

Seventeenth Series, Vol. XX No. 11

Monday, August 01, 2022

Shravana 10, 1944 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XX contains Nos. 11 to 16)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

EDITORIAL BOARD**Utpal Kumar Singh****Secretary-General****Lok Sabha****Mamta Kem Wal****Joint Secretary****Bishan Kumar****Director****Shivaji Srivastava****Joint Director****Dr. Vandana Grover Dawar****Editor****© 2022 Lok Sabha Secretariat**

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished, downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

Original English proceedings included in English Version will be treated as authoritative and not the English translation of the speeches made in Hindi and other languages included in it. For complete authoritative version please see Original Version of Lok Sabha Debates.

C O N T E N T S

Seventeenth Series, Vol. XX, Ninth Session, 2022/1944 (Saka)

No. 11, Monday, August 01, 2022/Sravana 10, 1944 (Saka)

<u>S U B J E C T</u>	<u>P A G E S</u>
FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER	
Congratulatory on winning medals at	
Commonwealth Games, 2022	15
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 201 and 202	16-18
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 203 to 220	19
Unstarred Question Nos. 2301 to 2530	

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 20-54

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

17th Report 55

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

Action Taken Statements 55-56

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS 57-58

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 274th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 271st Report of the Committee on 'Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, Pensions and Schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture' pertaining to the Ministry of Culture

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal

57

(ii)	Status of implementation of the recommendations /observations contained in the 337 th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education	
	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	58
	CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022	59
	OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	
	Maintaining Order, Discipline and Decorum of House	60-66
	MOTION RE: REVOCATION OF SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS	66
	MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	67-83
(i)	Regarding constitution of district Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees in West Bengal	
	Shri Jagannath Sarkar	67

- (ii) Regarding establishment of a 100-bedded Hospital under National Health Mission in Bhadohi district, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Ramesh Bind

67-68

- (iii) Regarding setting up of Cultural Centre for Alha, a folk song of Bundelkhand

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel

68-69

- (iv) Regarding conversion of the Jharsuguda Airport from UDAN Scheme to General Category

Shri Jual Oram

69-70

- (v) Regarding No Objection Certificate for Kidney transplantation

Shri Rajendra Agrawal

70-71

- (vi) Regarding stoppage of train Nos. 18030 and 18615 at Chakulia Railway station and introduction of direct train from Tatanagar to Buxar and Deen Dayal Upadhyay junction

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato 71

- (vii) Regarding impending drought condition in Jharkhand

Shri Jayant Sinha 72

- (viii) Regarding compensation to farmers and people affected by heavy rains in Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete 72-73

- (ix) Regarding setting up of a centre of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

Shri Janardan Singh Sigrwal 73-74

- (x) Regarding six-laning of Gwalior-Bhind-Etawah National Highway

- Shrimati Sandhya Ray** 74
- (xi) Regarding implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan
- Shri Dushyant Singh** 74-75
- (xii) Regarding Legislations on Ecologically Sensitive Zones
- Shri Anto Antony** 75
- (xiii) Regarding threats being posed by Sea erosion
- Shri Hibi Eden** 76
- (xiv) Regarding completion of the Tindivanam-Tiruvannamalai new railway line project
- Dr. M. K. Vishnu Prasad** 76-77
- (xv) Regarding grant of adequate funds for archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu

Dr. T. Sumathy(A)Thamizhachi 77-78
Thangapandian

- (xvi) Regarding incorporation of a comprehensive crop diversification model

Shri Bellana Chandra Sekhar 78-79

- (xvii) Regarding grant of an additional attempt for UPSC examination aspirants affected by Covid-19

Shrimati Aparupa Poddar 79

- (xviii) Need to restore the operation of train between 36 Narkatiaganj and Bhikhna Thori in Bihar

Shri Sunil Kumar 80

- (xix) Regarding participation of Members of Parliament in Public hearings pertaining to environmental issues

Kumari Chandrani Murmu 80-81

- (xx) Regarding service condition of Scientists working in DRDO

Kunwar Danish Ali 81-82

- (xxi) Regarding utilisation of sugarcane stubble for production of energy

Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil 82

- (xxii) Regarding construction of a Foot Over Bridge and stoppage of trains at Siddhpur railway station in Patan Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

Shri Bharatsinhji Shankarji Dabhi 82-83

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE 83

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Price Rise 84-240

Shri Manish Tewari	84-88
Dr. Nishikant Dubey	88-99
Shrimati Kanimozhi Karunanidhi	99-103
Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar	104-108
Shri Kaushlendra Kumar	108-110
Shrimati Sangeeta Azad	110-112
Shri Nama Nageswara Rao	112-115
Shri Pinaki Misra	115-120
Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule	120-126
Shri Margani Bharat	126-129
Shri Uday Pratap Singh	129-138
Shri Kalyan Banerjee	138-143
Sushri S. Jothimani	143-146
Shri Jayadev Galla	147-150
Adv. A. M. Ariff	150-152
Shrimati Jaskaur Meena	153-157
Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer	157-160
Dr. S.T. Hasan	160-161
Shri Jayant Sinha	162-167
Shri Hasnain Masoodi	167-170
Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal	170-173
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	174-179
Shri Pallab Lochan Das	180-181
Shri Hanuman Beniwal	182-184
Shri N.K. Premachandran	185-187
Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil	188-190
Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S.	190-191
Shrimati Vanga Geetha Viswanath	191-193
Shri Thomas Chazhikadan	193

Shri Saumitra Khan	194-195
Shri Ramshiromani Verma	196
Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	197-202
Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman	202-240

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA**THE SPEAKER**

Shri Om Birla

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shrimati Rama Devi

Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki

Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Shri A. Raja

Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

Shri N.K. Premachandran

Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri Utpal Kumar Singh

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 01, 2022/Sravana 10, 1944 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I would like that the House functions. There should be good discussion and debate.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

11.01 hrs

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

Congratulations on winning medals at Commonwealth Games, 2022

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am extremely glad to inform you that India has so far won three Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and one Bronze Medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Games-2022 being organized at Birmingham.

Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, Shri Jeremy Lalrinnunga and Shri Achinta Sheuli have won Gold Medals in the weightlifting competition while Shri Sanket Sargar and Ms. Bindyarani Devi have won Silver Medals in the same competition and Shri Gururaja Poojary has performed excellently by winning Bronze Medal for India.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the entire House, I heartily congratulate all our players who won medals and convey best wishes to all other Indian players participating in this competition.

I am confident that the excellent performance of Indian players in the Commonwealth Games will inspire the youth especially the young players of the entire country,

... *(Interruptions)*

11.02 hrs

At this stage, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

11.02½ hrs**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 201 – Shri P. Velusamy.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

(Q. 201)

SHRI P. VELUSAMY: Thank you, Speaker, Sir. After the Federal Reserve's rate increase, what is the total amount of outflow/withdrawal of Foreign Portfolio Investors from the capital market related to Tamil Nadu? ...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You are a Senior Member of the House, Kindly take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, your own party Members are asking questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, are you asking a question?

Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You kindly ask again.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. VELUSAMY: Thank you, Speaker, Sir. After the Federal Reserve's rate increase, what is the total amount of outflow/withdrawal of Foreign Portfolio Investors from the capital market related to Tamil Nadu? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Hon. Speaker Sir, no specific information is available regarding Tamil Nadu, I will make it available to the Hon. Member. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number – 202 – Kumari Goddeti Madhavi.

(Q. 202)

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI: Sir, what steps is the Government of India taking to ensure that the books available in the libraries impart education which is holistic and cover subjects of contemporary relevance like Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence as well as texts of historic relevance to Indian culture? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You do not want the House to function. You do not want the Hon. Members to ask the questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you adequate time and adequate opportunity. You may kindly take your seats. I will give you adequate time and adequate opportunity. This House is yours.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, what do you want to say?

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL : Sir, I would like to say that with your permission today, Item No.20 related to discussion on price rise has been raised on their demand...(*Interruptions*) They do not want to make discussion in the House, we want to discuss...(*Interruptions*)

They had raised demand for discussion on price rise, that has also been put up for discussion by us in the House ... (*Interruptions*) They should do this discussion, agree to your appeal and they should return to their respective seats... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, they should not be allowed to do anything else. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I want to maintain the sanctity of the House. It is not the right way for the House to proceed.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 12.00 noon today.

[*English*]

11.05 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(Starred Question Nos. 203 to 220)

Unstarred Question Nos. 2301 to 2530)

*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.

12.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

12.0½ hrs

At this stage, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shrimati Kanimozhi Karunanidhi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Papers will be laid on the Table.

Item No. 2 – Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, 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 469 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) The Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.255(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th April, 2022.
- (ii) The Companies (Accounts) Second Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.235(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2022.
- (iii) The Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.279(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th April, 2022.
- (iv) The Companies (Incorporation) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.291(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th April, 2022.
- (v) The Companies (Registration of Charges) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.320(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th April, 2022.
- (vi) The Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.335(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th May, 2022.
- (vii) The Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.338(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2022.
- (viii) The Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.363(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th May, 2022.
- (ix) The Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.401(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2022.

(x) The Companies (Accounts) Third Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.407(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st May, 2022.

(xi) The Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.410(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st June, 2022.

(xii) The Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.436(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th June, 2022.

(xiii) The Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Second Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.439(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2022.

(xiv) The National Financial Reporting Authority Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.456(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2022.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7285/17/22]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 64 of the Competition Act, 2002:-

(i) The Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Amendment Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. F. No. CCI/CD/Amend/Comb. Regl./2022 in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2022.

(ii) The Competition Commission of India (General) Amendment Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. L-3(2)/Regl-Gen.(Amdt.)/2022/CCI in Gazette of India dated 8th April, 2022.

(iii) The Competition Commission of India (Procedure for Engagement of Experts and Professionals) Amendment Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. F. No. A-12015/01/2022HR/CC in Gazette of India dated 12th April, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7286/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): Hon'ble Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 2019-2020.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7287/17/22]

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7288/17/22]

- (5) A copy of the Lead Stabilizer in Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pipes and Fittings (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.334(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th May, 2022 under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7289/17/22]

- (6) A copy of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.480(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2022 under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7290/17/22]

- (7) A copy of Notification No.G.S.R.345(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 10th May, 2022, regarding 'Sale & Use of Petcoke in Lime Kilns' under Sections 5 & 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7291/17/22]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) S.O.1947(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th April, 2022, regarding reconstitution of West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- (ii) S.O.2090(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2022, regarding amendment in Island Protection Zone.
- (iii) S.O.2095(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2022, regarding amendment in Island Coastal Regulation Zone.
- (iv) S.O.2194(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th May, 2022, regarding reconstitution of National Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- (v) S.O.1807(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th April, 2022, regarding validity of Environmental Clearance.

- (vi) S.O.1886(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th April, 2022, decentralising the EC process for facilitating clearances at State level.
- (vii) S.O.1953(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th April, 2022, regarding exclusion of ropeway projects for requirement of environmental clearance.
- (viii) S.O.2163(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th May, 2022, regarding streamline the process of the public hearing by reducing undue delay.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7292/17/22]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7293/17/22]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7294/17/22]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7295/17/22]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Kolkata, for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Museum, Kolkata, for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

- (7) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7296/17/22]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7297/17/22]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7298/17/22]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7299/17/22]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the 38th Progress Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto, July, 2022.।

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7300/17/22]

(2) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Employees' Service)(Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. SEBI/LAD-NRO/GN/2022/87 in Gazette of India dated 22nd June, 2022 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7301/17/22]

(3) A copy of the Circular No. 12 of 2022 (Hindi and English versions) dated 16th June, 2022 guidelines for removal of difficulties under sub-section (2) of Section 194R of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7302/17/22]

(4) A copy of the Circular No. 13 of 2022 (Hindi and English versions) dated 22nd June, 2022 guidelines under sub-section (6) of Section 194S of the Income –tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7303/17/22]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) The Income-tax (19th Amendment) Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.463(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st June, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum.।
- (ii) The Income-tax (20th Amendment) Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.482 in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum and corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R.505(E) dated 1st July, 2022.।

- (iii) The Income-tax (22nd Amendment) Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.537(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7304/17/22]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 166 of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017:-

- (i) G.S.R.429(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th June, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide waiver of interest for specified electronic commerce operators for specified tax periods.
- (ii) G.S.R.541(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 11/2017-Central Tax (Rate) so as to notify CGST rates of various services as recommended by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th and 29th June, 2022.
- (iii) G.S.R.544(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13 th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 12/2017-Central Tax (Rate) so as to implement recommendations made by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th and 29th June, 2022.
- (iv) G.S.R.547(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13 th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 13/2017-Central Tax (Rate) so as to implement recommendations made by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th and 29th June, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7305/17/22]

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

- (i) The Customs Brokers Licensing (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No.G.S.R.471(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment (First Amendment) Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No.G.S.R.483(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R.248(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum extending the exemption from Integrated Tax and Compensation Cess upto 30.06.2022 on goods imported under Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods Schemes.
- (iv) G.S.R.539(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7306/17/22]

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

- (i) G.S.R.510(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th July, 2022 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Central Excise Duty and other applicable cess on E12 and E15 Fuel, that is a blend consisting of the specified percentage of motor spirit, (commonly known as petrol) (88%/85%) on which appropriate duties of Excise (including applicable cess) have been paid and specified percentage of ethanol (12%/15%) on which applicable GST has been paid and conforming to standard IS 17586 and to change the description of Bio-diesel so as to extend the exemption to high-speed diesel blended with biodiesel produced from all sources.
- (ii) G.S.R.534(E) to G.S.R.536(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2022 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Central Excise Duty and other applicable cess on E12 and E15 Fuel, that is a blend consisting of the specified percentage of motor spirit, (commonly known as petrol) (88%/85%) on which appropriate duties of Excise (including applicable cess) have been paid and specified percentage of ethanol (12%/15%) on which applicable GST has been paid and conforming to standard IS 17586 and to change the description of Bio-diesel so as to extend the exemption to high-speed diesel blended with biodiesel produced from all sources.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7307/17/22]

