So, we need to make efforts in the direction to bring down the level of both Particulate Matter 2.5 and Particulate Matter 10. In the Delhi NCR region, the problem of pollution has become serious in the last several years. During the winter season, when the level of particulate matter increases in Delhi NCR, the air becomes so toxic that even breathing becomes difficult here.

This time such a dangerous situation has arisen that the Hon. Supreme Court had to declare Air Emergency and Health Emergency. When the media, newspapers and the general public discussed this problem, burning of stubble by

the farmers emerged as one of the main reasons. Just two days ago, late at night, I had gone to Dohri village of Jamalpur block of Mirzapur area to attend a marriage ceremony. Madam, I have seen that farmers are suffering due to this blame game. There, all the farmers of Dohri village in my area were present. They told me that the administration has banned the use of harvesters, thinking that the farmers will burn the stubble after that. Farmers' crops are standing ready and they are not able to harvest it. Now, their concern is how the sowing of the Rabi crop would take place. So this thought that the stubble burning is the reason for pollution increase has started to cause a lot of troubles for the farmers. A lot of injustice has been meted out to them. But, we all intellectual friends are discussing it sitting here. Everyone understands that stubble burning by farmers alone is not the only reason for pollution. Sure, it may have some contribution, but the bigger contributors are the dust particles released from construction sites, and by burning wood or coal. Pollution is also caused by emission from motor vehicles. Even the garbage that is spread everywhere, which we are not able to manage, is also a major cause of pollution. Until and unless we try to address all these reasons in a comprehensive manner, it would be difficult to control this deepening crisis of air pollution.

Madam, in this regard, the Parliamentary Standing Committee has submitted its report on Air Pollution in Delhi NCR in the year 2018. It had given some important proposals and suggestions. In which, the first suggestion was related to the problem of stubble burning by the farmers of the country. The farmers should be provided with some practical and scientific solutions. Financial assistance should be provided to the farmers. They should be educated to take up the alternative crops like – Maize or Pulses or the way the stubble can be used as alternative sources of raw material in Biogas or Paper or Cardboard manufacturing units. Creating awareness about the said facts among the farmers was suggested in a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. In addition

to that, the Committee also suggested for the strict implementation of the construction guidelines set by the Central Pollution Control Board. It further suggested for setting up suitable mechanism by the concerned State Governments to control road dusts. Moreover, it also mentioned about the major problem of Municipal Solid Waste Management in Delhi, wherein, the Delhi Government was stated to be underutilizing its capacity to manage solid wastes. The said capacity is also required to be increased. All these suggestions were proposed by the Standing Committee.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what measures have been taken by the Government on these suggestions. The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change launched an important scheme between the period of 2018 to 2020, wherein, Rs. 1152 crore had been allocated for in-situ crop residue management. Apart from that, the National Clean Air Programme which was launched in the year 2019 has set the target for reducing the level of particulate matter 2.5 and particulate matter 10 by 20 percent and 30 percent respectively by the year 2024. Under the said scheme, Rs. 10 crore were allocated for those 28 cities where the level of particulate matter 10 is much higher than the normal limit. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the specific action plan regarding the utilisation of funds and achievement of the target set to reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 level by 20 and 30 percent respectively achieved by the year 2024. How will we move ahead in this regard. Besides this, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change also took some additional steps like - promoting CNG, LPG and Ethanol blended fuel, shifting directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standard, promoting public transport and many others measures including supporting the 'Say No to Single Use Plastic' campaign launched by the Hon. Prime Minister and the revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time. Today we definitely need to review our action plan and pollution control measures, as we are not able to bring down the level of pollution despite

making enormous efforts. We need to identify the obstacles hindering us from achieving goals despite taking the right direction. Most importantly, I would like to say that so far as pollution is concerned, the problem of pollution is not such that it can be addressed only through the Government measures. The way we created awareness about cleanliness, similarly, we need to create awareness among the people about pollution. Because, the pollution is such a grave problem that cannot be addressed merely by officially setting targets on papers, unless we create awareness, consciousness and sensitivity towards pollution in the society. Therefore, through this House, I would like to appeal to the society to become the partners of the Government, because, this problem will keep growing unless we make it a comprehensive campaign of public participation. We are going to create such a dreadful situation that perhaps, the coming generation will not forgive us for it. Therefore, we all, including the Government and every person of the society need to take effective measures against pollution considering it as the collective responsibility. Thank you very much.

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Madam, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Air Pollution and Climate Change under the rule 193. It is the second day of discussion. I can understand that the entire country is worried about how to improve the weather conditions of the country which have got disrupted due to climate change leading to vagary of weathers. We are the public representatives who have been elected as the members of the parliament to the world's largest democracy. Definitely, we need to discuss the matters of national importance. Today, we are facing the problems of low rainfall during monsoon, extremely high temperature during summers and very short span of winter season with just moderately low temperature all across the country. Not only the common man of the country, but the Hon. Prime Minister himself is also worried about that. I agree to what Satyapal Ji has rightly said recently. Today, the entire country is grappling with the Climate Change. I have witnessed this in Bihar where I belong to. On one hand, drought has been declared in Bihar, same time on the other hand, the untimely heavy rainfall has caused flood in entire Bihar. Patna got submerged which became a national issue and was discussed all across the country. It was an unprecedented historical rainfall which was witnessed only 30-35 years ago.

We want to discuss more about the Climate Change as we belong to villages. The farmers have been continuously affected by this event. The rivers are not dredged and cleaned regularly. Silt is accumulating in existing wells and ponds are being filled. Everyone is encroaching upon the Government's and public land. High rise buildings are mushrooming. We need to check all these activities. I am saying this, because, almost every State is facing the similar problems of drought and flood. Be it the people from Maharashtra or Madhya Pradesh, everyone is concerned about that, therefore, we should have discussion on this issue. In my opinion, the Government should take decision on the lines of the Government of Bihar which launched Jal Jeevan Hariyali Mission to address

the said issue. I welcome this step. I think that Bihar is the only State all across the country which has shown concern for Climate Change. The Hon. Chief Minister of the State has made an effort to address the said problem by implementing this scheme. Each of the Panchayats in the State has taken at least one of the schemes costing Rs. three crore or Rs. four crore, the Hon. Chief Minister has launched 8500 such schemes and the works under the schemes have been started. This is a great initiative. No further work required to be done in that regard. We should also take lesson from the said initiative that we must restore the condition of water and food resources which were the essential component of the nature. Today, trees are being cut down and deforestation has become rampant which should be banned. Forests are being cleared if construction of building is required. Today, the Government is continuously endeavoring to restore the forests. Our Bihar Government is making efforts to encourage every person to plant at least one tree and to protect it also. This is the effort made by our Hon. Chief Minister. The State Government of Bihar proposes to plant 22 crore trees within next three years. The other States also need to learn a lesson from the debate going on here today. Our future generation cannot improve unless we improve ourselves. Therefore, we should take care of that.

Madam, today, everyone wants to reside in a metropolitan city which is the capital of either any States or the country. They want to live in these cities because the facilities of flight services, metro facilities, supply of electricity and potable water are available there. Because of these facilities the population is rapidly increasing in the cities like – Delhi and Patna. There is a need to check population growth. Today, more industries are being set up in the cities like – Delhi which are already densely populated. This will undoubtedly increase the level of pollution. Earlier, only the problem of air pollution appeared before us. Now, the problem of land pollution is also emerging. Stubble burning does not only cause air pollution but also degrade the soil by burning the land which does not let the

plants grow easily. We should also be concerned about that. Stubble burning does not merely cause air pollution but land pollution too. In that area, more fertilizers are required to be used for crop production. There, DAP has to be used more. I think this also needs to be focused upon. Today, climate change is being discussed all over the country and about how its policy should be made and I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister towards this. Many works have been carried out through your initiative. Many fellow Members who spoke before me were talking about this. I understand that the Hon. Prime Minister intends to connect the rivers. This scheme was also implemented by the NDA Government at the time of Shri Atal ji. The Government should make arrangements to interlink rivers, prevent the wastage of rainwater flowing into the sea and also prevent the water from flowing in the wrong direction. This is also causing the condition of the farmers to become worse. The level of groundwater is continuously decreasing. There should be arrangements for water harvesting also. The Government also take the initiative on this as well. The problem of pollution is not only in Delhi but in many other cities. We are not talking only about the Delhi Government. In the future, there will be problems in getting oxygen in view of the increasing population. We are not planting trees but we are felling them. Big apartments are being constructed in big cities like Delhi. If you travel from Gurgaon to Delhi, you can see that there are no trees, plants no forests on the way. Today, these are necessary. Every individual thinks that way.

16.00 hrs

The Hon. Prime Minister thinks that we should control the pollution by implementing various schemes like Atal Jyoti Yojana and by using battery vehicles. Every Government wants to do this but there is a difference between talking about this and taking initiative for this. Then only the country will become free of pollution. There are many areas where climate change is not taking place

as much. We should learn from these places also. Let us take Hamirpur. That place has a clean environment. The people in that area say that they will not go to Delhi and they want to study in Hamirpur itself. Therefore, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during the discussion being held today on climate change and air pollution. With this, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Madam, whenever I rise to speak before the House, I am concerned about one thing. We have been elected to this House and the Hon. Ministers of the country are sitting here. But in between all this, we keep getting direction from the Hon. Supreme Court and after that, we make discussions in this House and several times, we also make laws as per the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court. At that time, I think that we were not doing the work that we all should have been done.

This topic started with the pollution in Delhi. When I checked its data, I saw that the Hon. Supreme Court had mentioned the pollution in Delhi in around eight-ten petitions. Recently on 06.11.2019 and 13.11.2019, the Hon. Supreme Court strictly instructed us to take decisions in this regard. At that time, I was really concerned that the Hon. Supreme Court had to instruct, guide and advise us many times and we take further action on that. We have to take at least one step ahead because we are the foremost component out of the three major components of this country. This thing is very concerning.

There are two points of this ongoing discussion. One is air pollution and the other is climate change. Madam, climate change is such a big topic in itself on which many things can be said. But, in today's discussion, I will try to limit my speech to pollution. Madam, Delhi is an example. Whether it is Kota, the city of Hon. Speaker or Patna which is not a very big industrial city, the pollution level in Patna has reached to similar level of pollution in Delhi. Ghaziabad, Kanpur and Ranchi come in this category. It may be that since, all the Hon. Judges

are living in Delhi so they are more aware of the problem in Delhi but this problem is not limited to just one State or the capital city but this problem exists across the country and big cities have this problem. Therefore, we will have to take major decisions at the Centre level and I will further talk on this topic.

After all, what is its standard? Recently, someone gifted me a machine during Diwali. At first, I did not trust it but I installed it in my room. Colorful light comes from it. First, violet color came then after that, light blue light and so on. Then, on top of that, I started noticing some figures. It was an air purifier. At night, if you see a red light in it it means that the pollution level has crossed 300. I had no idea about it till the machine was installed. Madam, I would request you to install that machine in the House also so that all the Hon. Members can come to know about it from time to time and we all will become aware towards it.

16.04 hrs

(Shri Kodikunnil Suresh *in the Chair*)

Sir, God has created nature, trees, and mountains and has given everything for free. The most important thing that God has given for free on which everyone has equal rights is oxygen. It is also a part of our body which works selflessly. It functions when you are sleeping, studying and giving a speech. It is there even during the discussion about Shri Giriraj ji. It is also there when we discuss about the Hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)* It is a part of our body which never needs anything. It functions even when we are sick. Even when you are sad, sick and until your last breath it continues functioning. That is our heart. It never asks anyone what they are doing. It always functions while we are sleeping, sick and breathing. It only needs one thing and that is oxygen. Without asking anything, it continues to serve you. If we are not in a position to give it good oxygen, it might not function properly. Therefore certain standards have been fixed. If it is below 50, it is good.

I have a friend named Henry George. He stays in America. When I took training to fly airplanes, I was there in his institute. He keeps coming to India. He said he wants to come in December and January. I welcomed him for both months. He stays in Miami where I took training. I talked about Miami and he wrote back that - *[English]* I have read it in the newspaper that the pollution level there is very high. I prefer to come in January. *[Translation]* He stays in Miami. The air quality index in Miami is 20-20 similar to Davos. A person who genuinely wants to come to India has been discouraged to stay back because of the pollution. He said - *[English]* I will try to come in January. *[Translation]* Now look at how it affects the economy. When the air quality is bad, then how is it connected with the economy?

Sir, for a month, the revenue of the eateries in Delhi such as the eating outlets where people go in the evening every day to eat food or watch a movie has dipped to 20 percent because people have decided that they will not go to restaurants to eat food, market or visit industry or sightseeing. When the air quality index is below 50, it is considered good. If it is 50 to 100, it is still better. Similarly, air quality standards have been fixed. 200 to 300 is poor, 300 to 400 is very poor and 400-500 is considered severely poor. But, the pollution level of Delhi on the next day of Diwali was 900. All the people who stayed in Delhi on that day must have reduced at least a few days from their lifespan.