(9) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R.533(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the name of Country of Export from 'Singapore' to 'Any country including Indonesia' for the producer 'PT, ENERGI SEJAHTERA MAS' and exporter 'Sinarmas CESP A Pte. Which imposed Anti-dumping duty on imports of Saturated Fatty Alcohols' from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia under sub-section 7 of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7308/17/22]

(10) (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 24 of the Integrated Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017:-

- (i) G.S.R.542(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 08/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate) so as to notify IGST rates of various services as recommended by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th& 29th June, 2022.
- (ii) G.S.R.545(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 09/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate) so as to notify IGST rates of various services as recommended by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th& 29th June, 2022.
- (iii) G.S.R.548(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 10/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate) so as to notify IGST rates of various services as recommended by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th& 29th June, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7309/17/22]

(11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) Section 24 of the Union Territory Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017:-

- (i) G.S.R.543(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 11/2017-Union Territory Tax (Rate) so as to notify UTGST rates of various services as recommended by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th and 29th June, 2022.
- (ii) G.S.R.543(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 11/2017-Union Territory Tax (Rate) so as to notify UTGST rates of various services as recommended by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th and 29th June, 2022.
- (iii) G.S.R.549(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2022, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 13/2017-Union Territory Tax (Rate) so as to implement recommendations by GST Council in the 47th meeting held on 28th and 29th June, 2022. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7310/17/22]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Skill Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Skill Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7311/17/22]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Vocational Education and Training, New Delhi, for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Vocational Education and Training, New Delhi, for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7312/17/22]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

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

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7313/17/22]

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

CULTURE (SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tibet House, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tibet House, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the) Government of the working of the Tibet House, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7314/17/22]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2019-2020.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2019-2020, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7315/17/22]

- (5)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2020-2021.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the) Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7316/17/22]

- (7) A copy of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Rules, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.48(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2021 under sub-section (4) of Section 38 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Remains Act, 1958.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7317/17/22]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI) I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development (Erstwhile-Central Board for Workers Education), Nagpur, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development (Erstwhile-Central Board for Workers Education), Nagpur, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7318/17/22]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. N-12/13/01/2019-P&D (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2022 regarding ESIC COVID19 Relief Scheme under sub-section (4) of Section 97 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7319/17/22]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Punjab, Mohali, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Punjab, Mohali, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7320/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Samagra Shiksha, Kavaratti, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Samagra Shiksha, Kavaratti, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Samagra Shiksha, Kavaratti, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7321/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himachal Pradesh School Education Society (Samagra Shiksha), Shimla, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh School Education Society (Samagra Shiksha), Shimla, for the year 2020- 2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7322/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, for the year 2020- 2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7323/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7324/17/22]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Samagra Shiksha Mizoram, Aizawl, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Samagra Shiksha Mizoram, Aizawl, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7325/17/22]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION (SHRI B. L. VERMA): I beg to lay following Papers on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation 19 Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2020- 2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7326/17/22]

... (*Interruptions*)

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education (DR. SUBHAS SARKAR): Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay following papers on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, for the year 2020-21, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, for the year 2020-21.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7327/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Nagaland, Dimapur, for the year 2020-21, alongwith Audited Accounts
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Nagaland, Dimapur, for the year 2020

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7328/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7329/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Goa, Goa, for the year 2020-21
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Goa, Goa, for the year 2020-21, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Goa, Goa, for the year 2020-21

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7330/17/22]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2020-21

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2020-21, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2020-21

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7331/17/22]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sikkim University, Gangtok, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Sikkim University, Gangtok, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sikkim University, Gangtok, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7332/17/22]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Indore, Indore, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Indore, Indore, for the year 2020-21
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7333/17/22]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, Nagpur, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, Nagpur, for the year 2020-21
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7334/17/22]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, Kozhikode, for the year 2020 -2021, alongwith Audited Accounts
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, Kozhikode, for the year 2020-2021
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7335/17/22]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Raipur, Raipur, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Raipur, Raipur, for the year 2020-2021

(20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7336/17/22]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Jammu, Jammu, for the year 2020-2021 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Jammu, Jammu, for the year 2020-2021

(22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7337/17/22]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, for the year 2020-2021.

(24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7338/17/22]

- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, Hamirpur, for the year 2020-21.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, Hamirpur, for the year 2020-21.

(26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7339/17/22]

- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2020
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2020
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2020

(28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7340/17/22]

- (29) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2020-2021.

(30) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7341/17/22]

(31) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Puducherry, Karaikal, for the year 2020

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Puducherry, Karaikal, for the year 2020

(32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7342/17/22]

(33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Uttarakhand, Pauri Garhwal, for the year 2020

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Uttarakhand, Pauri Garhwal, for the year 2020

(34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7343/17/22]

(35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (36) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (35) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 7344/17/22]
- (37) (i) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (37) above.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (37) above.
- (38) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (37) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 7345/17/22]
- (39) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2020
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2020
- (40) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (39) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 7346/17/22]
- (41) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2020
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2020
- (42) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (41) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 7347/17/22]

- (43) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2020
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2020
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2020
- (44) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (43) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7348/17/22]

- (45) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad, Dharwad, for the year 2020
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad, Dharwad, for the year 2020
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad, Dharwad, for the year 2020

- (46) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (45) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7349/17/22]

- (47) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Kharagpur, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Kharagpur, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Kharagpur, for the year 2020-2021.

(48) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (47) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7350/17/22]

(49) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.

(50) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (49) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7351/17/22]

- (51) (i) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2020
- (ii) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2020
- (iii) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2020

(52) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (51) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7352/17/22]

(53) A copy of the University Grants Commission (Fitness of Open Universities for grants) (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.359(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th May, 2022 under Section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7353/17/22]

(54) A copy of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. CA/431/2022/MSAE(Regulations) in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2022 under sub-section (3) of Section 45 of the Architects Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7354/17/22]

(55) A copy of the All India Council for Technical Education (Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' posts) Recruitment Regulations, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 3-24/Admn/Estt./Amend/RRs/2011/Vol.I in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2022 under Section 24 of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7355/17/22]

(56) A copy of the Indian Institute of Management Udaipur Regulations, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 8-9/2021-TS.V. in Gazette of India dated 26th March, 2022 under Section 37 of the Indian Institute of Management Act, 2017

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7356/17/22]

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. BHAGWAT KARAD): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, Mumbai, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the) Government of the working of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7357/17/22]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government) of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7358/17/22]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the performance of Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7359/17/22]

- (4) A copy of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Salary and Allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and other members) Amendment Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.461(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st June, 2022 under sub-section (3) of Section 114A of the Insurance Act, 1938 and Section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7360/17/22]

- (5) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to the Chief Executive and Managing Directors) Amendment Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.437(E) in Gazette of India dated 9th June, 2022 under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7361/17/22]

(6) A copy of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development General (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.580(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th July, 2022 under Section 33 of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7362/17/22]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 53 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013:-

- (i) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Form of Annual Statement of Accounts and Records) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.521(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th July, 2022.
- (ii) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority(Employees' Service)(Amendment) Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. PFRDA/12/RGL/139/11 in Gazette of India dated 13th April, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7363/17/22]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980:-

- (i) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2022 published in Notification No. S.O.3026(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2022.
- (ii) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2022 published in Notification No. S.O.3027(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2022.

- (iii) The UCO Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. HO/EST/2021-22/297 in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2022

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7364/17/22]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (11) of Section 45 of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949:-

- (i) The Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Limited (Amalgamation with Unity Small Finance Bank Limited) Scheme, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.45(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th January, 2022.

- (ii) The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (Amalgamation) with DBS Bank India Limited) Scheme, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.731(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th November, 2020.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (ii) of (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7365/17/22]

- (11) A copy of the RBI Employees' Gratuity and Superannuation Fund (Amendment) Regulations, 2021(Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. CSBD/Funds/S57/05.12.003/2022-23 in Gazette of India dated 6th May, 2022 under sub-section (4) of Section 58 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7366/17/22]

- (12) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.3035(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 4th July, 2022 applying certain provisions of the Act in International Financial services Centre with exceptions, modifications and adaptations under sub-section (3) of Section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7367/17/22]

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 17 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:-

- (i) The United India Fire and General Insurance Company Limited (Merger) Amendment Scheme, 2022 published in Notification No. S.O.1821(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th April, 2022.
- (ii) The National Insurance Company Limited (Merger) Amendment Scheme, 2022 published in Notification No. S.O.1822(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th April, 2022.
- (iii) The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company Limited (Merger) Amendment Scheme, 2022 published in Notification No. S.O.1823(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th April, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7367A/17/22]

12.02 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

17th Report

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay the 17th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on 'Avoidable loss due to extension of loan in terminated projects relating to India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) based on C&AG Audit Para No. 5.2 of Report No. 18 of 2020'.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.02½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table four Final Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2021-22):-

- (1) Twenty-fifth Action Taken Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twentieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' (Department of Fertilizers).
- (2) Twenty-sixth Action Taken Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Nineteenth Report

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).

(3) Twenty-seventh Action Taken Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals including Import and Exports' (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).

(4) Twenty-eighth Action Taken Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-first Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' (Department of Pharmaceuticals).

12.03 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 274th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 271st Report of the Committee on 'Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, Pensions and Schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture pertaining to the Ministry of Culture'*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 274th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 271st Report of the Committee on 'Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, Pensions and Schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture' pertaining to the Ministry of Culture.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 7283/17/22

12.04 hrs

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 337th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. SUBHAS SARKAR): Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 337th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

... (Interruptions)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 7284/17/22

12.05 hrs

CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022^{1□}

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce Bill for leave to introduce

a Bill further to amend the The Central Universities Act, 2009... (Interruptions)

Minister of Educaiton; and

HON. CHAIRMEN: The question is:

“that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the The Central Universities Act, 2009.”

Motion was adopted

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I introduce ^{2□□} the Bill ...

(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, have your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Only then, get a chance to speak, please, go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the House proceeds.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Discussion on price rise has been accepted and fixexd.

... (*Interruptions*)

^{1*} Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 01.08.2022.

^{2**} Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House now stands adjourned till 2:00 p.m. today.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.06 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

[*English*]

14.01 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at One-Minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Maintaining Order, Discipline and Decorum of House

[*Translation*]

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the incidents that have taken place in this House in the past few days have hurt all of us. I have also been hurt and the people of the country have also been pained after seeing all these incidents.

Hon. Members, Parliament is the supreme institution of democracy in the country. We all are proud of the parliamentary traditions. The prestige of the House has been established through the tradition of discussion, dialogue and positive debate. Our previous Speakers and all the leaders of the House have collectively always enhanced the prestige of the House by adhering to the high dignity and traditions of the House. It is the collective responsibility of all of us

to protect the House. There may be agreement and disagreement on issues, while debating and discussing, there have always been heated debates and discussions on many issues in our parliamentary traditions, but we have always upheld the dignity of the House.

I urge you to have discussion, dialogue, argument, agreement, disagreement, if there is difference of opinion on any issue then sit and discuss, but let the House function. All the Hon. Members of all the parties want this. I always try to give enough time and opportunity to all the Hon. Members to express themselves.

Hon. Members also ask me in personal conversation that the House should function so that we can raise the issues of our parliamentary constituency. I hope that today we have met here as agreed. I always wish that there should be no disruption in the House. When for the first time you all elected me as the Speaker of the House and the proceeding of the House was adjourned during the first session of the House, I always have a feeling in my mind that the House should not be adjourned even for a minute so that the newspapers do not make headlines that crores of rupees are being spent on the proceedings of the Parliament and the Parliament is not functioning.

I always believe, particularly when we are celebrating the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Amrit Kaal*, let us discuss problems and issues in the *Amrit Kaal*. In democracy, the problems have always been solved through discussion and dialogue. After independence, we have found solutions to the most serious problems through the Parliament.

We have transformed the country through public welfare in the last 75 years. I hope that in the *Amrit Kaal*, there will be more intense churning and the nectar that will emerge from it will be able to provide maximum welfare to the people.

I again urge all of you to maintain the dignity of the House and exercise self-restraint so that the dignity of the House may be upheld. You have made these rules and procedures and you have given me the responsibility of running the House according to these rules and procedures. Therefore, I urge all of you Hon. Members to talk to the leader of your party and the Hon. Members themselves should maintain the dignity of this supreme institution of democracy by following the rules and procedures, exercising restraint and maintaining discipline. This is my request to you.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, as representatives of the common people, we get an opportunity to come to the House and participate in the discussion. We get elected and come here from far-off villages, towns and cities just for the sake of discussion, to put the views of the common people and to draw the attention of the Government. We should try as much as we can to alleviate the sufferings of the common people and this is our duty and responsibility.

Sir, I just want to put one issue before you that on the onset of this session you had called an all party meeting. In that meeting you yourself admitted that the productivity of the House has reached 105 percent. This is a record in itself.

HON. SPEAKER: Please state the issue.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Please allow me to speak. I am speaking after so many days. I am not criticizing anyone, I am expressing my views. It is not right that only the Hon. Prime Minister speaks his *Man Ki Baat*

and we do not. The thing is, and I can say with full confidence that the statement made by you on television regarding productivity of the House and the opportunity you give us for discussion, clearly shows that the entire opposition makes every possible effort to function the House. Had it not been the case, how would you have got the figures regarding the productivity?

Sir, the other thing I would like to say is that whether it is the treasury benches or the opposition, all the Members in the House are your admirers. I can say with full confidence that everyone likes you, because you give opportunity to everyone to speak. You spend a lot of time in the House so that we can express our views. It is a matter of great fortune for us. We come here to run the House and not to have a picnic or to visit *Hawamahal*. This is not our motive to gossip or do any other work; we are here only to make the House function. You said that you are hurt; I too feel bad hearing this.

Neither the ruling party nor the opposition should do any such behavior in the House that would cause any harm to the Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable President or the establishment. We should not behave in this manner. People elect us and send us here to fulfill our responsibilities.

Sir, I would like to say one thing, if you point one finger, there are three more pointing back at you, it is very easy to blame each other. The thing is, we want and we have been saying from the very beginning that Government should have a lenient way towards the opposition and reinstate the suspended members, because sometimes issues have to be raised loudly to express the views of the common people. Due to the attitude of the Government, sometimes it becomes necessary for us to protest.

Therefore, I want that a meeting of a General Purpose and a Rules Committee should be called to find all these solutions. All the opposition parties and the ruling party should come together and discuss it and some solution should be found by forming a consensus. No member comes here to hurt you.

The Members of our party do not have the slightest evil intention of hurting you. I can say this with great confidence. If you are hurt, we will discuss this matter with all our Members and I will pay a lot of attention to ensure that you do not get hurt again. You can count on all of us. But if a Minister insults the Honorable President by calling her name inside the House, then this is also not right. I would also want you to take a note of this. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, please reinstate our suspended Members. This is my request to you.

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the House belongs to all of you. The more you maintain its dignity and reputation, the more your reputation will be built. I request the House. In this regard, I want to say publicly that there should be a consensus that we should not bring placards to the House. I would urge and request all the parties not to bring placards because, if you come in front of the chair with a placard, then whoever is presiding over the proceedings will have to take action in compulsion to maintain the dignity of the House. In such cases, we have to take action unwillingly. We never want any member who has been elected by the public to not to take part in the proceedings of the Parliament. Nobody wants this. Therefore, I request you and the leaders of all parties not to come to the House with placards. I am giving them one last chance. If they bring placards, I will neither listen to the Government nor the opposition. I will have to take action.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, can they join the proceedings?

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Please wait for the proposal from the Government.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, as far as productivity is concerned, which Hon. Adhir Ranjan ji has raised. I would like to convey this on behalf of the Government that we are trying our best to increase the productivity and we are committed towards that. But, what has been happening for the last two weeks, a discussion was sought on the topic of price rise, I had asked for it in the All Party meeting which was chaired by you

and also when we had called the All Party meeting on behalf of the Government. We had said that we are ready for discussion. Later, unfortunately, Hon Minister of Finance was affected by COVID-19. Even then I told that as soon as she comes back, there will be a discussion. Honorable Finance Minister arrived on Tuesday. On the same day, I had discussed with you in detail and told that when you take the decision, on the same day whether it is Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, we are ready to discuss on behalf of the Government. But, I still don't understand why the productivity decreased. *[English]* I am not able to understand why we have lost productivity in the last two weeks. *[Translation]* In the meantime, also we have passed bills. Some people from the opposition party had participated in it. I thank them for that. Other than the Congress Party, other parties have participated in the two-three bills that have been passed. All I want to say is that a General Purpose meeting should be called. We should work upon the rules and how to bring a stringent rule. But, in the meantime, we also have to think that until we change the rule, *[English]* we have to decide whether to follow the existing rule or not. *[Translation]* This kind of behavior is being done by bringing placards in front of you and in front of your face, they are doing this not only in front of the Ministers but also in front of you and the Chair. We have to think about whether this is right. For this, they have not yet assured that we will not bring placards in future. You should assure. This is our request to you. Even if they don't do it, we are ready to accept your decision. But, what was their demand, we have been saying since day one, even today the Honorable Finance Minister is sitting. We are completely ready for discussion. We have nothing to hide. I want to make this clear.

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, will we all agree that we will not bring placards; there is no House bigger than this. Do all Hon. Members agree to this?

MANY HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes-yes.

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please bring the proposal.

SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Sir, I move the motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE SPEAKER: You speak please.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Sir, as you have ordered and the opposition has also accepted it. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE SPEAKER: You say that whatever arrangement has been given by the Speaker that if someone brings placards in front of the Chair or in the Well, then I will ensure that the rules and procedures are completely followed. If I have to take any action on it, I will. Okay, this thing is clear.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

14.15 hrs

MOTION RE: REVOCATION OF SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, as you have said and Shri Adhir Ranjan ji also accepted that they abide by all the rules and procedures. It is clear in the rules and procedure that *[English]* without any ambiguity, it is very, very clear that they cannot bring placards, and that is why, *[Translation]* I would like to say that they should follow your order. With this request, I propose:

“That the suspension of the MPs who have been suspended should be withdrawn.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the suspension of the MPs who have been suspended should be withdrawn.”

The Motion was adopted.

14.16 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, matters under Rule 377 should be placed on the table of the House. Hon. Members who have been permitted to raise matters today under Rule 377 and who wish to table them should table the matters in person within 20 minutes.

(i) Regarding constitution of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees in West Bengal

SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR (RANAGHAT) : For effective and time bound development in the districts of our country, District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA) have been established in several States to ensure better coordination among the elected representatives in Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies, local governments, Panchayati Raj institutions, and municipal bodies. However, due to the absence of a Disha committee in West Bengal, district-level development is hindered. The information about the monitoring of the assistance provided by the Central Government for the State's development would be readily available if there were a Disha committee, making development more time-bound. I request the Central Government to halt the assistance being sent to the State until DISHA Committees are formed in each district of West Bengal and the assistance should be resumed after the formation of these Committees.

(ii) Regarding establishment of a 100-bedded Hospital under National Health Mission in Bhadohi district, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMESH BIND (BHADOHI): Bhadohi district was established on 30 June 1994, and it is about to complete 28 years since its formation. However, unfortunately there is no district hospital in our district at present. Over 90% of the hand-knotted carpet exported originates from Bhadohi. According to the 2011 census, the population of Bhadohi district is over 1.5 million. In January 2008, the erstwhile BSP Government granted an approval for a 100-bed hospital in the district at a cost of 14 crore rupees, and the foundation laying ceremony was also held. However, due to irregularities committed during the previous Governments, the construction of this hospital is still pending, and the present State Government has ordered an investigation into this matter. The lack of a hospital and basic healthcare facilities has caused great inconvenience to the public, which I personally witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Patients had to travel to Varanasi or Gorakhpur for the treatment of diseases, resulting in financial difficulties for them. I request the Government and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to undertake the construction of a 100-bed district hospital in Bhadohi district through the National Health Mission within a specified timeframe.

**(iii) Regarding setting up of Cultural Center for Alha,
a folk song of Bundelkhand**

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): Bundelkhand is an economically backward, but culturally rich region. "Alha Gayan," which has been orally transmitted for centuries, is a unique identifier of this region. Alha Gayan enhances character resilience and dispels feelings of

despair in life. The experience of enthusiasm through Alha Gayan and listening to it is of great significance for the energy required for a nation's work. Prosody and meter is not only unique to Bundelkhand but also a distinct hallmark of Indian culture. The great grammarian Maharishi Pingala, the brother of grammarian Acharya Maharishi Panini, wrote an entire treatise on this subject. The great devotee Shri Goswami Tulsidas Ji used various meters, such as Anushtubh, in his compositions. In Indian literature, other famous meters like Gayatri, Jagati, Pankti, Dhruti, Virat, and Ushnik are also prevalent, and the Samaveda remains the foundation of Indian musical styles. This means that the science of Indian musical styles is also extensive and it is continually used by tradition. In the same way, the cultural significance of Alha Gayan in Bundelkhand is immensely rich and has been preserved by a selected groups through oral tradition. If a research is done and its science is documented, the style of singing can evolve beyond its traditional existence and become a mainstream part of Indian culture for ages to come. Therefore, it is necessary to make continuous efforts to preserve the immensely significant Alha Gayan. I request the Government to establish a cultural center for Alha Gayan in Mahoba, the cultural capital of Bundelkhand. This would enable the documentation of Alha Gayan, pave the way for further research, and promote tourism alongside Khajuraho, ultimately improving the economic condition of the region.

(iv) Regarding conversion of the Jharsuguda Airport from UDAN Scheme to General Category

[English]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (SUNDARGARH): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation towards the inefficiency of a particular private airline operating the Delhi – Jharsuguda – Delhi daily flights

and need to convert the Jharsuguda Airport from UDAN Scheme in to General Category.

The private airline is operating daily flight from Delhi to Jharsuguda in Odisha under UDAN Scheme and the contract of it was extended with the plea of COVID situation. Since the passengers increased to a great extent, airline had announced that they would operate two daily flights, one in the morning and one in the evening, on this route. But, currently, the service of this airline on this route is very poor as they are cancelling one flight almost daily, without any proper reason.

Keeping in view the concerns of the passengers, I urge upon the Union Government to convert the Jharsuguda Airport from UDAN Scheme to General Category; and (ii) other operators/Airlines may also kindly be allowed to operate on this route so that the monopoly of a particular private Airline can be put to an end.

[Translation]

(v) Regarding No Objection Certificate for Kidney transplantation

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): At present, to obtain a NOC for kidney transplantation, it takes anywhere from four to six weeks. Donors for transplantation are generally classified into three categories. The first category consists of immediate family members, the second category includes spouses and close relatives, and the third category comprises friends, associates, and others. For the first and second categories persons, the verification of facts can be expedited, and in such cases, approval can be granted within a maximum of two weeks. In cases involving the third category, approval can be given within a maximum of four weeks. The care of patients awaiting kidney transplantation is

financially burdensome, and many a time, delays can also raise concerns about their survival. I request the Government to issue necessary guidelines for expediting the process for granting the NOC for kidney transplantation.

(vi) Regarding stoppage of train Nos. 18030 and 18615 at Chakulia Railway station and introduction of direct train from Tatanagar to Buxar and Deen Dayal Upadhyay junction

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an extremely important matter. The Ministry of Railways has resumed the operation of trains that were previously suspended across the country during the global COVID-19 pandemic, However, there are certain trains that used to have stoppage at railway stations but are no longer doing so, causing significant difficulties for passengers who are now struggling to reach their destinations. This has led to protests by the local people. In the Jamshedpur Parliamentary constituency, Chakulia Railway Station used to have stoppage for Shalimar Kurla Lokmanya Tilak Express (Train No. 18030) and Howrah Hatia Kriya Yoga Superfast Express (Train No. 18615). But these two trains are no longer stopping at Chakulia Railway Station. Additionally, there are no direct trains from Tatanagar to Buxar and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction, which is causing considerable inconvenience for people traveling to and from these places. It is worth mentioning that from the undivided Bihar era, approximately 10 districts of Bihar and 4 districts of Uttar Pradesh have a significant population residing in this region. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly consider resuming stoppages for these two said trains at Chakulia Railway Station and to operate direct trains from Tatanagar to Buxar and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction.

(vii) Regarding impending drought condition in Jharkhand

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): A severe drought situation is escalating in Jharkhand. This State is highly dependent on rainfall. The issue of drought is extremely serious and it requires an urgent action. The rainfall data from 1 June, 2022 to 28 July, 2022 reveals that Jharkhand has received approximately 50% less rainfall compared to the normal levels. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, this falls under the category of deficit rainfall. As of 28 July 2022, 22 out of 24 districts in the State fall under the deficit rainfall category, with 10 districts experiencing even less rainfall than the deficit level. In my constituency, Hazaribagh and Ramgarh districts, only 39-46% of the normal rainfall has been recorded. This severe deficit in rainfall is significantly affecting rice cultivation in the State, causing substantial difficulties for our farmers. According to the data available up to 20 July, 2022, sowing has only been done on 1.68 lakh hectares of land, while the target was 18 lakh hectares. This means that only 9.56% of the sowing target has been achieved. Therefore, I urge the Government to provide appropriate directives to the State Government to ensure that there is no food security crisis in the State due to the lack of irrigation facilities.

(viii) Regarding compensation to farmers and people affected by heavy rains in Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR): My Parliamentary constituency, Gadchiroli-Chimur, is the most backward tribal area in the country. It has hardly any industry, covered in dense forests, extremely remote, and affected by Naxal insurgency. This year, there has been heavy rainfall in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, and Gondia districts, the likes of

which haven't been seen since 1986. Due to this excessive rainfall, farmers have suffered significant losses, particularly in crops like rice, soybeans, and cotton. Water has inundated 50 villages, and over 3,000 people have been placed in safe shelters particularly in Gadchiroli district. The flooding of homes, shops, farmlands, and industries has caused extensive damage. In my tribal constituency, the livelihood of our farmer brothers primarily depends on rice cultivation. However, in flood-affected areas, all crops have been destroyed. In such a situation, how will they survive the coming year, particularly during the time of this COVID-19 pandemic? They are worried about their health, their children's education, and how they will manage the expenses for their children's weddings. Darkness has descended upon the lives of farmers and the common people.

Therefore, considering all these factors, I request the Government to immediately assess the damage caused by the rainfall in my Parliamentary constituency and provide prompt compensation to farmers and the general public.