If we analyze these circumstances, it looks a bit scary. We had never thought like this. When we used to go to school in our childhood, we used to know that if it rained a lot, then there would be holidays. If the schools are getting closed due to air pollution then it automatically indicates that the situation is very severe. Obviously the Supreme Court will intervene in it. If we politicians and executive will not intervene, then who will intervene in it?

Sir, what is the reason behind it? Now we stereotype say that such things have happened in Delhi. In the summer season, when it is hot, wind blows at high speed and bring the dust from the desert of Rajasthan. That dust goes to big cities and other parts of the country due to various reasons. Even the particles of sand that fly from the desert of Saudi Arabia also travel to India. It is not that pollution is happening only between two States and is due to Punjab and Haryana. Pollution is such a issue that the world has started management course on it. How can one do Trans border management of pollution? We should not reduce our scope. I will also come to the topic how the Hon. Prime Minister of India took the issue to the international platform. I think that the pollution level behind the wall is limited.

Sir, what happens in winter? In winter, the temperature lowers and the moisture of the atmosphere decreases. The pollution level increases when the wind speed decreases. This is also one of the reasons. For some reasons, if the air stops blowing, the pollution level increases. For Example, the temperature is falling and the humidity is decreasing in Delhi now a days. There are natural remedies for this too, but we have not paid attention to these remedies. We have demolished it over the years. What is the reason behind it? Earlier this did not happen. Earlier also the temperature used to drop. There are many factors. We cannot talk about only one factor.

Sir, thousands of acres of land have been bought by people in many places around Delhi and in Aravali. Neither plants have been grown, nor has any kind of construction been done on it. Large tracts of real estate and thousands of hectares of land are lying vacant and barren around Delhi. They believe that they will not develop the land. They will develop it only when they will get good money from the Government or people. Who is our enemy other than these? Now, we should ask it to ourselves. If we see families in Delhi, the matter of odd-even has now become a political issue, but naturally there are four vehicles parked in

every house. The son has one, the daughter has one, the daughter-in-law has one, the father has one and nowadays even the staff comes in a car because they have to look after the household chores. This is also a significant reason.

Sir, there were many resources around Delhi, there were forests, mountains and natural lakes. I would like to express my gratitude, the Minister of State in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is sitting here, and not only him, we are fortunate that the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs has also arrived here, as we only focus on the fact that only the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is responsible for it. Sir, the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change alone is not responsible for it. A lot of infrastructure is involved in it. Whether it is the Minister of Roads, Transport and Highways, or the Minister of Rural Development, or the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, nothing will be gained unless all these departments intervene. When roads are being constructed, dust keeps on rising. Water is not sprinkled on dust. People from rural areas complain about it saying that their children are not able to go to school due to the dust. Big National Highways are being constructed. People living on the roadside and next to the construction site are feeling inconvenience. It is worth considering.

People from Trivandrum, Chennai think that they should migrate to a big city. People from Patna, Trivandrum come to Delhi and build houses here. People feel that if they live in capital, they would get 24 hours electricity and water. ...(*Interruptions*) People migrate to the big cities. My father came to Patna from my village Amnaur and due to that we got the benefit of good school and good city of Patna. Similarly, those who were affluent came to Delhi from Patna, Surat etc. They came here to live in the capital of the country.

Today, out of 1300 million people in India, 80 million people have migrated from villages to cities during the last 10 years. When there is no

development in the rural areas, naturally people will migrate towards the cities. Today the situation is changing. People need to be told this. Nowadays, if I go to Patna, Bihar, I do not stay in Patna, because the pollution level of Patna also reaches around 300. The Government and all of us have started participating in the building of the nation. The village where I live, which is 50-60 kms far from Patna, has 24 hours electricity, roads, ambulance, internet and also have clean air. The children of the country will also have to be told that now these facilities are also available in the villages. The Prime Minister of the country and the Government of India have done this amazing thing. Now the time has come that we can reverse migrate from city to villages. Now that time is coming.

I can say this with authenticity because I have spent my political life, now a days I often go to village, but in my youth, when I was an MLA, an MP, I lived in cities...*(Interruptions)* I used to prefer to live in cities. But now, in this age, I feel that if I live in the village, at least there will be no problem to the lungs and heart. Let me summarize it.

One thing I do not understand is that what is the fault of the poor farmers? One pollute the environment by vehicles, by building a house, by encroachment, by setting up number of industries, by driving a car, by spending petrol but instead why do we always blame the farmers? Some children died after having litchi in Bihar, the litchi was blamed and the crop of litchi was ruined. Anupriya ji is saying, now the harvest has been stopped. We educated people and especially we in the House target the farmers by saying that stubble is being burnt. This is one of the hundred factors. If you guide the poor farmers, provide them an alternative crop, they will adopt it. Every time we find the excuse to blame the farmers. The House should never accept that only farmers are to blame for the environment pollution. The House should not accept this at all. There are huge number of people to be blamed for that. There is a limit to the carrying capacity of cities.

That too is exhausting now. I told you the example. I am only talking about pollution right now. Sir, it seems that you are not in the mood to give a chance to talk on climate change, but still I will try to put the issue a little bit.

I would like to state something about Trans border pollution. When Syria is bombed, its oil fields are set on fire, what happens to Iraq? There is no Supreme Court. At one time there were around 40 lakh vultures in India. Now there are hardly fifteen or twenty thousand vultures left in India. When animals die, vultures do not come to eat the body. We have polluted the environment in such a way that the vultures are no more there. As a result, what happens when these animal carcasses start decaying? When animals die, the carcasses transmit anthrax and it flows through the air, it is so deadly that it can kill a human being, we read about it.

There are many such situations. We call it ISI winter, there has been so much bombing, so much damage, the whole atmosphere of the Middle East has deteriorated. We can go on with one factor alone. Look at America. Hon. Ministers are sitting here; Hon. Rajnath Ji is also sitting. In the year 1970, in view of the catastrophe, America enacted the Clean Air Act. In America, the success of implementing the Clean Air Act is visible for 45 years. *[English]* That Clean Air Act has been responsible for increasing the lifespan of Americans by more than 15 years. But that investment has gone to build up the productivity of the nation. By spending around 0.5 trillion dollars, they have had a GDP addition of 22.2 trillion dollars. We should take that as an example. *[Translation]* It has many benefits. One nation has displayed the manner in which the environment challenges need to be addressed. I would not like to discuss on the topic of Climate Change, they made the discussion so hasty that I couldn't speak at all, but still this much time is enough for me.

Sir, I would like to take the reference of Hon. Prime Minister. It is my right to speak upon the positive steps taken by the Hon. Prime Minister. The whole world has seen the event of Howdy India. The Hon. Prime Minister has done a very huge task which I think has never been done by any Prime Minister of the world. This has to be taken into cognizance that Climate Action Group was discussed in the UN General Assembly. *[English]* That was on 23rd September in New York.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rudy Ji, please conclude.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: You are not listening to me, Sir? If you listen to me, you will not ask me to conclude. But I will conclude in exactly in two minutes, Sir.

The Prime Minister talked about the Clean India Mission. Clean India Mission is not an ordinary programme. It could be words of a language when we say Clean India Mission. But the Clean India Mission is a philosophy which the Prime Minister of this country proposed. When he says, 'Swachh Bharat', it has a motivational aspect to each one of us. Swachh Bharat is not a scheme of the Government. *[Translation]* Many a time we people say that there is garbage over there, what is that? *[English]* Swachh Bharat is a philosophy of which the Prime Minister is a proponent and that is what we call the Clean India Mission. He talked about stopping usage of single-use plastic. He talked about many more things. He talked about increasing renewable energy target to 50 GW. Then he talked about something very interesting. *[Translation]* Everyone should take cognizance of this matter till conclusion. *[English]* He talked about a coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure. This House needs to debate on this aspect, on what the Prime Minister had told the UN. It has a huge connotation when he talked about a coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure. This includes almost everything of what we are talking about today. The Prime Minister has put in the key word here.

This key word is what we are going to talk about for the posterity. *[Translation]* Today, it is being spoken here in the House, we are not speaking for ourselves. We are speaking here for the next one thousand years. I believe that Hon. Prime Minister Sir has set the note. It takes some time. We people just keep shouting Climate Change, Climate Change. Earlier, it was used to be said in villages and rural areas that Climate Change is taking place, then no one used to understand that. But, now the Farmer says that the normal rainfall is not happening when it should have happened. A large number of moths used to come after Diwali, when we used to light up Diyas, they came on bulbs as well. The Farmers in countryside used to tell about the same. When we say that this in itself is Climate Change then it is taken to be absolutely correct in present times. The Climate is changing. Earlier, we had long been mentioning about this Climate Change, Climate Change but no one understood it at that time.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rudy Ji, please conclude. Your two minutes are also over.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I will conclude. My only point is we all have to become conscious to it.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: That is why you have got more time.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I try to fish out new things.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are a long speaker in this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I would like to complement upon one thing, which I have noticed in the last five years and in the period of these eight months. Now there is a seniority to enter the House, I have been sitting here since 1996, I

have been elected in between also and have also been to the other House. I would like to inform the Hon. Members, I would like to tell the people sitting in this House and this is also my personal observation, this observation is also shared with the country, no one should feel bad, the level of debate in this Session has been very high and very good for the last many sessions in this House. When MP Shri Kaushlendra ji speaks directly, Anupriya ji speaks, Pathak ji speaks, *[English]* it deserves a compliment and this credit goes to the Prime Minister of this country to have set the agenda to bring this level to the Parliament.

Thank you.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. While participating in this discussion, I feel that this is the noblest work an MP can do at this particular situation of climate change. This affects the very existence of the Universe and it affects the breathing of the nation. But what exactly is happening, Sir, is, we are spoiling ourselves and we are spoiling the future of the nation and the country in general.

Among the risk factors of diseases in India, air pollution ranks the second highest, only after malnutrition, accounting for 10 per cent of the disease burden. Air pollution causes premature death and disabilities. According to the findings of the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative, published in 2017, 12.4 lakh deaths, that is, 12.5 per cent of the deaths in India, were attributable to air pollution. As per the pollution database released by WHO in 2018, 14 Indian cities are among the 20 most polluted cities in the world. Recently, Supreme Court of India asked, how to breathe? That was the question of the Supreme Court of India. Over the last few days, in Delhi, we had bitter experience. There is some relief for 2-3 days but forecast says that the situation will deteriorate again. We all know that it is vital, significant, and a burning issue. How do we solve it? Many proposals have come.

The first point is with regard to carbon emissions. We are all talking about electric vehicles. I humbly submit that an expeditious action should be taken to manufacture electrical vehicles in a rapid manner. We must set a goal to make 25 per cent of private vehicles to be electrically powered by 2023, or so. We also have to tell the farmers to use the new vehicles so that climate change can be effected.

Our rivers are out of water. Poets have written poems and many novels have been written about that. We are all proud of our water bodies. But, unfortunately, what is happening, Sir? It is estimated that around 70 per cent of

surface water in India is unfit for consumption. Every day, almost 40 million litres of waste water enters rivers and other water bodies. Who is here to question? There is a Pollution Control Board. But, unfortunately, Pollution Control Board is not working effectively in this country. We have to revamp that.

Now, I will come to the next issue. We have numerous rivers like, Ganga, Yamuna, Kaveri, etc. In my constituency, Bharathappuzha river is there, and Chaliyar river is flowing through my village. But we have not been able to maintain their purity, cleanliness and the physical well-being. It is an unfortunate situation. Due to water pollution, there is an increase in the water-borne diseases. I would like to make some humble suggestions.

The manufacturers and importers must share some responsibility. They are responsible for polluting the air and water. The responsibility has to be fixed. Those who are polluting water and air should be punished. We should have stringent laws to punish these people. We have a number of laws but they are not working properly.

India is a member of the Paris Agreement. Paris Agreement is known as a Magna Carta on this. We have to set our goals. What should be our goals? In accordance with the Paris Agreement, we have a commitment. That is the main thing which I would like to point out.

Though we have a number of laws on pollution, in reality, our air, water, space and even our sea is polluted. All these legislations and guidelines are there but unfortunately their implementation is very poor.

The Government has taken a number of steps, like the ban on plastic. This should be strictly adhered to. The Government should be determined to act on it sincerely. Building rules must have strict provisions to prevent pollution. We have to amend our building rules accordingly.

At the school level itself we should create awareness among the children of the consequences of pollution. We have to make an effort on war footing to convert from coal-based energy system to renewable energy system. This has to be given maximum importance. As I have told in the beginning, this affects the mankind as a whole or I would say, not only mankind the entire population of different species living on the earth. I hope, the Government will take maximum possible steps in this regard.

I once again congratulate the man who has moved this discussion. This is a great move, as far as this House is concerned. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for this opportunity to speak on this extremely important subject because I had actually been leading an effort to have dealt with it for the last three years. I have taken the initiative to bring together a group of civil society stakeholders, health care experts, practitioners, Director-Generals of AIIMS, technical experts and a few fellow MPs who are willing to accept my invitation to an annual closed-door discussion on the magnitude of the current crisis of toxic air quality across our country.