(ix) Regarding setting up of a centre of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): There is no institution in my Parliamentary Constituency Maharajganj, Bihar which can run foundation course, diploma and advanced diploma course and can impart high level quality education and training to youth/girls in the field of computer information technique or electronics. In the absence of such institutions, the students of my Parliamentary Constituency, who are interested in the field of computer information technique or electronics, have to go outside for study and training. Thousands of students from my Parliamentary Constituency go for study and training in this field to other places every year. The boys and girls

pursuing study and training have to face many types of difficulties and also have to bear the burden of huge financial expenses. Therefore, it is very necessary to set up a center of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), an organization working under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, in my Parliamentary Constituency. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology that a NIELIT center should be set up in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

(x) Regarding six-laning of Gwalior-Bhind-Etawah National Highway

SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY (BHIND): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the serious problem of “Gwalior-Bhind-Etawah” National Highway No. 719 (Old No. 92) in my Parliamentary Constituency, Bhind. A huge number of accidents occur due to heavy traffic on the Highways on this plain terrain. Every day, 5 to 10 people die there. Expanding the road to six lanes may reduce the duration of traffic jam and also the loss of life and animals. Therefore, I urge the Government to expand this bituminous two-lane road into six lanes.

(xi) Regarding implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): Our Hon. Prime Minister has the high vision of “*Har Ghar Jal*”. The Government of India has launched Jal Jeevan Mission to achieve the grand vision so that water supply may ensured to every household, every village and district.

I would like to draw his attention towards the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan.

The work of providing water to rural areas in Rajasthan is going on at a slow pace. I would like to inform that road cutting machines have not been provided. The villagers had to break Gaurav Path with hammer and axe to lay the pipeline. The water pressure is significantly low, as single pipe is being used to supply multiple connections. More pipes and better infrastructure are required to maintain water pressure. In desperation, the villagers have punctured the pipeline to meet their needs. However, this has led to water shortage in other areas.

I request that the work under Jal Jeevan Mission be expedited so that the target of “*Har Ghar Jal*” can be achieved by 2024.

(xii) Regarding legislations on Ecologically Sensitive Zones

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): The recent order of the Hon. Supreme Court has declared that minimum distance of one kilometer of land shall be included as Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the National Parks, Wild life and Bird Sanctuaries in the country. If this order is implemented it will adversely affect the normal life of common man and farmers in the State of Kerala who are settled within the above limit of land since several decades. Kerala has 30% of its total land area as forest and protected sanctuaries. Kerala is one of the thickly populated States in the country. Therefore, availability of land for development is very difficult in the State. In such a situation, the present order will definitely create adverse impact in the State. People have already started agitations and are requesting for necessary legislations to be initiated. Therefore, I request the Government to take urgent steps to bring new legislation on Ecologically Sensitive Zones so that the people residing near forests over decades will not be affected.

(xiii) Regarding threats being posed by Sea erosion

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Ministry and Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Irrigation Ministry to the plight of the fishermen's community facing severe threats from sea erosion. The global climatic changes have brought new challenges and threats in the form of sea erosion, the temperature has risen, the salt content of the sea has risen, and due to that, the lives of fishermen been worst affected. The government should urgently intervene to protect the people living by the sea shore. The construction of Pulimuttu has been a long-standing demand from the people. It is quite unfortunate that there hasn't been a single penny of assistance to build seawalls from the central government for the last eight years, precisely from 2014. I, therefore, urge the concerned ministers to take the necessary steps to provide financial assistance and support to build seawalls, install tetrapod, pulimuttu-like wave dissipating modern means as a precaution to protect the lives of fisher folks from sea erosion. The construction should be completed on a war footing.

(xiv) Regarding completion of the Tindivanam-Tiruvannamalai new railway line project

DR. M.K. VISHNU PRASAD (ARANI): In my Arani Parliamentary Constituency, Tindivanam-Tiruvannamalai new railway line project was proposed almost 10 years back. Funds were also allotted for initial land acquisition. But I was shocked to know that this project has been kept on hold. Already, almost 70 crores have been spent on this project. Lands have been acquired in two Panchayats. Remaining lands in seven Panchayats in Viluppuram and three in Tiruvannamalai are to be acquired. During Pournami, almost 2 Lakh people come to Tiruvannamalai. A highly useful train for

farmers, devotees and common man has to be introduced. Hence, I urge upon the Government to start and complete the project.

(xv) Regarding grant of adequate funds for archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu

DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): The age-old contributions by Tamils to history, culture and art have been unearthed recently through archaeological expeditions backed by factual and scientific rigour. The importance of Tamil Nadu's Iron Age sites as seen at Mayiladumparai shows that the oldest Iron Age site in India is from Tamil Nadu. The use of iron in Tamil Nadu dates back to around 4,200 years ago. Other findings by the State Archaeology Department proves that the trade and culture depicted in more than 2000 poems by 473 poets of the Sangam literature era, around 2,000 years ago, were descriptions of the real world around them which showed that Tamils effectively used iron technology at that time. More recently, the excavations by the Central Archaeological Survey of India also showed similar proofs in Adichanallur where precious historical artifacts have been discovered. The state archaeology department is currently excavating seven sites including Adichanallur, Sivakalai, Keeladi, Korkai, Mayiladumparai, Kodumanal and Gangaikonda Cholapuram. More funds and investments are required in all these sites.

Hence, considering these strong proofs of antiquity in Tamil Nadu, I request the Union Government to support the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Govt. by providing appropriate funds for archaeological excavations. The budgetary allocation for the Central Archaeological Survey of India for Tamil Nadu has

been inadequately earmarked despite the contributions by the state. This needs to be raised to at least a minimum of Rs.10 crores. The Union Government should also help in declaring these important historical sites of Tamil Nadu as World Heritage Sites. Apart from this, they should include this history in school and university curricula and build relevant on-site museums to show the historical significance of the work done by Tamils.

(xvi) Regarding incorporation of a comprehensive crop diversification model

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM): India's economy is highly dependent on agriculture. The sector, however, is experiencing slower growth as the states' cropping intensity and irrigation potential have not been fully exploited. Ideally, groundwater should be available at a depth of 50 ft to 60 ft, but in several states, its level has significantly dropped to 150 ft to 200 ft in most places. Many attribute this drastic fall to an indiscriminate extraction of groundwater in the last two decades.

The intensive groundwater extraction in the last five decades through the installation of shallow tube wells is reflected in tube well number. This overexploitation has made groundwater not only scarce but also increasingly alkaline.

There is a dire need to incorporate a comprehensive crop diversification model, stressing the need to prioritize the cultivation of crops that consume less water like maize, cotton and sugar cane. However, due to the absence of the Central/State government's assured market/guaranteed price for the other products as well, the idea of crop diversification seems far-fetched.

Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to take cognizance of the same and incorporate a comprehensive crop diversification model and promote assurance of market and a guaranteed price for diverse produce.

(xvii) Regarding grant of an additional attempt for UPSC examination aspirants affected by Covid-19

[Translation]

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Many students, who were preparing for Government jobs were infected by Corona in the year 2020 and 2021 and there are also such students who have lost their family members by the disease. Consequently, the students could not prepare for a tough exam like UPSC and there were students who could not even appear in the exam. Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has recommended in its 112th report that the Government, keeping Corona pandemic in view, should change its opinion and give extra attempt to the students. The students have raised their voice before the Government several times through the Supreme Court. The court, in various cases, has asked the Government to have a sympathetic attitude in the interest of the students, in the light of DSRC report, and did not interfere in this case since it is a policy matter. I request the Government to allow an extra attempt in the Civil Services Examination to compensate these hardworking students for the loss caused due to Corona so that many of the students can contribute to the development of the country by getting selected by virtue of their hard work and also the future of the students can also be secured.

**(xviii) Need to restore the operation of train between Narkatiaganj and
Bhikhna Thori in Bihar**

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR (VALMIKI NAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Narkatiaganj-Bhikhanathori railway operation. The operation of the passenger train from Narkatiaganj to Bhikhanathori has been stopped since 2015 due to gauge conversion. The construction work of the railway line from Narkatiaganj to Amolwa was scheduled to be completed by March, 2020, which is 13 kilometers long route and the construction work of the railway line from Amolwa to Gaunaha was scheduled to be completed by June, 2020. The railway line between Gaunaha and Bhikhanathori has not been approved by the Forest Department, due to which the construction work has been stopped. The local residents have to face a lot of difficulty in commuting due to the stoppage of operation of the passenger train running between Narkatiaganj - Bhikhanathori. Therefore, I request the Government to restart the operation of the passenger train between Narkatiaganj-Bhikhanathori soon, keeping in view the public interest.

**(xix) Regarding participation of Members of Parliament in Public hearings
pertaining to environmental issues**

[English]

KUMARI CHANDRANI MURMU (KEONJHAR): Public hearing plays an important part towards the development of local areas where industries and mines are located or about to be set up to address environmental issues. People have their own concerns especially when business and environment become the point of contention. Health and wealth are directly associated with environment.

My point is that during such public hearings, I as a public representative is not allowed to participate. Public representatives can be the voice of locals especially tribals, as they are not valued in such public hearings meant to preserve forest, environment and local interest. The public, many a time look forward to their elected representatives for support or lead them during such hearings. If local elected representatives are not allowed to participate in such proceedings, who else can do so? It is really sad that such a formula has been designed to keep public representatives at bay allowing various stake holders, at times to arm twist the public for their self-gain.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change to look into the matter and make necessary changes so that public representatives like me, a Member of Parliament may take part in public hearing.

(xx) Regarding service condition of Scientists working in DRDO

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): In the last 62 years, DRDO has developed many critical systems for Indian Armed Forces. The dedicated Scientists and Staff of DRDO have put their best efforts to achieve major success in making India “Atmanirbhar” in many areas. Some of the well known products developed by DRDO are Missiles, Tanks, RADARS, SONARS, aircraft and submarines. These products have high indigenous content and are worthy to be exported to friendly countries. However, I would like to highlight some of the issues pertaining to DRDO.

- Promotions in DRDO for Sc G to Sc H and Sc F to Sc G has not taken place since 2020.
- The reason for stopping promotions for SAG, HAG and HAG+ grades in DRDO.
- Recruitment plan for induction of new Scientists.

The development of complex technologies and critical system requires to work cohesively in large teams and groups. Hence, motivation and team spirit

are essential for scientists. This is for sure that the lack of incentives and promotions will definitely demotivate the junior scientists who are aspiring for higher grades and ready to take more responsibilities.

[Translation]

(xxi) Regarding utilization of sugarcane stubble for production of energy

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (SATARA): The renewable or biomass sources of energy instead of petrol, diesel and coal are becoming very important for future in view of the environmental protection of the earth. There is no doubt about this.

India is the second largest sugarcane producing country in the world. Maharashtra is the largest sugarcane producing state in India, Satara district in Maharashtra and entire West Maharashtra is known as the Sugar Belt.

After the sugarcane is harvested and sent to the sugar factory from October to May every year, lakhs of tonnes of bio waste is left in the fields, for which the farmers have no other option but to burn. If arrangements are made to collect, bundle and transport this lakhs of tonnes of bio-waste, then it can become an excellent source of our energy. It will not only help in reducing pollution levels but also help farmers to earn more income.

I request the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to make some arrangement and make provision of subsidy in this regard for the sugarcane farmers.

(xxii) Regarding construction of a Foot Over Bridge and stoppage of trains at Siddhpur railway station in Patan Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI BHARATSINHJI SHANKARJI DABHI (PATAN): Sidhpur city under my parliamentary constituency of Patan in Gujarat does not only have the

biggest railway station of this district but it is also a city of religious importance. People from far and wide come here for Shraddha and Pind Daan. Due to lack of a foot over bridge facility near the railway station, the public and especially the visitors have to cross the railway track to go from one side to the other, which is extremely difficult and risky. Apart from the foot over bridge, there is an urgent need to build new sheds on the railway platform; and to provide stoppages for mail and express trains at Sidhpur railway station. Being an elected representative of the public, I have repeatedly tried to raise these issues during meetings with local railway officials and through letters. But till now a permanent solution has not been found to address these problems. My request to the Honorable Minister of Railway is that necessary action should be taken for constructing a foot overbridge at Sidhpur railway station; and for providing stoppage to mail and express train.

14.17 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL) : Hon. Speaker Sir, the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 is listed as item number 19 today. I wish that the issue of price rise that has been listed as item number 20 should be taken up first, if the House agrees.

HON. SPEAKER: Does the House agree with this?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

14.18 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Price Rise

HON. SPEAKER: Item Number-20.

Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut – absent.

Shri Manish Tewari Ji.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Speaker, the whole country is affected by the issue of inflation Today. I thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to start the discussion on that issue. The discussion on inflation is taking place in a broader perspective and I consider it necessary to mention that perspective before this House.

Hon. Speaker, every economy depends on five points. An economy depends on five basic foundations. First is saving, second is investment, third is production, fourth is consumption and fifth is employment. It is very unfortunate that during the last eight years, all these five basic principles have been shattered. From 2004 to 2014, when the UPA government was in power, 27 crore people were lifted above the poverty line. It is unfortunate that a report which was made public in the year 2021 again found out that 23 crore people have gone below the poverty line.

14.20 hrs

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

Hon. Chairperson Sir, Anup Satpathy Committee says that the poverty line is at the benchmark of Rs 375 per day and they have gone below that. What is even more unfortunate is that 77 percent of the wealth in this country is in the hands of only one percent of the people. Over the years, the number of billionaires in India has increased from 100 to 142, but the income of the lowest class has been decreasing day by day.

The richest 92 Indians have as much wealth as the 55 crore Indians. There cannot be any bigger inequality exist than this in our country.

All this began on 8 November 2016, when the BJP Government introduced demonetization in this country without much thought. A total of rupees 15,41,000 crore were demonetized, out of which 99% i.e. Rs. 15,31,000 crore re-entered into the banking system. The details of this matter have not been disclosed to the Parliament even today. It is unfortunate that the case to find out the reasons for demonetization decision and what impact it had on the country, has been pending in the Supreme Court for the past eight years. Hon. Chairperson, I would like to inform you that its impact was such that the GDP growth rate fell from 6.8% in the financial year 2017-18 to 6.6% in the financial year 2018-19. It further dropped to 3.7% in the financial year 2019-20. In the financial year 2020-21, it went further down to -6.6% which was largely affected by COVID. In the financial year 2021-22 the GDP growth rate was measured at 8.9% but it seems an arbitrary data because the real GDP growth rate was only 2.3%. I mention this because the economic downturn did not solely occur due to COVID impact. COVID may have been one of the factors in this downturn, but even before that, the economy of India was continuously declining. The most significant evidence of this is that in the six months prior to financial year 2018-19, the fund flow in the commercial sector, which was at Rs. 7 lakh 36 thousand 87 crore come down to just Rs. 90 thousand 995 crore only, witnessing a decline of 87.6%. Following demonetization, the Government introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Due to its direct impact, 2,30,000 small and micro-enterprises in the MSME Sector closed down. These MSME have not recovered from that blow till date.

Hon. Chairperson, MSME Sector has an outstanding amount of Rs. 10.6 lakh crore as of today. This is not a Governmental due *[English]* but they have an outstanding of Rs. 10.6 lakh crore. *[Translation]* Now, I would like to ask from you and this House whether the Small Sector, which provides employment to millions, would completely shut down if their payments of Rs. 10.6 lakh crore were delayed. The impact of demonetization and GST is not only on small-scale industries but also on employment availability. In the year 2017, the unemployment rate was 4.77%, which increased to 7% in the year 2018, 7.6% in the year 2019, 9.1% in the year 2020, and stood at 7.9% in the year 2021 and in June 2022, the unemployment rate stood at 7.8%. Hon. Chairperson, as a benchmark any developed country should have two-thirds of its population employed. There are approximately 40 crore people employed in India as of today. If we want to be called as a developed country, it is essential to provide employment to 84 crore people in our country. I would like to sadly mention that the Government does not have a strategy to take this number from 40 crore to 84 crore. The increase in demand at present for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a live example of the employment problem. In April 2022, 2.3 crore had to avail MGNREGA work. In May 2022, this number further increased to 3.7 crore, and in June 2022, this number was 3.17 crore. Since its inception in the year 2006, this is the highest number of households seeking work under MGNREGA. I would also like to mention in this House that when this Government was formed eight years ago, they referred to MGNREGA as the 'digging holes scheme'.

Today, millions of families are surviving due to that very Scheme, so the Government should take back its words. What did the Government do when it was necessary to put money into the pockets of people to recover from all these crises? The Government put money in the pockets of capitalists. In the year 2019, concessions worth Rs. 1,45,000 crore were extended to the corporate

sector. During the years between 2014-15 and 2019-20, concessions worth Rs. 4,32,000 crore were extended to the capitalists by this Government. If this had kick-started India's economy, *[English]* if the engines of the economy would have started firing, I would have had no problem with it. But the fact is, despite what the Government thought was a targeted strategy, it did not work, *[Translation]* and India's economy continued to decline, and people became poorer.

Sir, now I would like to talk about petrol and diesel. I am saying all this because what has happened today, it is the result of eight years of economic mismanagement. From the year 2014-15 to 2021-22, this Government has collected Rs. 27 lakh crore through excise, taxes, and dividends from the Petroleum Sector. Out of this, Rs. 23 lakh 625 crore were collected through excise duty, and Rs. 4 lakh 23 thousand 775 crore through dividends and income tax. The astonishing fact is that the Government kept filling its treasury, but it kept fleecing the pockets of the people. Let me give you an example: in April 2011, when the price of crude oil was US \$ 150, petrol was selling for Rs. 58.56/ litre. In July 2022, when the price of crude oil has fallen to US \$ 98.94, petrol is selling at Rs. 96.72/ litre. On 01 March 2014, the price of an LPG cylinder was Rs. 410, and on 01 August 2022, it has increased to Rs. 1003. If the Government burdens the poor and the middle class this much, the entire country will struggle with inflation.

Now, let us talk about inflation and rising prices. For the past 14 months, there has been double-digit inflation in this country, which is the highest in the last 30 years. It was measured at 15.8% in April 2022, slightly lower in July, and now, the Consumer Food Price Index is soaring. In addition to this, the Government has increased the GST on everyday utility items. This includes items like wheat flour, paneer, curd, ink, pencil, and sharpener. The Government has not spared even children. It's amusing that the Government has

increased GST even on spoons and ladles. Unfortunately, the Government has levied 18% GST even on construction of crematoriums. What kind of country the Government wants to build? Whether the Government wants to crush the people completely? In conclusion, I would like to say that while the Government may have improved its Budget, it has completely disrupted the Budgets of the 25 crore households in the country. When Hon. late Sushma Swaraj ji used to sit here, she would sometimes say that the housewives are shedding tears.

Today, indeed, every homemaker is shedding tears. The Government has imposed such unbearable inflation. I would like to conclude my speech with three lines from a Punjabi poet. In Punjabi, it is said:

Pahle to moonch ki ladai ne maar diya, dusra, yaar ki judai ne maar diya,
Tisra, rab ki khudai ne maar diya aur baaki jo bacha vo mahangai ne maar diya.

Thank you very much.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, thank you. After a long time, the Parliament is in session today, and the pain of the opposition is evident. I thought that perhaps the price rise is such a significant issue that Congress Party will enlighten the country as well as impact of inflation on the economy of the entire nation and the world. Hon. Manish Tewari is a good orator, but when there is a conflict between the heart and the mind, even a good orator cannot speak well. This was evident today. Today he is in opposition, but he knows the circumstances in which Hon. Prime Minister Modi took over the country in the year 2014. What situation of the world is after COVID. In the year 2015-16, when Hon. Arun Jaitley ji was delivering the Budget Speech here, he had quoted a good poetry. I thought I might reiterate to Congress and the world what he had said and what the situation is today. He had said:

Kashti chalaane walon ne jab haarkar di patwaar hamein,
 Lahar-lahar tufan mile aur mouj-mouj majhdhar hamein,
 Fir bhi dikhaya hai hamne aur fir ye dikha denge sabko,
 In halaton mein aata hai, dariya karna paar hamein.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, yesterday, I was in my constituency and when I was coming back, coincidentally, two or three very senior journalists who are quite neutral accompanied me. They do not subscribe to our ideology. I told them that perhaps the Parliament will be in Session tomorrow, and there will be a discussion on price rise. They told me that the discussion is not going to be held on price rise, but for promoting someone's son.

Today, the entire world is devastated due to COVID. Look at America, Europe, our neighboring countries, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Dubai and Singapore. Employment is dwindling in all these countries. Inflation is on the rise everywhere. We hear reports that tanks are stationed in front of banks in China. In such a situation, if the poor here are getting two square meals a day, should not we thank the Prime Minister? ... *(Interruption)*

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, both you and I were the Members of Parliament and we used to raise issue of farmer suicides in every Session. In the past eight years, has the opposition ever discussed farmer suicides even once? If they have not done so then it means that farmers are not committing suicide. We have empowered farmers so much that they have been doing protests year-round. How much has the condition of the farmers improved. This time, farmers

protested year-round against the same Modi Government but none of them committed suicide.

We have empowered them to the extent that they are ready to stand against the Government as well. During their regime, the condition of farmers was pathetic. They could not even provide them with food. They could not even get their loans waived. That was the reason why farmers were committing suicide. Shouldn't we thank the Government for their betterment?

We talked about gas cylinders. A person named Zubair is from Alt News, the Congress people support him a lot. He is considered to be a great fact-checker. Those of us who run Twitter and Facebook accounts, he fact-checks the content posted on these platforms. Hon. Chairperson Sir, you are aware that from 2004 to 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party had 139 Members of Parliament, and only Congress had 141 Members of Parliament. In 2009, we had 120 Members. But we never brought placards before the Speaker, never tarnished the reputation of the Chair and never attempted to disrespect same. But they kept doing it. We always came to the well; I'm not saying we didn't, but we never brought placards. ...*(Interruption)* I felt that if I say something. ...*(Interruption)*

During their Government, we used to say 'too many cooks spoil the broth.' Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister. Chidambaram ji was a big economist, and later on he became the Finance Minister. He was the Minister of Finance in 1980 as well. Shri Rangarajan and Montek Singh Ahluwalia were his advisers. Raghuram Rajan, Kaushik Basu came later. There were so many economists that you would think everything would be resolved in two minutes. Then Committee after Committee was formed to decide how to fix the pricing of LPG, petrol, and diesel, how to take it out of the purview of the APM (Administered Price Mechanism) and bring it to the market. They formed a

Rangarajan Committee in 2006, but it didn't yield any results. They thought it wouldn't be beneficial, so in 2010, they formed a Parikh Committee, in the year 2011, a Nandan Nilekani Committee was constituted, and in 2012, a Kelkar Committee was formed. You can understand how Congress Government handled the issue of the public. Our Prime Minister always says that Congress is a party, which laid the foundation of any scheme in 1952, in 1957, they said that land acquisition is happening, in 1962, they said that they have paid for the project, in 1967, they said that work of laying railway tracks has begun. Each project was completed in thirty to forty years by 1980. LPG, diesel, and petrol pricing are some example of this.

Sir, I thought that if I were to say these things, maybe they would not take my words seriously because these people are big socialists and they have Modi-phobia. Whatever happens, they will say Modi did it, Modi should have done that, he should have done it this way, he should have done it that way. These people have such an aversion towards Modi ji that they are not willing to listen to even good things.

Therefore, I brought up the issue of Alt News' Zubair. He wrote that in July 2011, the price of a non-subsidized cylinder was Rs. 710, and the subsidy they were giving was Rs. 400. This means that in 2011, the price of a cylinder was approximately Rs. 1,110. ...*(Interruptions)* I will put this on record. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2012, the price of a cylinder was Rs. 922. ...*(Interruptions)*.

HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON: When you were speaking, everyone heard you. Now you will have to listen too.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: In that, the subsidy provided by the Government of India, was Rs. 410. How much does that add up to? I hail from a village, so I

don't know how to do the math. Can you please add it up for me? In 2013, the price of a non-subsidized cylinder was 1,021 rupees, and the Government was providing a subsidy of Rs. 410. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2014, the price of a cylinder was 1,241 rupees, and the Government was providing a subsidy of Rs. 414. ...*(Interruptions)* This price is of 1st January, 2014. ...*(Interruptions)* After that, when we formed the Government, the price of a cylinder was Rs. 606. ...*(Interruptions)* Today they are talking about cylinder prices. They have been saying that they have been running the Government for eight years. I told last time that they issued oil bonds from 2009 to 2014 just to fool the public, for vote bank politics. I had said on that day also that their Government favors the corporate sector. Let us debate on that. I have brought all the speeches right from Shri S.A. Dange, Meenu Masani and Nath Pai Ji. Since 1958, they have always said that the Congress is a corporate's government. It supports Tata, Birla, Dalmia, Ambani, and Adani. ...*(Interruptions)*. They have issued oil bonds worth Rs 1 lakh 44 thousand crores which were issued for 10 years and matured in 2020. They kept misguiding people that they are issuing these bonds to reduce the petrol, diesel and LPG prices. But today the Government has to repay Rs. 3.5 Lakh Crore as a liability for all the bonds issued since 2011 as Government is in continuity. ...*(Interruptions)* Those who have taken oil bonds are all big corporates. I challenge all my friends from Congress to ask Manmohan Singh ji, Sonia Gandhi ji, who is the chairperson of UPA, ask them how they have deceived the people of the country to benefit the corporates. They have fooled the people of the country, and as a result, the Government of India has to return approximately 20-25 thousand crores every year. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, we are talking about food prices, which is a good thing. On one hand, these people say that the income of farmers should be doubled, for which an MSP Committee has been formed. Our Government has formed an MSP

Committee and our Government is committed to doubling the farmer's income through MSP. But we should see what is the condition of the world after COVID. I am talking about the current situation of the World Bank and the whole world.

Sir, Manish Tiwari ji was talking about GDP. Our GDP from 1950 to 1990, during this period the Congress Party was in power, during the time of Morarji Desai, the Congress Party was not in power for 2-2.5 years only, and the GDP was 3.3 percent to 3.5 percent. Maximum GDP reached 4 percent. At that time, the GDP growth of a small country like Sahara was 5.5 percent. From that time till today, in the post-Covid world, you can see our GDP growth. I will talk about price inflation and want to tell the House why prices are increasing today. Today wheat production has decreased by one percent in the entire world. Rice production has decreased by 0.5 percent all over the world. Sugar production has reduced. Ukraine and Russia supply one-third of the world's wheat. Ukraine and Russia supply 75 percent sunflower oil. Did we create this fight and tell the farmers of the world to reduce production? Even after this situation, if our Prime Minister is giving food free of cost and free fund to 80 crore poor people, then don't we deserve to be congratulated? Shouldn't we congratulate the Prime Minister?... *(Interruptions)*

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I have a request to make. When Manish ji was speaking, we listened to him. *[English]* With rapt attention, hon. Finance Minister has also listened to him. ...*(Interruptions)*. Everybody should speak with all seriousness. ... *(Interruptions)* Why crosstalk? ... *(Interruptions)* No need, you can speak when your turn comes ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: When your party's speaker Manish Tiwari ji was speaking, there was not even a single interruption.