The discussions in 2017, 2018 and also this year dealt not only with the current state of air quality but also extended to deliberations on what we could possibly do as concerned citizens and as elected representatives to create and implement a National Action Plan on cleaning up our air.

Since the inaugural meeting in 2017, this platform has brought together some of the most accomplished and experienced stakeholders on this issue of vital national importance, including for the first time this year, the hon. Minister of Environment, my good friend Shri Prakash Javadekar, who addressed the serious gathering in a comprehensive ideation of this Government's strategies to address air pollution. So, I think, we are on the right track and I am glad to see that the hon. Speaker has taken this conversation forward, at a time, when it simply cannot be ignored any more. The issue of air pollution has simply, until this debate, so far not been given the due recognition it deserves or even serious discussion within the walls of this august chamber. In a few times, it has become a political hot potato. It is always in the few weeks before and after Diwali and in fact, just after Diwali, is when the debate also peaks as does the AQI, the focus on urban centres is very often reduced to Delhi-Punjab debate and honestly, that misses the larger point. That is the situation we have. This is a national crisis. It is a perennial issue, not just in November. It is a pan-India problem that we must solve together.

In 2017, there was a report of the State of Global Air. There is one more last year. I have not seen it. It was published by the Health Effects Institute. It revealed that since 1990, the number of ozone-related deaths in India has risen by 150 per cent. It is a staggering figure. The economic implications of deteriorating air quality are ominous as well, with the 2013 World Bank study estimating that the welfare costs and lost labour income due to air pollution, cost the exchequer nearly 8.5 per cent of India's GDP. So, our GDP would have that much higher if we had dealt with our air successfully. Labour losses due to air pollution, in terms of the number of man-days lost, for instance, resulted in an estimated and calculated loss of 55.39 billion dollars in a single year and further premature deaths will cost our country an estimated 505 billion or roughly 7.6 per cent in this coming Fiscal Year. The effect on our quality of life is also incalculable. We cannot do it in numbers. But I remember that when I was a student at Delhi University in the early 70s, September to February used to be the best months of the year. Today, let us face it that these are the worst months of the year.

I can talk about a diplomatic friend of mine, who after three years' service in Delhi, was taking his exit medical examination. His doctor asked him, 'How many packs of cigarettes do you smoke every day.' The poor diplomat protested saying that he is a non-smoker and he had never smoked in his life. But the doctor said that his lungs show otherwise. The poor chap has never lit up. He had merely been breathing Delhi's smoggy air three winters in a row. It really is that bad.

The New York Times former India correspondent, Gardiner Harris wrote a famous or perhaps, to many of us a notorious, article in the year 2015 in which he explained why he was leaving his post prematurely. He says merely living in Delhi is damaging my children's health. Describing the asthma and the travails of his eight years old son, Harris wrote and I quote, 'That Delhi was suffering from a dire paediatric respiratory crisis, with a recent study showing that nearly

half the city's 4.4 million school children have irreversible lung damage from the poisonous air.' He said that his other expatriates, posted in Delhi, were pursuing their careers at their children's expense. He concluded by saying that it was unethical for him and those who have a choice to willingly raise children here. So, he picked up his kids and left India and wrote about it. This is a kind of a thing that makes, as Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy was mentioning, many foreigners hesitate to even come to our country. *[Translation]* Rudy Sahib was saying that I can tell the condition of people when they come to Delhi from Thiruvananthapuram. I come to Delhi every week from Thiruvananthapuram. I would say that when I get off the plane, I cough, when I inhale, I cough. *[English]* That is the experience of all of us in Delhi and this is a situation that we are finding ourselves in the Nation's capital. The New York Times' correspondent has a choice. Unfortunately, MPs and most Indians do not have that choice. So, a study was conducted by the Kolkata-based Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute. They found that the key indicators of respiratory health and lung function are markedly worse among the school children in Delhi, between four and seventeen years of age than their counterparts elsewhere. In fact, the figures are twice to four times as bad for children in Delhi than in other places. According to the Cancer Institute, these are not reversible.

So, it is actually true to say that bringing up our children in Delhi, is a crime against our children. Toxic air quality is a silent killer and today, in India, the air we breathe, has itself become a public health crisis -- one that is slowly, but surely crippling our country. But at the same time, this is not politics. It is because honestly it is like what I have been saying for some time about our foreign policy. I always say there is no BJP foreign policy, or Congress foreign policy, there is only Indian foreign policy -- so too, with our air quality. Our political differences on the subject have to end where the stratosphere begins because you and I and all the other hon. Members from other political parties are breathing the same air.

There is only one Indian air quality. Currently it is very bad and we need to address its toxicity together. It is a problem that can be addressed if the right kind of sustained campaign focuses on both short-term and long-term interventions on this issue.

Take for example, China's action. As recently as 2013 they had peak toxicity. They were higher than us. Beijing was ranked worse than Delhi. But with public scrutiny mounting in the wake of Beijing Olympics, China formulated the National Air Pollution Action Plan which imposed stringent controls on emissions, strict guidelines for air quality checks and China's air quality strategy since, though in an incipient stage, has made a lot of difference and Beijing is no longer joining us or competing with us for the worst polluted city in the world. That is a valuable lesson we can learn.

Of course, India is not China. We are a democracy where the smallest voice matters and where the means are as important as the ends. So, we cannot have any compulsions or methods that the Chinese used. But we can certainly see what worked there that we can borrow here. Today somebody put on social media the video of the star that they have in Beijing. That soaks up the smog, converts it into carbon particles and then they are compressed into diamond and if you buy a diamond ring, you are actually donating to cure the smog of Beijing. Now, if they can do that in Beijing, is there a possibility of doing it in Delhi? That is worth finding out. I just feel that we should explore what others have done. We do not have to reinvent the wheel.

India, of course, has shown commitment and willingness by way of the National Clean Air Programme. It is important -- and as others have been saying that there is involvement of the Government in the Copenhagen Agreement, the Paris Agreement and so on. But still the pace of action at home in terms of what we are all breathing has been found wanting. Let us accept that our wealth of civil

society stakeholders and technical experts have not been adequately consulted. There has been very limited public consultation by the Government on the plan and its targets. The timing is also a matter of concern because the plan was announced just as the previous Government, that is the Modi Government Part I, had just wound up its term and there was obviously immediately no follow up. We need to pick up the threads in now Modi Part II, or BJP Part II or NDA Part II is probably what you want me to say and actually resume concrete steps towards implementation. I think, this discussion alone is not enough. The Minister should really come to the Parliament and specify an Action Plan saying that the Government, and all of us, must do this by such and such timeline and only then, will we make measurable progress. Making speeches we can all do and that is what, we are here to do but we have to have concrete action.

I do want to say that it is concerning that the National Plan, as I have read, has no legal measures incorporated within it to ensure accountability or penalise non-implementation which will limit the effectiveness of the Plan. If it was converted into an Act, into a New National Clean Air Act, debated in Parliament and voted in Parliament, it will have the force of law. That is something I strongly recommend to convey to the Environment Minister.

So, to summarise, the Action Plan, in my view, must be ambitious; it must bring in the best tech-based innovations and interventions wedded to our age-old heritage of sustainable practice and of course conservation because we have things worth conserving. We need to accept that our present infrastructure is insufficient. Even to monitor the scale of toxicity in air quality we have not done a great job. I know some of us have apps on our mobile phones that give us the AQI. But the fact is in many parts of India it is not available. Look at rural India where the *chulha* continues to burn out the lungs of citizens who have no

affordable alternatives that they can use. There is a problem even in rural India. It is not that we only suffer in Delhi.

Secondly, the Plan must be courageous in its guidelines. There must be tough guidelines and targets. I have already mentioned that and I will not repeat it. We must, of course, be conscious not to weaken the weakest in our society. Some have spoken very emotionally about our farmers and how the burden should not be put on them because stubble burning is a cost saving practice and so on. Well, the Government has the money and resources to give them a viable and a cost-saving alternative. In a diverse democracy like us we have to take all stakeholders along.

Thirdly, we must have a collaborative action plan. We must bring together the best minds in our country. We must take the civil society on board and use our technical resources and the vast knowledge pool which we are blessed to have. I must say that I met many very impressive experts on the question of air quality who are frustrated that they cannot even get an audience with the members of the executive dealing with this issue. It is important that we now work together in a collaborative spirit and that is why, I convened my round table all these years in order to create a platform that will strengthen these bridges. I hope that Parliament can be the right forum to take it forward.

We all realise that this is not going to change overnight or even in a year or two or even by the end of this Parliament in four-and-a-half years. But the fact is, we must sow the seeds of our campaign against toxic air now, if we want to breath better air when we come back, if we come back, in the next term of Parliament. It is genuinely not too late. The fact is, that this national crisis cannot just be confronted after Diwali or in the winter months. It is extremely important that we understand the urgency of this as well as the widespread impact that our actions need to have and should have across the country.

I do want to stress that it is not just an environmental issue and only the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is listening to our debate but it is also a national health issue. As I mentioned, the Director-General of AIIMS is an expert in respiratory illnesses. Doctors have testified on the health crisis of this issue. It is an economic and development issue as I gave you the figures from the World Bank. It is an issue of how India consumes, how India travels and it is also an issue that is central to the future of our country.

I hope, we will come up with equitable solutions, come up with collaborative solutions that redefine the political will for a legislative approach to implementing an effective National Clean Air Policy. I do want to finally say that I believe that we have the will and the capacity for it. Do not forget what the British had reduced us to by 1947 and how we have climbed up from then to what we are today. We were a poster child of poverty, disease and destitution. Today, we are a thriving economy and society. We can find the same will power to conquer this challenge of toxic air.

I do believe that since this is something which affects all of us, we should work together and just as for John F. Kennedy, the moonshot was the great aspiration of his generation, I would urge that we make cleaning up of our air the moonshot of our times so that we are finally in a position to give our children and grandchildren decent air to breathe in a country in which we can be proud to live with health and contentment.

Thank you and Jai Hind!

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM): Sir, I thank you for this opportunity to express my views on the need of the hour not only in Delhi but in the country and the world as a whole.

I would like to start with Shanti Niketan which has been started by the father of Rabindranath Tagore wherein they used to teach in the open with the nature saying that nature is the best teacher among all the teachers but today, the situation in our country is different. In Delhi, we have seen that because of environmental problems, the schools were closed. From open air schools, we have come to the level of closing down of schools. That shows the gravity of the situation.

The famous humourist and one of the greatest writers of this century, Mark Twain who is also a chain smoker said that he has taken a decision not to smoke at night. If he would have been in Delhi, he would have had to change that option also. Such is the situation in Delhi today.

I will speak about Delhi and then move on to other parts of the country. The main reason for the environmental problems in Delhi is because of North Westerly winds settling almost in Delhi and the power plants surrounding Delhi, especially coal based power plants, not having the perfect FGD. So, the SO_x and NO_x levels are a little higher compared to the international norms. The dust pollution, the SO_x, and all such pollutants, because of the lower wind velocities and because of the temperature in the winters, are getting settled here. So, ideally, we should look at the solution where power can be transmitted from a distance. Now, we also have the National Grid. We should dismantle the plants, as much as possible, in and around Delhi or within the 100 kilometres of radius, and move them away. The hon. Prime Minister is giving a lot of impetus to renewable energy, especially the solar and wind. Since we have the national grid, we should move more towards the renewable energy. We cannot avoid coal-based plants but we should move them far away from the habitations, especially from Delhi.

The other problem for Delhi is stubble burning which is done in Punjab and Haryana. There is a solution for that. All the Western Countries have banned

stubble burning almost several decades back. For us, there is a solution. If we provide the cutting machines to the farmers, where it can be cut into pieces and thus, can be spread over, it would really help. But the problem is, adequate number of cutting machines are not being provided. So, ideally, the Government should give a special subsidy or maintain a Budget to supply the cutting machines to the farmers. If that menace of stubble burning can be stopped, then, to some extent, it could be settled.

The main thing is that we must do the plantation as much as possible. If there is any new colony coming up for development in and around Delhi or anywhere in the country, you put a stringent stipulation that you have to come up with this much plantation. For example, if the area is 1 square kilometre, you stipulate that some 30,000 or 40,000 plants have to be planted there, and if there is any shortage, you put a penalty on them.

Last week, I had been to Varanasi and I had seen all the diesel vehicles plying around the Temple there. Wherever diesel is permitted, they are putting Kerosene too. That has to be banned. But in Varanasi, in general, all the vehicles plying were battery vehicles. We must improve public transport. We must promote electric vehicles. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, please give me two more minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: I will conclude shortly. I know my limitations. The initiative taken by the hon. Prime Minister, especially the fight against single use plastic, is a great move. ...(*Interruptions*) Here, I have one suggestion. Like Swachh Bharat Committees, we must go in for Paryavaran Parivartan Committees. If some impetus is given to that, and if we have these Committees at village level, a lot of problems can be sorted out at that level and they themselves could come up with good ideas.