... (*Interruptions*)

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON: Adhir ji, you are the leader, you sit down please. You will have to listen to the honorable member. When your turn comes, you will speak.

Nishikant ji, you speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, if there is objection to the word 'fund', then I would say that we are giving it for free, meaning you should understand that we are trying to help them. This is good. The House needs to know the post-Covid situation of the whole world and our situation. This is the World Bank report. The World Bank has given an emergency fund of US \$500 million to a big country like Egypt for food security. The world has given a support fund of US \$ 130 million to Tunisia. The World Bank has given funds of US \$ 2.3 billion to Southern Africa. A country like Bangladesh has been given US \$ 87.8 million fund for food security. Bhutan has been given US \$ 0.5 billion. A small country like Chad has been given US \$ 30 million. The World Bank has given a fund of US \$ 40 million to Guatemala. I can give statistics of countries all over the world, but India is such a country under the leadership of Modi ji that today we are exporting. We are providing rice to the world. We are providing wheat to the world. We are providing sugar to the world and if luck favors us, we will also provide oil to the world after a few days, this is our policy and you are talking about price rise, you are talking about food. I was seeing what was the price of tomato and what was the price of potato in March, 2022 and what is the price of tomato and potato today in July. If you are going to the market, you will find that the prices of tomatoes, potatoes and onions are lower

today than they were in March. Shouldn't we congratulate the Government for this?.... (*Interruptions*)

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON: Please do not comment in between. Speak when your time comes.

.... (*Interruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I want to tell you that Noor ji has said a very good couplet that –

‘Sach ghate yaa badhe, Jhooth ki koi inteha nahin hoti.’

Even if you tell less truth, it becomes a lie and if you exaggerate it, it is no longer the truth, but keep telling as many lies as you want. This has been the history of Congress. Congress doesn't want to debate on anything. Shri Jaishankar ji was talking about the economy of Sri Lanka that day, but someone said that he should have told about Sri Lanka and he started telling about freebies. I would like to ask Manish Tiwari ji, who gave his speech, what is the situation in Punjab today? The banks are not ready to give it the money. Where will the money come from? These people have flouted the FRBM Act. Be it Punjab, Rajasthan, Bengal or Chhattisgarh, where will they get the money from? You take the loan and after that you say that it is increasing because of Modi ji, it is increasing because of Modi ji.

Today, the Reserve Bank of India is not ready to give money to opposition ruled states, be it Telangana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh or West Bengal. Today the entire House and the entire country need to see this. If we talk about LPG cylinder, in this regard the Honorable Prime Minister said that if we give up our subsidy, then all the people of the country gave up the subsidy. Today we have benefited 9 crore people from the Ujjwala scheme. Every year they are taking 3 cylinders. No cylinder is empty, the data of which we have. It is a

question to think about what will be the economy of this country after freebies. Will you just keep winning votes, rule for 5 years or will you leave a better situation for your future and your children, isn't this a question to think about? Are we not running the government? We have a government in Bihar. Are we not running the government in Assam? Were we not running the government in Rajasthan? Are we not running the government in Madhya Pradesh? Don't we want votes? We do not talk about freebies, because Bharatiya Janata Party always thinks that this country is ours. It doesn't matter whether an election is won or lost. This is why inflation increases, this is why the condition of banks is bad, this is why when you left, you made entire banks NPA. You used to give loans to people only on the basis of phone banking. You have spoiled the condition of the banks, you have spoiled the condition of the economy. You left us at 3% GDP and today you are talking about demanding an account from us. You talk about black money.

Sir, one of my very good topics is black money. I want to tell you that Rs 55 crore has just been seized from Partho or his friend in Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* He is saying that this money is not mine. Jharkhand MLA caught with cash in Bengal, but he says it is not his money. There was a raid on the Secretary to the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, the Mining Secretary and Rs 20 crores were seized from his place, but he said that this is not my money....
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SADIQ (FARIDKOT): What happened to those who fled away with lakhs of crores of rupees? ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, Rs 20 crore were seized from the MLA representative, but he says that it is not my money. Let me tell you what is the history of Congress. It talks about black money, but it has the most black money. To save the government, in this same Parliament, during Narasimha

Rao ji's government, our own Jharkhand's Shibu Soren ji, Suraj Mandal ji, Shailendra Mahato ji, Simon Marandi ji, all of them were given money and their money was caught through bank account checking. You keep the black money. In the year 2008, Advani ji said in this House that you are buying our MP with money. You collect the money, you do the hooting, you allowed Quattrocchi run away with the Bofors money in your time, you do the currency scandal, but you demand the account of the black money from us. Sukhram ji was your minister, in whose house Rs 3 crores were seized.

If so much cash remains with the Congress leaders and their UPA, then how can you talk about black money with such confidence.... *(Interruptions)* how can you talk about bringing back black money with such confidence.... *(Interruptions)* You should sign an agreement with Switzerland, you sign that agreement with Switzerland in the year 2011... *(Interruptions)* and say that it will be understood from the year 2016. ...*(Interruptions)* After this, you talk about black money. ...*(Interruptions)* You talk about fiscal deficit. ... *(Interruptions)* What is fiscal deficit? ... *(Interruptions)*

You must understand that from year 1950 to 1965, the situation in the country was going very well. At the time of 1965, we were borrowing only four percent of the GDP from outside. After the year 1965, this Congress changed its entire course. After this, the debt which is from outside, today they say what has happened to the cash to GDP ratio, how has the ratio of debt to our GDP changed? Who changed the policy? You just misled the public and increased the tax percentage to reach 72-73% today. After 1965, Congress increased the taxes by 10%, 15%, 20%. The situation became such that they completely ruined our future generation. , how did the debt amount increase on the youth like us who were going to join this generation, the children who were going to be born from the year 1965 to the year 1990, the Finance Minister is sitting here, I would urge the Government of India that the entire country, because this country has a very

short memory, I would request them to release a white paper on GDP, that is, how they started taking loans and because of that, how much loss our generation is facing today. If we are going to have an economy of 5 trillion rupees and 10 trillion rupees then what is the problem in that and how will the fiscal deficit be reduced? Hon. Atal ji brought the FRBM Act, but before that there was fiscal deficit and due to which huge amount of currency notes were being printed. I would request the Hon. Finance Minister to bring this up before the country. Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that these people neither have ideological commitment nor they are concerned about the public. Congress is sitting here. Congress formed the Government with Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.... *(Interruptions)* When Babri Masjid was demolished in the year 1992, at that time Hon. Bala Saheb Thackeray ji, who was the chief of Shiv Sena at that time, he is respected to us, he openly said, No political party said that we demolished Babri Masjid.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB) : Who formed the Government in coalition with the PDP? ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: I will come on that as well.... *(Interruptions)* The coalition Government was formed with PDP because ... *(Interruptions)* to Yasin Malik. We got this advantage that the terrorist with whom your Prime Minister got himself clicked, the same terrorist told him that Rubaiya Sayyed Ji had told that he was abducted by the same person.

You should ask your Prime Minister and the Congress Party.... *(Interruptions)* I am informing you that Bala Saheb Thackeray Saheb said.... *(Interruptions)* Shiv Sena was the only political party which said that it demolished Babri Masjid. Your secularism is over, your economy is over, you have taken the contract to destroy the country and that is why I told you that this is not about price rise, it is a matter of raising a son.... *(Interruptions)* You rise above Modi phobia.... *(Interruptions)* Think about the country.... *(Interruptions)* There is a couplet of Kabir that 'Dheere-Dheere re mana, dheere

sab kuch hoye', you wait for it.... *(Interruptions)* This country is changing, the villages, the poor, the farmers, tribals are getting respect and this country is happy... *(Interruptions)* With these words, I conclude. Jai Hind-Jai Bharat. *[English]*

***SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI):**
 Hon Chairman Sir, Thank you. Hon Member from BJP Shri Nishikant Dubey while speaking in this august House mentioned about black money. He stated that crores and crores of black money was seized from the non-BJP government ruled States of the country. I have a doubt. When you brought demonetization in the year 2016, it was announced by you that black money will not be anywhere in this country after this demonetization. You should explain to us how this black money is found in this country after demonetization. If you explain it will be helpful to me. I should say that India has seen a major decline in its economy after demonetization. AIADMK, the ally of BJP, when they were ruling Tamil Nadu, stated in their Government's policy note, that too in the State Assembly that demonetization has led to closure of as many as 50000 MSMEs in Tamil Nadu. At the time of demonetization, many persons died while standing in long queues for hours together to exchange old currency notes. This nation had faced several difficulties. The nation with all patience bore the brunt for one reason given by them that there will be no black money in this country after demonetization. But now you are saying that black money is found in this country. If that is so, why we faced lots of difficulties during demonetization. They have to explain this to us. This can only give justice to the people who lost their lives due to demonetization. A child has written a letter to Hon Prime Minister Modi in Hindi. This child is from Kannauj district. It goes like this. "My name is Kriti Dubey. I am studying in I

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

standard. Yes it is Dubey. Modi Ji, You have caused immense price rise. Even my pencil and rubber have got costlier. The price of maggi has increased too. Now my mother beats me for asking for a pencil. What shall I do?” The other kids. I think they don’t have pencil. They can’t afford to buy the pencil. So, they steal it from her. So, what answer do we have to give. (*Interruptions*). I don’t know.

15.00hrs

“My name is Kriti Dubey. I study in class 1. Modi ji, you have caused immense price rise. Even my pencil and rubber have got costlier and the price of Maggi has been increased too. Now my mother beats me for asking for a pencil. What shall I do? Other kids steal my pencil.”

If you don’t fulfill any of your promises, what can we do. Just some time ago, Hon Minister said that while you speak, we should be silent. Similarly, when we speak you should be hearing patiently. If you don’t follow that assurance as well, what can we do? In this way each and every action of yours is affecting the people belonging to the lower strata of our society. They are facing hardships every day. Life has become a struggle for them. The credit goes to this Union Government. Every now and then the prices of petrol are going up. Before this Government came to power, in the year 2014 price of petrol per liter was Rs 71 and Diesel per liter was Rs 53. The cost of LPG cylinder was Rs 414. But today the cost of LPG cylinder is above Rs.1000. It is Rs 1200 per cylinder. The price of petrol has gone above Rs.100 per liter. The price of diesel per liter is about to touch Rs 100. The two-wheelers are used by people belonging to the lower strata, Aam Aadmi, which is the Hindi word I learnt from here. If they want to go to work they may need at least one to three litres of petrol for their two-wheelers everyday. They have to spend Rs 300 per day for petrol if they want to go to work. This comes to Rs 15000 per month. During Covid, this government reduced the salary paid to Hon MPs. Private companies will go beyond this. I don’t say what you did was wrong. We

accepted happily. But do you know how many private companies reduced the salaries of their employees by 50 per cent. Many of them have lost their jobs even. If a person earns Rs 30000 per month. He has to go to work. If he has to go to work he has to spend Rs 15000 for putting fuel to his two-wheeler. If he has to spend more than Rs 1000 for LPG cylinder, how his family can survive. Prices of essential commodities and food items have gone up as well. In 2014 palm oil was sold for Rs 68 per litre. But now it is sold at Rs. 160. Vanaspathi oil was sold for Rs 70 in the year 2014 but now it is being sold at Rs 170. Groundnut oil was sold for RS 116 in the year 2014 and now it is being sold at Rs 188 per litre. Cooking oil being used by every house hold has also seen the price rise. Hon Member Shri Nishikant Dubey while speaking said that the prices of onion and tomato have come down. Can every family prepare chutney and eat all three times a day. The prices have gone up. A mother in a family is unable to provide food to her children. Her husband has to go to work. He has to spend much on fuel. LPG cylinder cost should have to be borne by the family. Believing your words many have given up their subsidy for LPG. LPG subsidy which has to be credited into the bank accounts of beneficiaries are not reaching them. This is the truth and ground reality. Asim Premji University has prepared a Report. This Report says that, in an unprecedented manner, 23 Crore Indians are pushed below the poverty line. As much as 3.2 Crore Indians of middle class are being forced to become poor. They have been pushed from middle class to poverty. This is the sorry state of affairs in our country. But all is not bleak and blank. Because in India, an Industrialist has become the fourth richest in the world. He even moved ahead of Bill Gates. The corporates are being given tax rebates. I am not against industrial growth. This Government which shows reluctance to help the people of the lower strata, is continuously helping the corporate companies of this country. This Government is run so as to help and encourage these corporate giants. After 45 years of Independence, we witnessed such a pathetic unemployment condition in our country. The unemployment

situation has further worsened in last October 2021 leaving 5 million persons jobless. If this is the situation just think of the future of our youth. This is a big question mark threatening us like anything. Youth of this country is asking us about their uncertain future. We should not forget this. Without having this duty-bound commitment we cannot run this Government only with political motif or to look for winning or loosing or to have grudges against others. We should understand that this may not bring good to us. We have created so many memorials. The Statue of unity is one. We are boasting our achievements of creating such memorials like statue of unity. But in the name of language, caste and religion, you are trying to divide the people of this country. How this can be justified? You should ponder over this. During UPA Government's rule when the prices of petrol and LPG cylinders were raised, Shri Narendra Modi strongly opposed those moves of the then Government. I quote. "Massive hike in petrol prices is a prime example of failure of Congress led UPA Government. Unquote. This will put burden on hundreds of Crores on Gujarat." He stated this when he was the Hon Chief Minister of Gujarat. Today, you are in a position where you can reduce price of petrol. The prices of petrol and diesel have come down in the international market. It is a matter of great concern that this reduction in international crude oil prices have not reached the common man of this country.