My final request to the hon. Minister is this. Under the MGNREGA Scheme, if we can also bring in the issue of environment as a part of it, that would be better. There are several ways of doing it. The people can also take part voluntarily wherein they will also get the remuneration, and the Government can utilise the man days. By doing so, we can have the safest environment very soon. I hope that the hon. Minister would take at least some of these points into consideration. Thank you.

[Translation]

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL (SIRSA): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak on such a topic as “Air Pollution and Climate Change”. I would like to say that this World is made up of Prakriti and Purusha. When this world was created, then after creating it, God thought that they have created such a beautiful world, they have created mountains, trees and plants, animals and birds, but there must be someone to look after them. That's why human beings were created, but I think maybe they forgot that the human being whom they created, will spoil this nature and pollute it while watching the beauty of nature. I think they forgot to think about it. We say that there is a soul in every human being and there is God in the soul. I think now they must have been regretting that if we had given a little understanding to the human being about how to save this nature, then I think maybe they would not have to sit and regret now.

Sir, all those gases that are emitted, whether we talk about carbon or sulphur monoxide, nature absorbs the emissions of that gas. If we focus only on emissions and do not pay attention to its absorption, then it is natural that it will disturb the ecosystem and because of that today someone is coughing here and someone is coughing there. I would like to say that there are four types of pollution here. We pollute by vehicles, we pollute by industry, we pollute by waste and we pollute by burning of stubble or garbage. Sir, I would like to talk about each and every aspect and also give some suggestions for it. All of us talk about the problem here but no one talks about the solution. One talks about the problem, they talk about what Government has failed to do, but no one talks about the solution.

Our Hon. Prime Minister always says that if you have any good suggestion, send it to the Government. You must have seen that the Government also

implements these suggestions. First of all, if I talk about the pollution by vehicles in India, it contributes 25 to 30 percent. Lakhs of vehicles ply daily in our country. These vehicles cause a large amount of pollution. So, from the Government side, as far as I have come to know, BS-III grade fuel was used in the country up to the year 2014. When our Government under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister came to power in the year 2016, BS-IV fuel supply was mandated. From the year 2019, BS-VI grade fuel has been made available in NCR. I believe that from the year 2020, our Government is going to mandate BS-6 grade fuel along with BS-6 compliant vehicles across the country. This is a big initiative by the Government. I think there will be more progress in the future in this sector. Along with this, the Government has constructed Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways, due to which there has been a decline in the number of vehicles entering into Delhi.

If I talk about industries, it also causes a lot of pollution. The Ghaggar River passes through Punjab before entering Sirsa. All the industries in Punjab including shoe factories or any other factory; pollute this river so much. Due to this, the people living nearby Sirsa suffer from severe diseases like cancer and many other diseases. We need implementation of a zig-zag system in brick kilns as it also causes a lot of pollution. If we implement this system, it would make a lot of difference. We can start using PNG. I think there are many such suggestions. If we try to improve together with the Government, then we can improve a lot. Pollution is caused by waste, which includes solid, electronic, plastic and medical wastes including dust from building construction. Solid waste can be used to generate electricity. If we set up factories for this, I think we can eliminate Solid waste to a great extent. Apart from this, the Forest Department needs to plant a lot of trees also.

If we talk about NHs, the NH one which goes from Sirsa to Dabwali, was surrounded by a lot of trees earlier. This NH was converted into a four lane after cutting those trees, but since then no trees have been planted again there. If you go and see now, it is without any trees. This is the area where our farmers used to cultivate paddy. The trees used to absorb the smoke there so that it did not reach here. This is a big reason. I think the Forest Department should also pay attention to this problem. If I talk about stubble burning, then I would like to say that the Haryana Government has done a very good job in this regard. We should not just blame the farmers. What's in stubble? There are two varieties of paddy. One is basmati and the other is non-basmati. The straw of Basmati is used as fodder. The non-basmati straw gets converted into stubble. So in this process, the Government of Haryana has tried in two ways; through in-situ and ex-situ initiatives. In in-situ operation, we try to make the farmers aware that if they use their straw on the spot itself, it could be used as manure. There is no need to cut these straws. In ex-situ operation, the straw is to be cut and can be used in factories and industries in place of fuel. The Hon. Chief Minister of Haryana has identified six such factories. Along with this, it has been decided to give money to all the farmers at the rate of Rs.100 per quintal. Along with this, the Hon. Chief Minister has also announced one thousand rupees for operational charges.

Sir, I have brought the data. You can see that there are 55,523 locations in Punjab in comparison to Haryana where only in 6429 locations stubble burning took place. But it is a famous saying that when the buffalos fight, crops suffer. So all this issue is created by Punjab but Haryana's name has also been dragged in this issue. But no problem, Punjab is our sibling as Haryana was separated from Punjab in 1966 itself. But still the effort is on to find out the solution for this problem together. Then only things will move forward. I would like to say that there is a Pusa-44 variety. We should try to grow another variety in its place, because this variety produces the most stubble. We should do some research and

come up with an alternative option so that we don't need to grow the Pusa-44 variety in the future. Along with this, pollution also happens due to cracker bursting. We burn Ravana effigy at various places on the occasion of Dussehra, but we do not kill the Ravana inside us. Do you think that by burning effigies of Ravana, we will end all evils? I feel that there is a dire need to kill the Ravana inside us. We could make Ravana effigies either with e-crackers inside it or make at least only one effigy per one block/district. We burn effigies at many places, so it causes a lot of pollution. This is the time to act. Earlier children used to say that when the Diwali festival would come, they would have their holidays. Now they ask when the pollution festival would come, because then they would have holidays. Children now look forward to the pollution festival also.

Sir, I would also like to say that the President of the US did not participate in the summit held in Paris recently. So, I request all the MPs that why don't we all write a letter and request Mr. Trump that the maximum pollution is caused by the USA, so why are you not participating actively in it. Just now, our Hon. Prime Minister was in Brazil. A forest worth five thousand crore value has been completely burnt there in the Amazon forest area. I would like to say that these forests are our lungs.

I would like to end my speech in just two minutes. Sometimes I feel pain. Supriyo ji, Ravi Kishan ji and Hema Malini ji belong to the film industry. There was a time when so many songs were made on the topic of air, like '*jab chali thandi hava, jab uthi kali ghata*'. Now how will Supriyo ji do it in the future? '*Hawa-hawa e hawa khushboo uda de*'. If there will be pollution all around us then how will we do it? I worry about Bollywood too.

The way Hema Malini ji expressed that she represents Mathura-Vrindavan and told how monkeys are causing problems in Vrindavan. Vrindavan means - Vrinda means Tulsi, and Van means forest. Now where those forests are

remaining? Why shouldn't we do something about this? I had another suggestion.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude now. [Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: Sir, I will finish my speech in two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. You have to conclude now.

Shri Anubhav Mohanty. [Translation] ...(Interruptions)

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: ... * There has been no discussion on climate change yet. It is called Vrindavan because it is a Tulsi forest. The forests should also be grown on the grazing land of village panchayats. The Hon. Prime Minister said that by the year 2022 everyone will have a house. But along with this, we are destroying the shelters of animals and birds. ...(Interruptions)

17.00 hours

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please come to the main point and conclude. Come to the last point.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: Sir, with the last point, I would like to say that-

Namo Devyai Mahadevyai Shivayai Sattam Namah.

* Not recorded.

Namah Prakrityai Bhadrayai Niyata: Pranata: Smah Tamh.

Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Thank you so much, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. As a young man of India, I feel very much responsible because we are talking about a healthy India for ourselves as well as for our next generations.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Sir, I want to say this, because you also mentioned my name in the last. We are making all efforts from our side... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please turn on the Minister's mike.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, with utmost seriousness and with our heart and soul, we are trying this. You mentioned about the songs, you also mentioned my name. We are making our best efforts to provide you a healthy and pollution-free environment at the earliest, or within the coming two years, so that you can enjoy that environment while singing 'Hawa ke saath saath, ghata ke sang sang, O' saathi chal.' That is what I wanted to say you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Anubhav, please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Marvelous Dada! you have changed the whole atmosphere. *[English]* Sir, clean air costs money all over the world. In other words, there has to be a cost to keep your city or your country clean through proper pollution control measures, as we are doing, like planting trees, reviving waterbodies, odd-even formulas, clean environment technology, etc. Clean

energy cess is imposed by the Government but I wonder if there is any kind of annual target set for this so that, every year, they check that this is our achievement; this was our goal; this is where we had to reach; and whether we achieved that goal.

Similarly, to persuade farmers to wean away from the age-old practice of stubble burning, a cost has to be borne by the Government in the form of direct cash incentive or incentivizing them to use the stubble to generate additional incomes. For example, the noted agricultural scientist Swaminathan *ji* – I was just going through one of his articles yesterday – has suggested development of bio-parks and conversion of stubble to very rich manure. This manure can be sold in the market or either bought by the Government itself giving additional income to the farmers. Similarly, the students of Bennett University in Greater Noida have innovated a technology to convert stubble to very high energy fuel. The market value of such fuel could be passed on to the farmers to encourage them and give them additional income. Basically, I want to emphasize that for sorting out the current environmental problem in Delhi or anywhere in the country, merely coercive measures on farmers would not be enough. This problem would not be sorted out by this. We cannot be so much coercive towards the farmers. Rather, we have to adequately compensate them as a cost for getting clean air in Delhi. I am sure, this cannot happen overnight. For this, I would request the Government that they should extensively join the communities in villages. *[Translation]* As it happens in villages. There are *Panch(es)* and *Sarpanch(es)* in villages. The Government should join them and encourage the public participation by creating awareness among the people that *[English]* we will incentivise you through this. *[Translation]* The stubble they are burning, should not be burnt. The stubble which the Government is procuring from them will be sold in the market after converting them to manure to earn money. *[English]* It can be added to your income as a bonus. So, they might slowly and

gradually change this age-old practice for a healthy today and tomorrow and to convert negative income into positive income.

Air pollution due to vehicles at traffic arises because of movement of freight vehicles and highly polluting heavy and ultra-heavy motor vehicles over long distances. A time has come to seriously consider, in a phased manner, shifting to inland water corridors to substantially reduce this pollution. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly think on this. May be, inland water corridors substantially reduce air pollution in certain ways and in future in a bigger way.

Sir, development of carbon sinks in urban cities is a must and these carbon sinks are not just to be developed in gardens and parks. This requires careful selection of different varieties of carbon sequestering plants and trees.

The Government of Odisha under the dynamic leadership of Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji is actively considering to set up carbon sinks in different parts of the State and encouraging private sectors to do so. Some of the outstanding researches in recent times have revealed that a particular type of algae is most suitable for sequestering carbon emissions. We could explore the possibilities of using such algae over non-religious water bodies and ponds. We can use it in parks and tourist spots which are highly polluted in urban cities.

I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity and at the same time, I would like to express my gratitude for such a wonderful debate by so many wise people. I expect hon. Minister's reply would assure us a healthy and safe place to live and develop together.

Long live India. Jai jawan, jai kisan.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Thank you very much Chairman Sir for letting me speak on this subject. So far as ecology is concerned, in the modern times with the modern civilizational issues, it has been a subject

since 1866, and it has been defined by Ernst Haeckel only in 1866. We all come from a country, a country of Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata which is actually based on nature-based religion.

Our religion itself is nature-based because when I look at the hymns of Rig Veda, 1066 hymns are there which are all about nature. You look at Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda. They are all about earth and how I am a son of the earth. *Bhoomi sukta* says that earth is *vishambara*, that is all bearing. Earth is *vasuda* - all propitiating and earth is mother earth which is life to everyone. That is my religion.

So, Vedic to Indic civilization is all about nature. That is my culture. If I look at my own country, I see that in the past 15-20 years, we have wasted our country.

17.07 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

It has been a waste of our nation. When I say 'waste', we have, instead of progressing which we did, we have progressed economically. We did make progress but we polluted it. In terms of pollution, today, the climate change is a change which is impacting not only the ones who have polluted but also all these civilizations which are talking of carbon emission, how neutral ideas need to be brought in and how solar energy needs to be saved and secured. They are the ones who have polluted the earth; they are the ones who have exploited the earth; and they are the ones who used the most the resources and yet, they are high consumption resource-based technologies which they have used in the past. Today, we talk unscientifically.

I am sorry to say this. It is not that the pollution is not caused by fire-crackers alone. Pollution is caused by fire-crackers. But I heard one of the Members saying that in Hong Kong, the atmosphere is very good because they

use cold technology. On the contrary, it is opposite. The Cold technology and other technologies used for fire-crackers are far more poisonous because they are leading to gaseous pollution which cannot be seen by eyes but it is responsible. The entire debate about fire-crackers has led to a lot of unemployment in Tamil Nadu, and Sivakasi has lost a great deal of employment, whereas pollution in Delhi remains the same as it was before the fire-crackers and after the ban has been imposed.

The fact is that we are today talking as if we are in dark ages. There is unscientific connotation to a scientific subject. I think, it is time for us to think of science and find scientific solutions with scientific technologies. The cultural heritage of this country is so strong that we are taught earth is not meant for humans alone, unlike many other religions which say earth is manned to be exploited by the human-beings and man is the superior most in this world, not even an animal being.

In our country, in our religion, in our ethos, we are told earth is not meant for humans alone but earth is meant for plants; earth is meant for animals; earth is meant even for inanimate objects. '*Har KaN mein Ram, KaN-KaN mein Ram*'- this is what Tulsidas says. '*Sarv Khalvidam Brahm*'- that means everything is Brahma. The interaction between living and non-living is as important. *Parvat* is my *pita*. Earth is my *mata*. With every God, we have a plant. [Translation] When the Lord Vishnu is worshipped, he is offered *Tulsi leaves* and when the Lord Shiva is worshipped, *Bel and Belpatra* are offered. Similarly, when we worship Lord Ganesha, we are also required to offer prayers to his animal vehicle *Mooshak* and *Garuda*.

[English]

So, there is a connectivity which is established and by that connectivity, you have revered everything that is spiritual. This thought is what is missing in

the entire discussion. With this kind of ethos, with this kind of background, I think it is time to address the issue of integral humanism. Integral humanism means that we are all connected. The animate and the inanimate has a deeper connection. When we discuss ecology, we come to Millennium Development Goals which were, of course, unsustainable. So, we came out with Sustainable Development Goal which is nothing but simplified integral humanism. Then, we put all this together.

I heard one of my friends discuss the coughing. When he is out from Thiruvananthapuram to Delhi, he starts coughing. So, I said, [*Translation*] that the impact of ... * is reflected. Did he mean to say that if he has a cough then the entire Delhi should start coughing. When it comes to Delhi and particularly about the Climate Change, it is not only the problem of Delhi but Climate Change is an international and global issue. We also discussed about China. In China, it was said that if we store the residual Carbon extracted from the polluted air [*English*] if we collect the ash, we are able to produce diamonds. Now my point is, when we are able to produce diamonds out of collecting ash from the air, why are we not producing diamond from the coal which is being used by our power stations for the production of energy? So, at the end of the day, it is about replacing technology or integrating technologies. The idea is not against using coal but how we manage the coal air and the effluents from coal. That is the issue. The issue is not that, stop using coal. The issue is, when we use coal, what do we do with the effluents? That is where we are missing in action. On the contrary, a pressure is built on India to stop using coal. If you can make diamond out of the emissions of air and make diamond out of the air in Beijing, you might as well keep on making diamond out of all the coal that is being utilized by the power stations. Then, I think everyone will make more money.

* Not recorded.

The idea is replacing technologies and not to get trapped in the issue. We are the least consuming country in the world and let us not get trapped by these kinds of conversations. I am happy that when the Prime Minister represented the country in the UNGA, we are an ODF, Open Defecation Free, country. We have recently achieved the status of an ODF, Open Defecation Free, country. Who thought India will achieve this in five years? But we did it. When we are cleaning Ganga and cleaning other rivers, then it has been done in a mission mode. The entire railway tracks have been cleaned up by using bio-toilets. So, if we decide to achieve, I am very sure we are going to achieve it.

When we start discussing Delhi pollution, I think every urban city in the world has gone through the same process and we need to work at finding the solutions. Now, when I look at Delhi, I feel very sad because we are again having some unscientific conversation. When our Chief Minister spends Rs.700 and odd crore on advertising his own face, that is not worth it. I think the 'worth-it-effort' should be, how do we deal with the C&D waste of Delhi? It is because when you look at the Delhi pollution, you find PM-2.5 particles; you find PM-10 particles in the air and that is the dust which we need to control. That is where we need to work in controlling the dusts. When I discuss the dust pollution, it was very rightly pointed out by my friend from YSRCP. He said that it is the North-Westerly winds which have resulted in pollution in Delhi. That is partly true but partly it is the amount of construction in Delhi. As a city which is coming up and where people from across the country and the world land up, the facilities and amenities need to be provided. Unfortunately, we have seen disoriented urbanization of the city. It is not a planned city. When I look at the dust, the thing which comes to my mind is that soil becomes dust when it loses its humus content. How does it lose its humus content? It loses its humus content because whatever we take from earth needs to be replenished that is what the *Vedas* say. Unfortunately, we are not replenishing it. The humus content in the soil is going

down by the day and that top soil is getting lost by the air. If the humus content is high in this soil even by 5 per cent, we will get all the *kharpatwar* (weeds) and all kinds of plants growing over it. When the plants grow over it, the top soil will remain in the earth and there will be less dust. The moisture or water content of the soil will go up.

Sir, I just want to mention one point. Everybody has discussed Delhi. Unfortunately, the Delhi's MPs have not got the proper time. So, I request that I should be given adequate time to represent Delhi. Otherwise, people in my constituency will say that while I was sitting in Parliament, what did I do about pollution in Delhi.

Air pollution is one aspect in which increasing the humus content of earth in a strategic manner across the country is the work we need to do. The Aravalli jungle which provides green cover to the whole region has been cut and we need to work at that strategy.

So far as water table and water pollution is concerned, all the heavy metals like arsenic, cadmium and chromium, [*Translation*] All these heavy metals have come to surface. The most important reason behind this is that the people have not been provided water. You neither increased the volume of water supply nor improved its quality. People get compelled to extract the ground water when they are not supplied with adequate volume and suitable quality of water. Therefore, piped water should be supplied to everyone. If an STP plant is functioning beyond its capacity, obviously, it will supply the poor quality water. When we talk about BIS or Bureau of Indian Standards, it would be wrong to question the credibility of this organisation, because, it completely adheres to its process of standardization.

So far as the water is concerned, the water which enters Delhi from Haryana, has more Oxygen carrying capacity within and less amount of E. coli

bacteria. But when this water goes back to Haryana, it carries back eight folds to hundred folds more E. coli than that of its earlier condition. Its Oxygen carrying capacity also gets completely exhausted.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: This is not fair on Delhi. I represent Delhi and we have all been discussing Delhi. (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You represent the whole country and not Delhi only.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Let me say that one and a half to two minutes is the time that Delhi MPs have taken. I request you to give me adequate time because there is a constant discussion in Delhi about pollution. I need that time. I have a request to make. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is not a discussion on Delhi. The discussion is on Delhi's pollution.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, it is not just the entire country but the world is talking about Delhi's pollution. Wherever we are going, everybody is talking about Delhi's pollution.

Sir, let me just complete in a few words. When we discuss economics, it is about managing the deficit resources. But every time there is economics, commerce comes with it. When commerce comes with it, in Delhi the commerce of water tankers is what is working. [*Translation*] In Delhi, Mafias are dealing in water tankers. The water gets commercialized as a commodity for trade when it becomes a scarce resource. When its trade starts, unauthorized people start infiltrating the trade to make money. Today, the air as a commodity has also started meeting the same fate. No improvements can take place at all when you

do not work for improving the air quality, when you do not spend money on Sprinkler System, when you recklessly spend Rs. 700 crore on advertisement, when you do not make water available, when you do not make efforts to purify the air and when you do not make arrangement for proper disposal of Construction and Demolition (C & D) wastes. I can remember that a very comprehensive advertisement was being run in Delhi by placing huge hoardings and displaying the message wherein the Delhi Government had promised to remove C & D waste if reported by sending the photographs of the said waste. But neither that C & D could get removed nor could the air suck those wastes and not even any work has been undertaken so far in this regard. Of course, there was money spent on advertisements. Moreover, even the water sprinkler system that should have started in Delhi could not be started.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now. There is a long list of Members.

SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, if you are asking me to conclude then I will do it by saying a couple of sentences.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is a national issue and not an international one.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Hon. Chairperson Sir, Delhi has been made an international issue of debate. Therefore, I am just requesting you to allow adequate time for Delhi's MPs to speak on the matters related to their Union Territory because internationalization of issues related to Delhi ultimately belittles the entire nation.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are in the Panel of Chairpersons also. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I am co-operating Sir. But it indeed hurts us somehow or the other that while on the one hand we are asked to speak at the end, on the other hand we are forced to conclude stating the reason that a few Members are still left to speak or the Hon. Minister has arrived to reply the questions.

[English] Anyway, I am concluding. If we are talking of Sustainable Development Goals and if we are talking about climate change, enough conversation has happened. I think, *[Translation]* every member of this House is clear about his duties and strategies. *[English]* We have to talk global, but we have to think local and we have to act local. *[Translation]* I have managed the organic wastes by setting up composting plants within my area. We have installed plastic collecting machines at many places through CSR funding and other means, so that plastic can be segregated. Once the plastic is separated and if we get succeeded to make a zero plastic city, the pollution will be controlled to a greater extent. It is the high time that we follow our ancient methods.

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject under Rule 193.

Pollution and climate change have definitely been one of the most important problems not just for this country but for the entire world also. I am glad that this discussion is happening today because it is the need of the hour. It is very delightful to see some of the suggestions and the way people have responded towards this debate. They were showing hope that there is still a chance for us to act and to show a better way forward to the future generations also. I would like to be a part of the bigger debate of helping this country move forward in the right direction.

Definitely, the alarm bells went ringing after the recent Delhi scenario that has happened. I do not think anyone would disagree when I say that the smoke that has come up in Delhi is not just happening here; the fire has lit all over the country. Maybe the situation that is happening in Delhi is slightly ahead of times here because of the population, because of the way things are moving forward, but definitely we see this scenario hitting even the rural villages of this country. So, definitely, it is time when we need to act on this on a very serious note.

More than that, the attitude of this country, the Government and ours has to change. Definitely, we can speak on this issue. We have seen many good solutions that have come forward. So, the attitude should be not about what we are saying, but the attitude should change to what we are doing for this. That is the need of the hour today that we move into how we address this and what we do in terms of this.

Environmental consciousness is present across the world and it has been a very primary concern for the last 40 to 50 years, but if you consider India, it is there in our DNA and we in the Indian culture have respected environment. Even if you look at our traditions, our culture and everything, it comes with a basic connection with the nature. So, we are proudly associated with the nature, but somewhere in the last 30-odd years, in terms of achieving growth, in terms of achieving development, and in terms of copying the western world, we have somehow missed the link with nature and we have not been on the right path. We can say that much. That is why, there is a responsibility on the Government of the day to take some extreme steps also.

I would like to quote a couple of lines, a couple of ideas from our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhiji where he said that nature has enough to satisfy one's needs, but not to satisfy everyone's greed. These are the important words coming from Mahatma Gandhiji. He also pointed out in *Indian Opinion* dated 1st February, 1913. He said this in 1913 – 'The structure of the human body requires three kinds of nourishment – air, water and food. Of these, air is the most essential aspect. Consequently, nature has provided it to us to such an extent that we can have it at no cost, but modern civilisation is putting a price even on that.' That is happening today also that there is a price on air.

If you look at this in depth, the country or the society was divided because of the economic, financial situations. There are the rich, there are the poor, there is affordability and there is standard of living. Now, you see that in terms of environment also, this economic divide is creeping in. A hard-working labourer cannot even have access to fresh air where he is not even responsible for creating any kind of pollution. He is just sweating it out day in and day out and working hard to earn money. He is just sleeping outside to get fresh air and good sleep. He is not able to do that. The rich are able to buy oxygen chambers and air purifiers.

They are able to take detox vacation to some islands, etc. where they can get some fresh air. But what about poor people of this country?

The recent situation in Delhi is a very big example of children not being allowed to go to school, not being allowed to play. That is the kind of situation this environmental effect will have on the society and on the future generations also. So, that is why this should not be just looked upon in a very narrow way. Things are much broader than the way they look.

My request to the Central Government would be to create a national action plan or some environmental policy. If the Government is willing enough, it can come out with some kind of law by which the people of this country are made to follow strict measures. I would like to appreciate the efforts of hon. Prime Minister. He has been going across the world, telling them that we are committed to this and that we are going to be the role model. But look at the situation. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak for five more minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. So many Members want to speak on this subject.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: I understand. I am a constant victim of this time constraint. Let us create a law and let us use the principle of 'polluter pays'. It is because whenever an environmental policy is adopted, the core of that policy has always been whoever is going to pollute he is going to pay the price and whoever is going to help in saving the nature or in helping to combat this kind of problem he is going to be incentivized. So, let us go with this kind of principle.

We have to keep in mind some of the stakeholders. One is the farmers. Many hon. Members made this point. Farmers are being affected by this problem. We have seen this recently in Maharashtra. It happened in my constituency,

Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. Due to unpredictable rains, the farmers had to pay the price. He has no solution to this kind of unseasonal rains or cyclones or natural disasters that are happening because of the climate change. So, definitely the Government has the responsibility to take them in account and to take sustainable measures.