If you see GST, it has been increased for the essential items used by the common and ordinary people. Pre-packed and labeled meat, eggs, frozen fish, curd, paneer, honey, dried leguminous vegetables, dried makhana, wheat, cereal flours, jaggery, compressed air, etc. which are being used by common and ordinary people are at 5 per cent GST. On one side the prices are rising up. On the other side there is unemployment besides no way to increase one's income. If you continue to increase the prices of essential commodities everyday and if you do not take any action for reducing the prices, this Government should answer as to how the people can survive with all these difficulties. Shri Dubey

while speaking here said that RBI is not ready to give loans to the States ruled by opposition or non-BJP parties. My appeal to you is that this Union Government should immediately release the GST compensation that is due to the non-BJP ruled States or Opposition ruled States of this country. You need not give any other loan to us. If you give GST compensation that is due to us, we can create our State a prosperous one on our own. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar Ji.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Hon. Chairperson Sir, *Pranaam.*

I express my gratitude on behalf of All India Trinamool Congress.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me; please wait for a minute.

Nishikant Ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: His name was announced.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, there should be no confusion in mind.... *(Interruptions)* I never added that RBI does not want to give money to opposition-ruled states rather I am saying that the economy is being bully down by freebies and escalation of the F.R.B.M. Act due to which R.B.I. is not ready to give money to these states. *(Interruptions)* If the economy is well , everyone will give money.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, thank you.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Madam Dastidar Ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You may kindly take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go in the record.

... (*Interruptions*)...^{3*}

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, *Pranaam*. On behalf of All India Trinamool Congress, I express my gratitude that it was better late than never. Inflation is a very important issue, which has worried every Indian and all of us today. The Government has not taken any steps to bring down inflation to where it is today. I am thankful to the Hon. Chairperson for allowing me to discuss on the issue of inflation. The Government should understand the plight of common people as they are really in fix these days. I agreed, that Hon. Minister Madam is not here today. When they were not in power, an Hon. Minister, I do not want to take her name here, made a lot of hue and cry on issue of price of LPG cylinders, I want to know what is the opinion of that Hon. Minister Madam now? Even now lakhs of women are seen burning the stove in the villages, because they do not have money to refill cylinders that they got under the Ujjwala scheme, lakhs of cylinders are lying empty. We should think about it now, because the fuel price are very high.

Sometimes I wonder whether this Government wants us to get into the habit of eating raw food. You should not assume that eating raw has any other meaning. I am saying that people eat raw vegetables today because they do not get fuel. I am talking about eating raw, because the price of LPG cylinder has increased four times in a few months. Its price was Rs 600, three-four years ago but today its price has become Rs 1100. You understand that those who are poor and helpless, how will they buy a cylinder by paying Rs 1100. The Government should think about this. You people want to make us take up the habit of eating raw food, please stop it. You should reduce the price of LPG cylinder, because it is causing a lot of trouble to the general public. The people in Government should think about this.

That Hon. Minister Madam came to power with so much fanfare, but now she is oblivious to the public today. Where is she? She used to take out

^{3*} Not recorded

processions carrying cylinders and talk about inflation, but today she is not here. I am not taking their names. After this you should think that whatever GST, whatever tax has been imposed on everything, that resulted in increase in the prices of petrol and diesel and affecting everyone. The price of everything increases.

[English]

We have to agree that increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, which are skyrocketing at the moment, is largely because of the tax that the Central Government is levying on them. West Bengal is amongst the first few States which took an immediate step for the benefit of the common man, through the hon. Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, and announced reduction of tax by Rs.1 per litre on petrol and diesel. The lion's share of taxes on fuel comes to the Central Government. The Centre imposes both flat and ad valorem taxes on fuel. The Centre has been levying Excise Duty and also cess on fuel. So, the Centre took tax and cess of Rs 32.90 per litre on petrol and Rs.31.80 per litre on diesel. In 2020, the Excise Duty on petrol was hiked from Rs 19.98 per litre to Rs 32.9 per litre. So, indirectly, this is increasing the cost of all edible oils, all kinds of consumables, and everything which is required for daily life.

In spite of the fact that the international oil prices have plunged to a multiyear low due to the pandemic in 2020 and in spite of the fact that the price of crude oil per barrel was so low, the tax was being increased by the Central Government which is not desirable for the good of the economy. The economy has been totally shattered.

The excise revenue from petrol and diesel has increased by over 94 per cent from about Rs. 1720 billion to Rs. 3343 billion from 2014 to 2020. The Government's collection from levy of excise duty on petroleum products has risen to 33 per cent in the first six months of this current fiscal year. The central taxes on petrol and diesel rose by over 307 per cent in the last six years, allowing the Union Government to mop up a sum of Rs. 2.94 lakh crore through

taxes on fuel between April, 2020 and January, 2021. In the last three years, under the Central Excise Taxes, a whopping Rs. 14 lakh crore has been collected by the Centre and the States combined. However, the Centre has changed the way these taxes are shared with the States and the States are not getting their share. The Central Government is getting a larger part of it and therefore, the States find themselves fiscally cornered. The States are not getting the share of this tax structure. This is against the federal structure. The Finance Commission says that the States should get as much as 41 per cent of their excise share but due to the cess levied by the Centre, the Centre gets a bigger share of taxes leaving the States with little option.

If we look at the Wholesale Price Index, we depend a lot on agriculture. The backbone of agriculture is fertilizer and urea. In the fiscal year 2013-14, the Wholesale Price Index of urea was 104.7. In the last fiscal year, the Wholesale Price Index of urea was 110.1. You are not looking at it properly to help the farmers. Through the farm laws that had been brought and had been withdrawn later on, we know that you are not pro-farmers. But unless the farmers are helped and agriculture is helped, the country and the people will suffer. In 2013-14, the Wholesale Price Index of cereals was 126.6 and today, it is 160.7. The Wholesale Price Index of vegetables -- like the one that I just ate -- was 163.6. But today, it is 204.5. For milk, it was 116 and today, it is 156.9. Milk is consumed by little children and elderly for their well-being. Now, the children and elderly cannot even thrive because milk is increasing so much in its cost. People cannot afford it. ... (*Interruptions*)

Now, I come to the essential medicines. The essential medicines are life-saving. They are becoming dearer every day. Tax has also been put on the equipment used by specially-abled persons. The Government should be ashamed that it is not giving chance to specially-abled persons to take care of themselves. ... (*Interruptions*)

My hon. Friend, I was not just talking about pencils and rubbers. That is for the better education of young people. You are not taking care of the infants by increasing the price of milk. You are not taking care of the children in their education by increasing the price of pencils and rubbers.

You are not even taking care of the economy at all. You should put more attention on the economic condition of the country rather than putting advertisements or *[Translation]* beating your own drum. *[English]* The retail inflation has remained at seven per cent which is above the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance level of six per cent. A lot of people in the country take *moori and chudva*. *[Translation]* It is also called Murmura or Chuda, and then there is curd also. However, poor people do not consume packaged food much but they consume Murmura or Chuda in abundance. When any patient is admitted in any hospital they have to bear GST on hospital beds. I would like to ask the Government whether it plans to charge GST from dead bodies also? Will there be GST on funeral also? Now such are the conditions prevalent in the country that the Government has imposed GST on everything. *[English]* Today, the price of cooking oil stands at an average of Rs. 180 per litre whereas in 2014, it was only Rs. 105. *[Translation]* I would like to recall the period of UPA regime. Hon'ble late Sushma Swaraj ji, who is no more in this world, I used to regard her very much. She cried on inflation in the year 2004 and alleged that when they exited the Government, petrol rate was Rs 35 per liter and within a few months of UPA regime the rate soared to Rs 67 per litre. At that time she had expressed such views. Now look at the petrol prices, it has crossed Rs. 100 per litre and reached up to Rs 110. Now, the people are not able to drive their vehicles due to this. ... *(Interruptions)* Inflation has reached to such a high level that life of the common people has become miserable. A very good discussion is taking place here. Everyone would get an opportunity to express their views. I am sure everyone would talk well. I would request the Government not to impose so much tax that it profits only the Government and the poor keep

dying. The Government should have a lenient view towards the poor. They should also consider about the poor and reduce taxes so that poor can also live. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Kaushlendra Kumar ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson, today on the issue of inflation... (*Interruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Chairperson, Hon. Sushma ji is not alive today. She was not a Member in the year 2004. She became a Member in 2009. Hon. Sushma ji is no more. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Kaushlendra Kumar ji. Only the speech of Kaushlendra Kumar ji would go on record.

... (*Interruptions*) ...*

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on inflation. Today inflation is being discussed. The treasury benches and opposition, each would present their views. The inflation is discussed, whenever a new Government is formed or elections are to be held. Ever since the Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji has resumed charge, he has been continuously striving to improve the life of villagers, farmers and labourers. The result of his efforts is evident when we go to the village. The facilities of roads, electricity and tap drinking water has reached up to these villages. My colleagues from UPA should remember those old days. It is going to be 75 years since independence and out of that they have ruled for 50 years. What was the number of poor in the country at that time? Today, you are showing the records. Earlier, there used to be mud houses in the village. If we go to villages now, there are no mud houses. I congratulate the

Hon. Prime Minister ji that under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, pucca houses have been allotted to the poor.

Sir, now, during our visit to villages, we see prosperity everywhere. During COVID period, the Hon. Prime Minister ji kept assuring everyone that there was no need to panic. We also supported him. In the arrangements made by him during COVID, the poor migrant were sent to their villages. Food was given free to about 180 crore poor people and this is being continued even today. We should appreciate this also.

Sir, if, today, inflation has increased a little, then why the opposition is lamenting that ration and oil has become expensive. Subsidy is not being given on petrol. It should also be appreciated that Honorable Modi ji had said that the poor people of the country, who wear slippers, would also travel in airplanes. Today, those poor in the country are visiting to Delhi and Kashmir. This is the wonder of Hon. Modi ji.

Sir, some people say that inflation has increased. At that time, when we used to go to Patna by Air India, the ticket was Rs 32,000. Today, we go to Patna by air for just Rs 4,000-5,000. Where is inflation? Although prices of some commodity have increased, the Government is also continuously trying to improve the condition of the poor and farmers in the villages. The Government is taking initiative to double the farmers' income.

Sir, when I was elected in the year 2009, It was the UPA Government in power. During the UPA Government, we continuously raised the issue of corruption, be it coal scam, sports scam or anything else. Ever since, Honorable Modi ji has come to power, can anyone from the opposition tell whether any issue of corruption in any department has been raised? Today entire India is corruption free. Where there is NDA Government, there is no corruption.

Sir, today inflation is being discussed and people are saying that oil prices have increased. If the oil price has increased then the State Governments should take a leaf out of Bihar Government's book. Considering the draught, the Chief Minister of Bihar has just extended a subsidy of Rs 60 per liter on diesel.

Sir, everything is done by the Central and State Governments. Today inflation is being discussed. It should also be considered whether the situation in the country is improving or not. We should also consider that electricity is being provided in the country, roads are being built, streets and drains are being paved in the villages. The work of the farmers of the villages is being done. There is a need to pay attention to these things also.

I want to say in this House that discussion going on inflation is being discussed the Hon Prime Minister himself. I would also request him to pay attention to the points being raised by to the opposition. Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD (LALGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to present my point on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party. I would like to start my talk with the famous sentence – *'Sakhi, Saiya toh khub hi kaamaat hai, manghaai daayan khaaye jaat hai'*.

Sir, today only those people who are financially weak are suffering from the brunt of inflation. Farmers, particularly in rural areas are facing the brunt of inflation the most. The Government claimed that the income of farmers would be double in the year 2022, but I am regret to say that the income of farmers has halved and the impact of inflation has tripled from doubled.

Due to inflation, you have made children's pencils, rubber, sharpeners and other essential facilities and items expensive by imposing GST. Due to this, poor students of SC, ST, OBC and general category have to drop their studies midway. They are being forced to leave their studies and go to distant big cities and take up jobs so that they can take care of their families.

Meanwhile, the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia has led to a sharp increase in the prices of fuel, edible oil and other household goods. The Indian rupee has fallen sharply against the US dollar due to heavy selling by foreign investors in the Indian markets and withdrawal of FPIs by foreign portfolio investors. It touched the record low on June 29, 2022, when the price of one dollar became Rs 69.03. Is it not a fact that when the currency of any country falls against the dollar, then the credibility of that country also falls in the international world? What are the efforts of the Government so that the currency of our country instead of falling further may improve? I would definitely like to know this from the reply of the Hon. Minister.

According to the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the inflation rate in India has increased from 13.11 percent to 15.88 percent in the year 2021. According to the MPC, continuous high inflation rates will confute our inflation expectations and will lead to further increase in the inflation rate. Therefore, there is a need to take further monetary policy measures to meet inflationary expectations. Therefore, there is a need to take further monetary policy measures to meet inflationary expectations. Due to continuous fluctuations in the economy, the prices of all commodities in India are increasing rapidly. Due to this, importers of goods are also being adversely affected. At the beginning of March 2022, the price of crude oil was US \$ 140 per barrel, the highest in 14 years. Due to this, there has been a huge increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and domestic gas in India. The Government had distributed a large number of cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme and had made many claims. But, today the situation in the village is such that people are keeping their cylinders in straws. They do not have enough income to get the cylinder refilled.