The other stakeholder is the fishermen. I have to wish them because today is the World Fisheries Day. Definitely there has to be a discussion on them also. Due to the rising sea levels because of the climate change, the most affected will be the fishermen. Their livelihood, their security of having a home are all affected. So, when we create a policy, definitely we should keep these stakeholders in mind. Like we are discussing pollution today, we have to discuss the issue of population also. In the last 30 or 40 years, population has been increasing at an exponential rate.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: I am concluding within two minutes. I am left with just one page. We will come up with a bigger number next time. We did not know that our time will be so much affected. Due to increase in population, there is a lot of stress on the environment and on the resources that we have. The rate at which the population is increasing, in the next 30 or 40 years, it is very difficult to even imagine the kind of scenario that the country would be facing. So, that is why I request that in terms of being a world leader, we have to take some strong steps in dealing with this problem.

There is one other important issue. When you create this policy, the States need to be taken on board. By way of an example, I would like to cite the case of Andhra Pradesh. Previous Chief Minister, Shri Chandra Babu Naidu *garu* came out with PPAs with some companies to generate renewable energy. Those PPAs are being revisited by the present Government because it is not able to understand

that ultimately it is going to benefit the Government and the people of Andhra Pradesh. They are getting into nitty-gritty which is helping neither the Government nor the investors. Everyone should fall in line. The Central Government has the primary responsibility. Now, you cannot just say that Gujarat is producing so much of solar energy and that Andhra Pradesh is producing so much of wind energy. We have to see a situation where all the brothers and sisters of this nation are made part of it. Even Himachal Pradesh and North-East should become part of this. This will happen only with effective policy. That is the responsibility of this thing. From where will we start? Sir, we will start right from here and right now. We already have a proposal of building a new Parliament.

Let us build a new green building. Let us start from here. Let us have a good concept which can be a role model not for the Parliament Secretariat only ...(*Interruptions*). Wherever there is a building, let us have a new green building ...(*Interruptions*). I am just concluding.

It has been a wonderful debate and I appreciate all the comments that have come from the all the sides. I hope that the Government is going to take it seriously and come up with innovative steps which are going to make our future generations proud because they are all so much worried and it is our responsibility.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ritesh Pandey. You have only four minutes as you are the second speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I will not take much time. With regard to air pollution, I completely agree with Ram ji and Sasi Taroor ji that a national air pollution action plan is needed now.

The second topic of this discussion is climate change. I would definitely like to talk about this a little bit. Climate change is becoming a big issue in the world. This topic is being discussed in the Parliament and it is a very big problem for the country which will become a major challenge in the future. We need to seriously think about this.

If there is anything that is more dangerous than terrorism and Pakistan, that is climate change. It is also true that the number of people dying due to climate change is more than that of terrorism. It is a very serious topic and there is a need to take concrete action on this. If we do not take concrete action on this we will put the existence of the country in danger.

Climate change is adversely affecting the farmers. We discuss about the farmers in zero hour, question hour and Rule 377. We discuss about the welfare policies of farmers. Climate change is becoming the biggest problem for the farmers. You know that the monsoon season did not come at the regular time. Due to some problems, the monsoon either comes in a very long time or there is drought. A Member from Bihar was saying that the monsoon season came very late which caused floods and Patna was flooded. The Member from Vidarbha, Maharashtra said that there was no rain for so many years and this year, the rain came so late that it destroyed the cultivation of cotton and grapes. Its major reason is climate change and the House should be aware of this.

About 60-70 percent of the farmers in the country depend on monsoon for irrigation. If there is an untimely monsoon due to the climate change it will cause

loss to the farmers. We should think about what the Government is now doing for climate change. The Government has taken the climate resilient agriculture initiative. Under this, research is being done to make the crops resilient and the Government has released around 47.56 crores. The irony is that we are now discussing climate change in the House but we have spent five crores rupees less than last year. What does it show? It shows that the Government is not sensitive or concerned about this issue. The farmers are going through a big crisis due to climate change but the Government is acting like they care about it. No action is being taken on this. You will be sorry to hear that the budget of Rs. 47 crore is less than half yearly turnover of a petrol pump.

The second issue is carbon dioxide emission. We should reduce this emission. There is a need to make a policy for this. In 2016, India signed the Paris Agreement. There is a need to follow this. There is a need to genuinely follow this.

Our economy should move towards clean energy. Solar initiative is being taken which is a good thing. Air initiative can also be taken. Along with, we should also move towards atomic energy. Today, we can see that India is increasing its dependency on coal. We are importing coal from all the coal mines in Australia. NTPC is being even expanded in my Parliamentary Constituency, Ambedkar Nagar and I am sorry to say that even after raising this matter in the House numerous times that the poor farmers are experiencing itching on their body and they are getting affected due to the air pollution, no action is being taken in this regard. Therefore, I would like to say that the time to take action has come. Today, discussion is going on in our country on this topic. It is very important. The Hon. Minister is present here. I hope that when this debate ends, a concrete policy should be made and a law should be enacted and our country should work to provide a golden future for the country.

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this topic. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister. It is a very important issue. No house, human being, animal, leaf, tree, nothing is safe from this today. It is such a thing that neither man nor birds are able to breathe. The people are concerned about the lives of their children. This is causing various new diseases. It is causing diseases like cancer. As the time is short, children are suffering from heart, lungs, throat diseases and cancer due to the pollution. As per a survey, the environment is the major factor which causes various problems in children. As per the report, in 2017, 12 lakhs people have died due to the air pollution. As per a report, about 76 million people in the country do not have the access to clean drinking water. Many people say that the cause of third world war will be for water. We do not know how far it is true but it is a matter of grave concern. Today, our country is ranked from 1st to 10th position in terms of water pollution and pollution. As per the report of NITI AYOOG, ground water will not be available in around 21 big cities in our country till next year. Today, there is a scarcity of water and people are wandering and searching for water even in forests. The capital city of our country, Delhi, is called the gas chamber because it is getting difficult to breathe outside the house. Life is difficult for the people living here. As per a report, Delhi is the most polluted city in the world. Apart from this, 6 out of the 10 most polluted cities in the world are in India. It is not that it happened quickly. It is happening because we are doing everything to increase the pollution and we are depleting the water level but we are doing nothing to prevent this. Now the time has come and I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister to take this matter very seriously. I am grateful that he has brought it. Because it is related to the lives of the people and there is nothing which has been left unaffected. Therefore, we should feel mercy for the country, people and even animals. Even though the animals cannot

speak, they are suffering more than us. Therefore, I thank the Hon. Minister and you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

جناب بدرالدین اجمل (دھیری): میں آپ کا بہت شکر گزار ہوں کہ اس معاملے میں آپ نے مجھے بولنے کا موقع دیا۔ میں منتری جی کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں۔ یہ بہت ہی اہم موضوع ہے۔ اس سے کوئی گھر، کوئی انسان، کوئی جانور، کوئی پتہ کوئی جھاڑ، کوئی چیز آج محفوظ نہیں ہے۔ یہ ایک ایسی چیز ہے جس سے آدمی سانس نہیں لے پا رہا ہے، پرندے سانس نہیں لے پا رہے ہیں۔ لوگوں کو اپنے بچوں کی جانوں کا خطرہ ہے۔ اس سے نئی نئی بیماریاں پیدا ہو رہی ہے۔ اس کی وجہ سے کینسر جیسی خطرناک بیماری پیدا ہو رہی ہے۔ چونکہ وقت کی کمی ہے، آلودگی کی وجہ سے بچوں میں ہارٹ، لنگس، گلے اور کینسر جیسی بیماریاں ہو رہی ہیں۔ ایک سروے کے مطابق سب سے زیادہ بچوں میں آلودگی کی وجہ سے بہت سی بیماریاں پیدا ہو رہی ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق سال 2017 میں تقریباً 12 لاکھ لوگوں کی موت ہوائی آلودگی کی وجہ سے ہوئی ہے۔ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق ہمارے ملک میں تقریباً 76 ملین لوگوں کو پینے کا صاف پانی میسر نہیں ہے۔ بہت سے لوگ یہ بھی کہتے ہیں کہ اب جب بھی تیسری جنگ عظیم ہوگی وہ پانی کی وجہ سے ہی ہوگی۔ پتہ نہیں یہ کہاں تک ٹھیک ہے لیکن یہ ڈرنے کی چیز ہے۔ آج ہمارا ملک ہندوستان پانی کی آلودگی اور ہوائی آلودگی کی وجہ سے 1 سے 10 نومبر تک متاثر ہے۔ نیتی آیوگ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق اگلے سال تک ہمارے ملک کے تقریباً 21 بڑے شہروں میں گراؤنڈ واٹر نہیں ملے گا۔ آج بہت پریشانی ہے، لوگ پانی کے لئے مارے مارے جنگلوں میں پھر رہے ہیں ہمارے ملک کی راجدھانی دہلی کو گیس چیمبر کہا جانے لگا ہے، کیونکہ گھر سے باہر نکل کر سانس لینا مشکل ہو گیا ہے۔ یہاں رہنے والوں کے لئے زندگی گزارنا مشکل ہو گیا ہے۔ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق دہلی دنیا کا سب سے زیادہ آلودگی والا شہر ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ دنیا کے 10 سب سے زیادہ آلودہ شہروں میں سے 6 ہندوستان میں ہیں۔ ایسا نہیں ہے کہ یہ اچانک پیدا ہو گیا۔ یہ اس وجہ سے بھی پیدا ہوا ہے کہ ہم لوگ آلودگی کے لئے جو بھی کرنا ہے سب کر رہے ہیں، پانی کے لیول کو گرا رہے ہیں، لیکن اس کے علاج کے لئے ہم کچھ نہیں کر رہے ہیں۔ اب وقت آ گیا ہے۔ میں وزیر اعظم صاحب سے درخواست کروں گا کہ وہ اس کو بہت سنجیدگی سے لیں، انہوں نے اس کو لایا میں اس کے لئے شکر گزار ہوں۔ چونکہ یہ لوگوں کی زندگی کا معاملہ ہے، اور آج آب و ہوا کوئی چیز اس سے بچی ہوئی نہیں ہے۔ اس لئے ہم کو پورے ہندوستان کے لوگوں پر اور جانوروں پر بھی رحم کرنا ہے۔ کیونکہ وہ بول نہیں سکتے لیکن وہ ہم سے زیادہ

گھٹن میں ہیں۔ اس لئے میں منسٹر صاحب کا اور آپ کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں کہ آپ نے مجھے اس اہم موضوع پر بولنے کا موقع دیا۔ شکریہ

(ختم شد)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Special thanks to Ajmal ji for concluding his speech within the stipulated time.

[English]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during this discussion under Rule 193. It is learnt that a High-Level Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to hon. Prime Minister for the management of air population in Delhi in November, 2017. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched a National Clear Air Programme as a national-level strategy to tackle the increasing air pollution in Delhi.

Taking this into consideration, being the Member of Parliament residing in and representing Mumbai South-Central Constituency, I would request the Central Government to plan and implement efficient management programmes to abate the rapidly rising air pollution in Mumbai city, especially, in South-Central part as the concentration of industries and refineries are more in areas like Mahul. The Mumbai City is currently facing tremendous problem of increasing air pollution along with unpaved dust, which has simultaneously given rise to acute diseases to the people of the city. Major sources contributing to air pollution are industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, road and soil dust, unpaved dust, construction and demolition activities, biomass and garbage burning, etc.

I urge the Central Government and the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to consider this rising issue and appoint a Committee to plan and implement measures for abatement of air pollution and unpaved dust in my Mumbai South-Central constituency.

Sir, Mumbai city's air is the most toxic in Maharashtra State. The rampant amount of unplanned construction supported by the rapid rise in vehicular emissions has resulted in Mumbai's air quality hitting toxic levels, with high concentrations of major air pollutants like sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen etc. Out of 72 air quality stations in Maharashtra, only four have reported the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) to be within the safety limits. The intake of RSPM beyond the safety levels is a matter of serious concern as the particles could get deep into the lungs leading to premature death and respiratory and cardio-vascular diseases.

The Central Pollution Control Board set the permissible level of RSPM to be 60 Micrograms Per Cubic Meter (mpcm), while in my constituency, Sion area in Mumbai recorded an average RSPM of 147 MPCM, which is the second worst in the State.

Rising pollution levels is not just the case of Mumbai but has become a growing phenomenon today across the metropolitan cities of the country. It is the urgent need of the hour to take immediate cognizance of the problem and develop solutions that would curb the rising pollution level without hurting the energy requirements of these growing cities.

We must develop more affordable, comfortable and eco-friendly modes of public transportation and invest in environment-friendly energy resources all over the country. This is essential not only for the coming generation to be able to breathe in clean air but also for the thousands of lives that are lost every year due to respiratory problems caused due to air pollution.

Hence, I would like to request the hon. Minister for Environment to help Maharashtra in developing and implementing a holistic plan focused on curbing the rising levels of air pollution in Mumbai.

Now, I would like to suggest some solutions to the problem of air pollution so that the Government would take care of it. Over 674 million Indians are likely to breathe highly polluted air in 2030. According to the studies of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria and the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) in New Delhi, only about 833 million citizens would be living in areas that meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in 2030.

In January 2019, the Government had launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP), a five-year action plan, to curb air pollution, build a pan-India air quality monitoring network, and improve citizen awareness. The programme focuses on 102 polluted Indian cities and aims to reduce PM 2.5 levels by 20-30 per cent over the next five years. But the program lacks any form of legal mandate to ensure proper ground level implementation.

The study also found that the Indo-Gangetic plain, covering parts of states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, has the highest population exposure to significant PM 2.5 concentrations.

Transport emissions need a mix of public transport investments, behavioural change in transport patterns, and new transport technologies such as electric vehicles. Reactive solutions such as banning waste burning or certain forms of transport are nothing but band aids.

A city-by-city approach is invariably limited. Much pollution occurs outside cities - by industry, brick kilns, power plants and crop burning. City boundary-based regulation only encourages emissions leakage such as

relocation of industries to the outskirts. India has to develop regulatory institutions that operate at the level of the regional "airshed".

A US based study that has been widely reported in the media over the past two weeks has projected that parts of Mumbai, Surat, Chennai and Kolkata would go under water by 2050 or be ravaged by recurring floods. Global sea levels have risen by eleven centimetres to sixteen centimetres, and under the best circumstances, they would further rise by another one-and-a-half metres. Additionally, the farm sector has been ravaged by untimely rainfalls, which is also the effect of climate change, resulting in the drowning of hundreds of villages and death of thousands of farmers. We can no longer afford to not take a strong stand against climate change.

It is true that India is a developing country, and we have pressing energy requirements for which we need coal. However, we need alternatives to counter the use of coal and reduce our carbon emissions. We also need to take a strong stand on the global stage against carbon emitting countries like the US, UK and China whose rapid emissions have resulted in the existential threat that we are facing today.

I would request the Government to come up with a legally binding mechanism to counter climate change and reduce the country's carbon emissions as climate change and its effects determine the existence of us and of our children.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, I am glad that the two most important people who are required in this debate are here, the hon. Environment Minister and the hon. Health Minister because I think today's entire debate also connects both of them deeply.

The hon. Health Minister has substantially contributed. A lot of data has been sent. I will not get into this but he and I have worked closely for tobacco control. He has been a guiding light for us. Today's data says that air pollution kills a lot more people. I would urge him to take up this cause because when it was about tobacco control and polio, Dr. Harsh Vardhan made a substantial contribution over the last three or four decades. It is very, very important today to have this debate. I would even like to highlight to Prakash Javadekar ji that the District that both of us come from, and Meenakashi Lekhi ji was talking about Delhi at length, is Pune in Maharashtra. You will be surprised to know that both Prakash ji and I come from that area. In the area called Hinjawadi is the large Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park. I just checked the pollution today, it is 427 there which is severe. There is nothing burning. Yes, there is a lot of traffic, but there is no factory anywhere around, still it is absolutely in the severe pollution range. I think we really need to put our minds that it is not just one thing in isolation which is deteriorating the entire air.

Since Dr. Harsh Vardhan is here, I would like to bring to his notice that the Health Report of 2015 said that the Air Act of 1986 needs to be integrated in the Health Policy. So, when you are expanding such a big Health Policy, if we can integrate this Act into it, I think it will really make a big change. We can put all our minds together and give you a lot of recommendations. But I think this Air Act has to be integrated with the Health Policy. A lot of countries like Brazil, New Zealand, Canada and Philippines are doing much better than us. They have an integrated plan with health and pollution.

I would also like to highlight a point which Ritesh Pandey ji made. He talked about the State Action Plan to control pollution. As a matter of fact, we just finished Maharashtra election and, in our manifesto, made by the Congress and the NCP, this is probably the first time, we have given three full pages to climate change and, in that, we have the entire plan ready to implement the State Action Plan. It is there in the manifesto. If anybody would like to visit it, I would be happy. If you need any more information, I would be happy to share with you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please share it with everyone.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I have two-three quick points and questions. I would not repeat any points that everybody has made earlier. I would just like to ask the hon. Minister about the status of the CAMPA fund. The amount of Rs. 30,000 crore is given to the States for plantations. In our own State, the Government which is incumbent right now, has told us that it has planted millions of trees. I do not see them because in my own constituency, I would not talk about the State, I do not see a big change. So, how is the Government of India monitoring this exceptional amount of money? It is over Rs. 30,000 crore in the CAMPA funds which is going to all the States. Who is spending it? How are they spending it? If so much money is going into the environment and the CAMPA fund, then how are we not seeing any change, any result? This is not about 'you vs. us'. I think this is a subject that we all need to put our mind to, whichever government it is.

There are two quick points I want to make. Everybody talks about renewable energy. With so much intervention in the renewable energy, how come we are not seeing a big change? Is there a problem with the kitty? Have we ever done a study? There are a lot of conferences on environment; lot of signatures have happened. Even in the Paris Convention, the 'big boys' have left and we are

the only countries, the developing countries, who are left in it. So, what will be our stand?

A lot of people talked about Bharat Stage VI. Parvesh Verma said that people from Delhi go next door to fill their gasoline because it is cheaper there. Delhi is Bharat Stage VI now. It is a programme of this Government that by April the entire country is going to be Bharat Stage VI. I would like the hon. Minister to confirm this to us that we are going to be at BS VI level by the time we get there.

In pollution control, there is a commitment. In the last six months, how much of the Budget estimates have been spent on pollution control? I do not see that happening in my State. There are so many reports in this regard. In 2000, there was the Shah Report. In 2002, there was the Reddy Report. In 2004, there was the Gurjar Report. And in 2006, there was the Garg Report. These are all reports on pollution and air pollution and we all are still discussing this. I really do not see how we further deteriorated. I think we really need to introspect. Enough dialogue has happened, a lot of debates have happened, but no change has happened in this entire situation.

17.52 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

I will not repeat the points of lawyers but I would definitely like to make one point to Meenakashi Lekhi Ji. She said that several Chief Ministers, especially hers because she lives here more than I do, are spending a lot of money on advertising. I think he probably learnt it from ours because he became a Chief Minister earlier and he has spent double the amount. So, why do we not all put our minds together? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Maharashtra's area is far greater than the area of Delhi. So, if you take into account the population and the geography, no one can break Delhi's record.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Anyway, I am of the belief that Governments are not commodities and they do not need to waste money on advertising. They do not need to market themselves. In Marathi we say, '*Maai baap sarkaar*'. *Sarkar* is your *maai baap*. They have to do everything. They are not a soap that they need to advertise. So, they could put all this money into controlling pollution. Why do we not all send a note to all the Governments that instead of wasting money on advertising, all the Central and State Governments should spend this money to improve all the social sector numbers? Social sector numbers in India are not doing well. health is not doing well, and we do need more money for all this. So, instead of wasting money on doing full-page ads in newspapers, if we put all this money in the social sector, especially healthcare, I think it would be a great contribution.

I thank Prakash Ji and I am very hopeful, he is a very learned man and he does not need too many suggestions, that he would kindly clarify my point on all the reports and on CAMPA fund because that is my most important concern in this. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Hon. Minister will reply tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

PROF.SOUGATA RAI (DUMDUM): Sir, when will the Hon. Minister reply?
At 12 pm? *...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He will reply by 12:30. The Minister will reply after the speech of the Leader of Opposition party and leader of Congress, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. The Hon. Members left to speak can take five minutes each. Rest of the debate is over. I request you to conclude your speech within five minutes.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, please give me ten minutes...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: People will not complete their speech in ten minutes. Therefore, everyone may please conclude their speech in five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bholu Singh.

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Thank you very much, Speaker Sir. Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak in the discussion on air pollution and climate change. Our colleagues and hon. senior Members have discussed pollution in Delhi during the debate which was going on day before yesterday.

Sir, I would like to inform you that my Parliamentary Constituency, Bulandshahr is also near to Delhi, it is 70 km far and is part of the NCR. There is as much pollution as in Delhi and the people of constituency face as much problem as faced by the people of Delhi. Despite being a part of NCR, only a few facilities are available there. There is neither good university, nor good medical facilities nor the facility of train or metro for the transportation. Despite this, the people of my Constituency have to bear the brunt of the pollution. I would like to state that the farmers, small farmers who produce jaggery, the small traders who run kiln, have to suffer due to the pollution in Delhi. Sugarcane crushers have been shut down. The administration shut them because there is pollution in Delhi. The farmers are not responsible for this, because there are many other things. We used to live in village and looked up we could see clean blue sky and stars but nowadays, these are not visible. Many other reasons are responsible for this. It is not necessary that the farmers are only responsible for this.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the atrocities committed on the farmers in the name of the pollution in Delhi, especially nearby to Delhi-NCR is not right. Farmers are blamed for every small issue while the rest are ignored. If I talk about Delhi and the Government of Delhi, we can see how bad is the condition of river Yamuna. It looks like a dirty drain. The Government of Delhi is not worried about it. I would like to thank our Hon. successful Prime Minister and the Government of Uttar Pradesh, who got planted millions of trees in each district to check air pollution and to fix the climate change. But the Government of Delhi is asleep. If

trees are planted on the banks of river Yamuna, they will purify the air of Delhi and also clean the river. This is an important issue.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to apprise you one more thing that the burning stubble and the residual of sugarcane is not as much responsible for the pollution as the population of Delhi which is increasing rapidly. There is too much burden of population on Delhi. Earlier when we would travel from Delhi to Bulandshahar, we could see the farmland after farmland on the way but now only buildings are visible. The rapidly increasing population of Delhi and the people who have settled nearby Delhi-NCR in search of employment is the major reason of it. So, I think increasing population of the country is the main reason. The population is more in comparison of resources. Our Government is promoting solar energy, afforestation and water conservation. I would like to request through you that it is very important to control the populations. The population is increasing day by day. Earlier this was not a problem. There were fewer facilities but there was no such problem. These problems are causing climate change and air pollution. Therefore, along with taking the major steps, we also have to think about population control and have to check the growth of population, so that the coming generations does not have to face these problems. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, all the Members are speaking very well, but I would like to request to be brief, without going in details. It is about to 6.00 and I think the house may be adjourned by 06.25. Let's see at 6:25.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Members should immediately Leave the House. It is written in Rules and procedures.

[English]

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Thank you Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. It is great that hon. Minister is also here. Sir, all my colleagues have been very passionately giving their suggestions about pollution and how we can control it. In the last Session, which was my first Session, I was here and everyone was so passionate and everyone was talking about not having drinking water in their constituencies or in their districts. Had we had a Session in the month of October, I am sure, all of us would have been as much passionate as we are right now and we would have been talking about how our cities are drowning in the torrential rains.

18.00 hrs

We cannot take each one in silos. We cannot take each problem, either pollution, waterlogging in cities or lack of water in various States, individually. It is all related to environment. We have to take everything in a unified manner. As the Minister for Environment is here, we have all the solutions also here. I was listening in the morning to the Jal Shakti Minister. He was saying that if we could bring down ten per cent of water usage, we can actually give drinking water to most of the people in this country.

If you look at the issue of Maharashtra, if we could bring down the cultivation of sugarcane by ten per cent, we would not be having the problem of ferrying water in the tankers to the distant lands. With regard to water logging also, in cities like Mumbai and Chennai we are seeing that whenever there is a torrential rain the water gets logged in the cities and no one can move out. We are not following the FSA rules. We are not planning the cities in such a way that water gets absorbed into the ground. These are all the issues that we have to take in a cohesive way. We have to take them in a way that we find solutions to all these things.

If we look at the pollution problem right now, a lot of people have given solutions to it, like green energy, cutting down on cars or increasing the metro transport. All these solutions are there but somehow, we are not acting.

A lot of Members yesterday quoted the Chinese example. A lot of Members have quoted how Beijing has come down on pollution. Let me quote the experience that I had. I have made a lot of visits to a place called Guangzhov in China. It is an industrial town which exports a lot of stuff to many countries across the world. Once they figured out that a lot of pollution is happening because of the industries, they were ready to let go of those industries. They were clear that they did not want any of those industries which was polluting the country. They were ready to let go of their economy and their employment also. Most of the industries were moved to Vietnam and other countries. They were ready to act on it. That is exactly what we have to do. We need to act on it. We have all the solutions but somehow, we are not ready to act.

I would, therefore, urge the Minister to have a National Environment Policy. We have solutions. Let us have those solutions implemented by drafting the National Environment Policy. Just the Minister for Environment cannot bring solutions. We should bring in Health Minister, Jal Shakti Minister and Transport Minister together.

Let me give another example and conclude. In 1960s Japan had huge smog. Vehicles were creating a lot of smog. Let me tell you, Sir, it is the first country in the world which has started BS-III or BS-IV mark, which we are seeing right now. They were ready to burden their economy and start BS-III and BS-IV marking and they made innovations because of that. Right now, if you see cars like Honda, Toyota, they are much more fuel efficient. It is because they were ready to take hard decisions.

I would urge the Minister for Environment to take hard decisions, not just for Delhi but for the country so that our future generations will thank all of us, here.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I must appreciate that without looking at a piece of paper, he has spoken extempore and has spoken outstandingly.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The new Hon. Members has spoken very well.

***SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on Air pollution and Climate Change under rule 193.

For the last fifteen days Delhi has been drawing headlines for air pollution. This issue is being discussed everywhere in the country. What pains me is that during all the discussion on air pollution our farmers are being accused for stubble burning. It is our farmers, who toil hard to feed all of us. We should not overlook the contribution of our farmers, as they are feeding the entire nation. We should not blame them for stubble burning as it is not a primary contributor to cause air pollution. With a heavy heart I would say that our farmers are being accused needlessly for no fault of theirs.

I would like to point out that it is the responsibility of all of us including the Government of the day, Representatives of People and Media to evolve a better framework to encourage our farming community to promote agricultural activities in the country. We all should put our brains together to find out a proper solution and issue necessary guidelines for disposal of the agriculture stubble. It is high time for all of us to understand the gravity of the situation and find out suitable mechanism for the betterment of our farming community.

There are so many other factors causing air pollution. However, we are not discussing about capitalists. We are not discussing about pollution caused by the industries. We do not have any discussion on urbanisation. I am of the opinion that we need to have a threadbare discussion on industrial pollution and also on the urbanisation. We need to ponder over the reasons for increasing urbanisation in the country. Industries are causing not only air pollution, but also water bodies and rivers are polluted. As a result ground water is depleting. There is no fresh air to breathe. We need to have a serious discussion on the industrial and water

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Kannada.

pollution. This is the need of the hour to take steps for mitigating these pollutions as it would have adverse impact on all the human beings particularly on our future generations. Hence the Government should take some concrete steps in this direction. I am happy that this discussion would help us to provide a healthy and safe environment to our next generation. I would like to suggest that the government needs to take certain serious measures to put an end to all kinds of pollution. Stringent laws should be in force with effective implementation. Only then, we can ensure better society and a strong country for our future generation.

I am representing Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha constituency of Karnataka State in the Parliament. As we all are aware that Bengaluru is drawing the attention of the entire world. However, many a time the issue of pollution in Bengaluru was discussed but no concrete solution is put in place so far. As far as Bellandur Lake in Bengaluru is concerned, I would like to mention that the National Green Tribunal had issued directions to the Government to ensure that no untreated sewage and other effluents are discharged and no solid waste is dumped into the water bodies. However, nothing is done to implement the order as there is lack of will-power. No coordination between the Government and its officials and also the irresponsible attitude of the officers of the Department in implementing the NGT order. As a result the entire environment in the catchment area of about 5 kilometers is polluted. Residents in these areas are facing great difficulties as they could not get fresh air due to the pollution. The groundwater level has been depleted.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Union Government to issue necessary directions to the Central Pollution Board to implement the NGT order in an effective manner. I would also request to extend adequate funds and all kinds of assistance to ensure clean Bellandur lake in Bengaluru.

Only two minutes Hon. Speaker, Sir,

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI D.K. SURESH: The river Cauvery and Arkavati flow through my Parliamentary Constituency. About 1,600 MLD water is flown to Tamil Nadu. It needs to be purified. The Government of Karnataka has already taken steps in this regard. The Union Government should extend more financial assistance for this work. As far as Bidadi industrial area is concerned Toyota vehicle manufacturing plant is located here. The Department of Environment and Forest has adequate funds and a number of schemes. However, there is a need to issue proper directions and guidelines to implement them in an effective manner.

Byramangala lake is a very big water body measuring about 500 acres. It is located in my parliamentary constituency. Its water is also polluted due to industrial pollution. There is an urgent need to take measures for cleaning the Byramangala lake and also to increase the underground water. Hence I would like to request the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds to take up these works.

I once again thank you for allowing me to speak on this important discussion and conclude my speech. Thank you.

[English]

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR (BANKURA): Respected hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on serious issue like Air Pollution and Climate change. I am also thankful to my party high command to nominate me as speaker on such an important topic. Many hon. Members, my fellow colleagues from both sides of the House have discussed different aspects of air pollution and climate change. Most of them have highlighted vividly the ill effects of air pollution and climate change and the condition of Indian metro cities in comparison to other cities of developed countries of the world.

Preventive measures were started in India in 1981 and 1986 through Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act and Environment (Protection) Act. Those laws were formulated by hon. Members of the then Parliament for a noble cause. Who ran the Governments in 1986 till 1999 and again from 2004 to 2014? They were the ancestral leaders of the hon. Member who has raised this subject under Rule 193.

Sir, it is easy to recite the bad effects of air pollution as written in reference desk from 1 to 8 and also about the sufferings of glaciers but why did not any specific and capable agency be developed during that period? But during this period, under the leadership of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Government has taken excellent measures which include 8 National Missions and initiated very important steps including Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change in the last five and half years. There is also a High-Level Task Force and so many other initiatives have been taken by this Government.

I would conclude with a statement – success will come through coordination of Central, State, local bodies along with mass awareness.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Girish Chandra. Please conclude in three minutes.

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for giving me the opportunity to discuss the very important issue going on in the House.

Hon. Speaker Sir, today not only Delhi, but the whole country, especially Uttar Pradesh, is facing a severe crisis of pollution, where 14 districts are affected by pollution. My home district which is my Parliamentary Constituency too, has a lot of pollution. Due to that, people are suffering from many diseases like breathing problem, lungs problem and heart problem. Even I sit in the office for one hour a day, many people come to me for getting letter for treatment of their illness.

Hon. Speaker Sir, most of the cities of Uttar Pradesh, a most populous State, are suffering from this terrible problem. It is now imperative to pay proper attention to it by understanding its root causes. It would be better if the Government pays effective attention to this immediately. By the way, pollution has taken the form of a widespread public problem due to the negligence etc. of the Government and people are forced to come out on the streets against it. That's why, after the discussion on pollution in the Parliament, a concrete policy should be formulated on population and Hon. Speaker Sir, efforts should be made to implement it strictly by preparing a programme. This step will be a very important step in public interest. Hon. Speaker Sir, Government money is spent on plantation of trees and trees are planted in district headquarters, blocks and Gram Sabhas. But if one lakh trees are planted in a district, only 20% trees survive, rest of the trees die. Through you, I would like to request the Government to formulate a policy for trees plantation and to protect those trees. If the trees are survived, it will definitely eliminate pollution. Such trees, which provide oxygen, should be planted in the premises of primary schools, it will improve the health of the

children who are getting education there. Through you, I would like to put this demand. Thank you very much for allowing me time to speak.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Durga Prasad Ji, would you like to put up your points in one minute?

SHRI BALLI DURGA PRASAD RAO: Sir, one minute is not sufficient?

HON. SPEAKER: Then, please raise your points on Friday.

Shri N.K. Premachandran

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for affording this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. I would like to appreciate the hon. Speaker for having taken the initiative in having this discussion because wherever we go to participate in the international fora, we find that they are all having a debate on climate change. And now, we are discussing the issue of climate change in the light of highest toxic air pollution in the city of Delhi, the capital of our country.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to global prosperity and development. Due to human activities contributing to emission of greenhouse gases, the international community is on a warming trajectory that will leave the world irrevocably changed. It may result in unimaginable sea level rise, vastly different climates and persistent droughts, devastating heat waves and unprecedented floods.

According to the Foundations of Human Society, food and health security, infrastructure and eco system integrity would be in jeopardy and the most immediate impact would be on the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. Sir, the immediate worsening impact of climate change would be on the marginalised sections of the society.

What is the response to the climate change? The urgent need is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit global average temperature rise to below 2 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels and pursue earnest efforts to limit the temperature rise to below 1.5 degree Celsius above pre industrial levels. This would significantly reduce the impact and risk of climate change in our country and the world as a whole.

In response to this, the new International Agreement has come into effect. We know that Paris Agreement is globally accepted but unfortunately, recently, the President of the United States of America, Mr. Donald Trump has declared that they are going to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. When that situation is there, this Paris Agreement has to be applied from 2020 onwards. The world has already adopted a new universal carbon emission cutting regime from 2020 onwards. The main question which I would like to ask the Government is this. Is India, through the national legislation as well as the national platform of action, able to honour the commitments which we have made in the Paris Agreement so that carbon emission could be reduced to the international level or to the standard which has already been agreed upon by the Paris Agreement?

Sir, US always alleges that India and China are the most polluting countries in the world. It is absolutely a wrong notion on the part of the US. The per capita carbon dioxide emission of US is 16.8 tonnes. Per person, per year, it is 16.8 tonnes. As far as India is concerned, the per capita carbon dioxide emission is only 1.67 tonnes. That means it is only one-tenth of the US emission. Highest emission is depending on the highest consumption. But still they are alleging that India and China are the most polluting countries. The negotiation is still going on in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change that developed countries have to compensate the developing countries because they have already been saturated. The compensation is based on the principle, "Common But Differentiated Responsibility". That is the globally accepted principle as far as the compensatory course for environment protection is concerned. The main point which I would like to say once again to the hon. Minister as well as to the Government is that ease of doing business and environment protection will never go together. That is the point which you have to address. We are all for sustainable development. Even as per the Sustainable

Millennium Development Goals enunciated by the UN Convention, environment protection means sustainable development.

Sir, firstly, I would like to talk about the Forest Conservation Act. In order to have non-forestry activities in the forests, prior permission and confirmation are required. Unfortunately, as part of the recommendations in the Subramaniam Committee Report, you have already diluted the Forest Conservation Act for non-forestry activities in the forests.

The National Green Tribunal Act is one of the very important enactments made by the Parliament. This National Green Tribunal Act is also diluted through a Money Bill by which the tooth and nail of the NGT has already been taken away. That was the best instrument by which the Environmental Protection Laws were implemented in the country. The powers and also the authority of the National Green Tribunal were diluted.

Coming to the third point which I would like to make is regarding the Coastal Zone Management Act. That also, by virtue of a notification, has been diluted. Coming to the issue of forest conservation, if you see, I will just cite an example. As far as the State of Gujarat is concerned, now, we are having 14,000 square kilometres of forest area. During the last one and a half decades, 10,000 square kilometres of forests were destructed in Gujarat. The State is now left only with 14,000 square kilometres of forests. The total forest area is 7.5 per cent. The National Forest Policy of 1998 says that there should be an average of 33 per cent of forest coverage across the country. In my State, we have enhanced the forest coverage area. We are having 52 per cent of forest coverage area. As far as the developed State like Gujarat is concerned, it is only having 7.5 per cent of forest coverage area. That is the way in which we are dealing with this subject.

The fourth issue is regarding the Forest Rights Act. In case of linear projects, as far as the Forest Rights Act is concerned, no public hearing is required

as per the new notification. All these laws – Forest Rights Act, Forest Conservation Act, Environmental Protection Act, National Green Tribunal Act, Coastal Zone Management Act – if you see, in the name of ease of doing business, we have diluted them, we have amended them, and we have issued so many notifications. As a result, definitely, this environmental protection will be compromised. So, I would like to say that environmental protection shall not be compromised for the sake of ease of doing business. That is the point which the Government has to take into consideration for which a political will is required.

Sir, we all know the causes of the climate change. We all know what are the reasons by which the air pollution is becoming very toxic in the National Capital, Delhi. There are so many reasons. We are well aware of them. We are also well aware of the solutions. So, we have to act very stringently in this regard. We have to have a political will so as to address this issue, by implementation of the environmental laws without compromising, for the sake of development. Otherwise, we will be in a precarious condition. That will be very adversely affecting our country in total.

Sir, the Report of Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007 states that formerly, periodicity of the floods was 100 years. In my State of Kerala, in 2017, there was Ockhi; in 2018, there was a big flood; in 2019 now, there are landslides and so many other natural disasters. So, these are all the consequential effects of climate change which we are also facing. A God's Own Country like Kerala is also facing such a severe and adverse conditions. So, we have to have a strong policy, a national platform of action, not to compromise with the environmental laws, not to compromise with anything, as far as air pollution and environmental protection are concerned.

Regarding, the Delhi issue, there are five to six reasons of it. I am not going into all. The issue of agriculture and paddy is the main issue which we always are blaming. It is quite unfortunate to blame the farming community in the country.

Regarding the thermal power stations, an hon. Member has already stated that the operation of thermal power stations surrounding Delhi have to be relooked. Regarding the construction industry, today also, we have received so many complaints. Nowadays, there is an environmental terrorism by the NDMC Officials. Even painting is not allowed; repair is not allowed. NDMC is taking advantage of this issue. The vehicular population and industrial pollution also need to be checked.

I conclude by saying that the Environmental Protection Laws and related rules, notifications have to be strictly implemented, and stringent action is required in this regard. With these words, I once again take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Speaker Sir for having taken the initiative to have a discussion on climate change and air pollution. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Climate Change is the most common subject of discussion across the world. Whichever country I visited, agenda on Climate Change was presented there by India and that agenda was accepted. There is a lot of truth in what N.K. Premachandran Ji is speaking. Shri Prakash Javadekar Ji is also present in the House. I thank you all for having a very good discussion on this subject in the House. A formal thanks giving will take place tomorrow and reply will be given in all your presence.

The House is adjourned till 11 of the Clock on Friday, November 22, 2019.

18.26 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 22,
2019/Agrahayana 1, 1941 (Saka)*

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