The prices of fruits, vegetables and other food items are also skyrocketing today. The public is already suffering due to rising inflation. Without keeping in

mind the interests of the public, the Government has again increased the GST rates. This is adding fuel to the fire of inflation. Today, 5 percent GST has been imposed on curd, cheese, lassi, honey, dry makhana, soybean, peas, wheat, puffed rice and other grains from the common man's plate. On the one hand, there is a huge shortage of jobs in our country and on the other hand, no other source of income is available. It is very sad to impose GST in this situation. The outbreak of Covid-19 is not over yet. On the other hand, Monkeypox virus is spreading rapidly in our country. The Government has further troubled the common man by imposing GST in hospital and treatment sectors. GST on dialysis has been increased from 5 percent to 12 to 18 percent. GST on pace maker has been increased from 5 percent to 12 to 18 percent. GST on lenses and eye treatments has been increased from 9 percent to 12 to 18 percent. GST on Cancer treatment has also been increased from 5 percent to 12 to 18 percent. This will lead to a huge reduction in people's health facilities and their care.

I would like to request the Honorable Minister to rethink on the points mentioned by me and reconsider the increased GST rate in all sectors keeping in mind the interests of the poor, helpless and economically depressed people of the country and reduce the prices charged on petrol, diesel, cooking gas and other food items. At the same time, I would also like to request that the GST imposed on crematoriums and funeral homes should be abolished completely. I conclude my speech with these things. Thank you very much . Jai Hind .

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (KHAMMAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the price rise.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the people of the country are thinking about what will be discussed in the Parliament on price rise today and what response the Government will give after that. Now some people here have told that they are our good friends. They were Members of Parliament with me earlier also and

are still there. My colleagues have also told this. When these people will go to their parliamentary constituencies, those who are saying in the Parliament today that there is no price rise, when they will go to their parliamentary constituencies, then they will definitely have to hear something or the other from the common man. There is price rise throughout the country. The common man has been greatly affected due to price rise. The poor are becoming poorer. These people are saying in the House that there has been no price increase. This is not right.

Sir, I definitely want to talk about what an honorable member from the Government side has said. Right now the production of wheat in the whole world has decreased by 1 percent, but in our country there is very good production. Similarly, it has been said about rice that the production of rice has decreased by 5 percent all over the world, but in our country the production has increased by 100 percent. Telangana State has increased that 100 percent production. They are not buying the increase 100 percent in production. The farmers of Telangana are very worried because rice is not being purchased from them. They are in great pain. On one hand, it is being said in the Parliament that its production in India has increased by 100 percent. If there is the capacity to provide food to anyone in the entire world, then only the farmers of India have it and no one else has it. It is very important to protect such farmers.

Along with this he also said one more thing. He has also spoken about Telangana among opposition ruled States. It was said that we are taking more loans than FRBM. The Honorable Prime Minister must definitely reply in this House. Till date, Telangana State has created assets from whatever loans it has taken. Dams have been built with it, power plants have been built and drinking water has been provided to every village. Similarly, assets have been created for irrigation. In our poor Telangana State, there was no water to drink. The question raised at least 100 times in this House was that which is the State

where 100 percent drinking water will be available, in now Telangana State is at number one. We also get a lot of rewards from the Government. When you look at the best villages in the entire country, then 19 out of 20 villages are in the State of Telangana. 10 regions of Telangana are well developed. Right now it has been said about Telangana in this way. Till date we have not had even a single rupee default. We are doing this as per the guidelines of RBI.

Sir, I also have to talk about price increase. Inflation has been very high for the last 8 years. Consumer index prices have increased a lot, food prices and, fuel prices have also increased a lot. Due to the increase in all this, the cost of living of the poor man has also increased. In today's date the poor man is in a lot of trouble. You will not give me that much time to quote, but I want to speak about two-three points. The price of the cylinder was Rs 414, today the price of one cylinder has become Rs 1,053. Its burden is falling on the common man. The increased prices of diesel and petrol are falling on the farmers. Today, farmers are incurring Rs 2,000 more for cultivating one acre. Along with that, GST has also been imposed not only on fertilizers but also on the operational handlooms and on the clothes made by hand. GST has also been imposed on children's pencils, erasers, milk and curd. The Breads eaten by the patients admitted in hospitals have also not been spared, tax has been imposed on it. At least we should think about all these things and reduce the taxes. Along with this, I also want to say one or two things. They have spoken about Opposition Ruled States. I want to ask one thing from the Government of India that in the year 2014, the loan of Government of India was Rs 56 lakh crore and today that loan has increased by Rs 100 lakh crore to Rs 156 lakh crore, which assets have been created in the country, what dam has been built in the country? They have not created assets, rather they have sold assets. They are selling the assets of the entire country.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Honorable member, please conclude your speech. You conclude please.

.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Along with this, I also want to State that prices have risen in this country. The responsibility of reducing the price rise rests with the Government....(*Interruptions*) We want to hear from the Honorable Prime Minister that this debate has been good. There has been a discussion on price rise in the Parliament and if the Government reduces the risen prices, we will also clap for it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI): Thank you, hon. Chairperson ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Hon. Minister is here. She will give us a spirited reply. Why do you need to give such a spirited reply? ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for permitting me to participate in this very important discussion today under Rule 193 on price rise. We have all been very keen for a very long time that we discuss this in the House, and we hear from the hon. Finance Minister what the reasons are. Many reasons have already been given for it. But what are her plans or how does she propose going forward to ensure that the two major lynchpins of this price rise, which is food inflation as well as fuel inflation are dealt with. These are trying times, and I quite understand the Finance Minister's predicament. She has got a hard job on her hands. The conditions around the world make it very difficult for any Finance Minister today to deal with the current situation.

But I think, some amount of serious introspection is also required as to whether the course that we have followed over the past four or five years, has borne fruit or not. I have had the occasion to say this earlier in my role as a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance. The demonetisation issue was raised by one of my colleagues. This continues to remain a bugbear. The Government has to seriously, seriously introspect that if Rs. 15,90,000 odd crore was the cash in circulation in 2016, and the idea was to take India to a cashless economy to make into a digital economy, how is it that in 2022, the cash in circulation today is Rs. 30 lakh crore? It has almost doubled.

Therefore, are there some seminal mistakes being made? I understand that the Governor, RBI will immediately tell us that ‘a part of it is because of COVID; there were massive withdrawals at that point.’ But it still does not mean that people wanted to hold cash etc., etc. These do not really touch the central nerve. There are mountains of cash being found. I am sorry, from all shades of political sides, there are mountains of cash that we see on television. One in UP was Rs. 140 odd crore; one was somewhere else amounting to Rs. 50 odd crore. I mean, there are mountains of cash which is being hoarded and which is being generated, and which is obviously escaping the tax system.

Why is it continuing to escape the tax system, is something that we need to seriously introspect because unless in this country, you expand the tax base in a big way, things will not improve much. I know, the Finance Minister has told us that it has gone up enormously -- nine crore people now paying tax. But how many of them are paying how much tax, is the point. By merely becoming an assessee and by merely filing a tax return, does not make it a productive tax return.

Mr. Nishikant Dubey trotted out a familiar argument which everybody from the Government Benches trots out that we are victim today of the oil bonds that the UPA Government floated and these fuel prices are a result of that

and, therefore, we have to keep increasing the fuel prices. I do not know if the actual figures are at your knowledge because if they are at your knowledge, a man of your erudition and your objectivity would not raise this. Let me give you some actual figures. The actual figures are that from 2014 to 2022, as Mr. Manish Tewari said, Rs. 27,27,000 crore has been generated by way of oil revenues. Mr. Dubey, you would be astonished to know that both, interest and principal, taken together, between 2014 and 2022, which has been repaid by way of oil bonds, is only Rs. 93,600 crore. So, if we take Rs. 27,00,000 crore and Rs. 93,000 crore, the total payment made towards oil bonds from the revenue collected is 3.4 per cent. Therefore, please, do not keep telling us that oil prices are going up because we have to service oil bonds. That is not an accurate description.

The fact of the matter is that oil prices are going up because you have to balance your budget. I can understand that it is very hard job for the Finance Minister to balance the budget. I can understand that there is a massive amount that is going out towards your MGNREGA bills and towards your free food that you are giving out to the poor. There is no question as they are laudable objectives and any Government would be called upon to do it. But it calls for a more prudent economics rather than what I have always said and pardon my saying so, Madam Finance Minister, that it is a lazy taxation. You, basically, are engaging, what is ranked in, lazy taxation. This is something that can easily be plucked; it is a low hanging fruit, let us keep plucking it; and let us keep torturing. The youth and women of this country are in a serious dire strait.

[Translation]

Just now Manish ji said that Sushma Swaraj ji had said while standing here that she cannot see the tears of the housewives flowing, but today not only the tears of the housewives are flowing, but their tears of blood are flowing. Young people are also shedding tears of blood today when they go to the petrol pump every morning and see the rising prices, *[English]* I mean, 39 times, the

price of petrol has increased in 2021-22 and before that, the price of petrol has been increased 76 times between 2020-21. Every morning, you went there, it was 50 paise or 75 paise or one rupee up. These young boys today, who work as courier boys or delivery boys, for them it is their lifeline. They cannot do anything without those motorcycles. Everyday, they go back with less money in their pockets because you continue to raise fuel prices rampantly because you have no other way of garnering your revenue.

Therefore, Madam Finance Minister, I urge you once again that please do not heed the advice of bureaucrats who are giving you, with great respect, lazy advice for your revenue generation. I will give you one example straightaway. There is a big *brouhaha* in the country that steel prices are going up and, therefore, put an export duty on iron ore. There is no difficulty. You put an export duty on finished steel. You put an export duty on over 58 iron ore which is used in steel production. But, why have you put an export duty on under 58 iron ore when not a gram of under 58 grade ore is sold in this country or will ever be sold in this country? Nobody uses it. A State like Odisha, today, is liable to lose Rs. 15000 crore this year apart from the foreign exchange, Madam, Finance Minister, that the Government of India will lose. We will lose by way of our revenues, Rs. 15,000 crore. We have been crying from pillar to post that this is a needless cess. It is an environmental hazard. It is because you cannot stop mining under 58 grade iron ore. If you mine over 58 grade iron ore, you would also mine under 58. That is piling up needlessly. It can easily be exported but you put such a countervailing duty on it that it becomes uneconomical. But nobody is willing to listen that there is no rationale to this. So, there must be some rationality and for that, I believe, the political guidance is the only way going forward. This cannot be in the hands of bureaucrats. With great respect, I would say, they have a tunnel vision which they will never get out of in this country. That is a fact.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there is one other astounding fact which needs to be brought to the knowledge of this House. Is this House aware that in 2019, about 1,44,017 Indians gave up their citizenship? This has been told to the Lok Sabha on 19th July. During COVID pandemic, this number came down to 85,256. But now, in 2021, the number of people, who are giving up Indian citizenship and taking up citizenships of Saint Kitts, Belize, Portugal and the other countries around the world, is 1,63,370. It is all very well for us to say ‘good riddance’.

[Translation] You can say that okay, if you do not want Indian citizenship, then you can leave. *[English]* But the fact of the matter is, these are all high-net-worth individuals who are wealth creators.

Let us not kick them in the face and say “Get out, we do not need you.” Let us ask them that what their problem is, and why they are giving up Indian citizenship and taking up citizenship of tax havens abroad. ... *(Interruptions)* I am sorry, this is all we need to reflect upon. This is a matter for collective reflection in this House. It is because after all, the Indian Passport is a matter of great pride for all of us. So, if people are giving up the Indian Passport, Madam Finance Minister, you have to look within your Ministry whether the CBDT, the Enforcement Directorate, the CBI, or all these agencies together are making the lives so difficult today for the high-net-worth individuals in this country. You are not making it easy for them to be happily tax-compliant. You should tax them at such rates and in such a manner that they will be proud and happy tax payers. Today, they are not happy tax payers which is why they are running away from this country. This is number one. ... *(Interruptions)*

Two, give them such an atmosphere and an environment in this country. The hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly said that he respects wealth creators and wealth generators. So, give them a feeling that if they are wealth creators or wealth generators, they are not sinners and that they will not be punished. ... *(Interruptions)* If we all reflect on this and our policies are in consonance with

some progressive thinking, I believe that these are issues that can be easily resolved. It is a large country. Despite the Ukraine-Russia war, I think, we have enormous internal resources, and this 130 crore population of this country is capable of collectively generating massive wealth, and becoming great wealth creators. But for that, we have to unshackle what are known as the animal spirits of this country and its people.

Madam Finance Minister, I appeal to you to kindly pay heed to what I have said in right earnest, and I say this in the best spirit of bi-partisanship. Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Thank you, hon. Chairperson Sir, for giving me a chance to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 related to price rise. I appreciate all the points made by my several colleagues because it is a very important issue. Everybody has endlessly and repeatedly talked about Sushmaji.

[Translation] Sushma ji used to stand here when we discussed inflation and we used to sit there. I still remember each and every word of Sushma ji. She used to comment on inflation here, we used to listen to her very quietly, because we hoped to get some feedback from her side. There were always some suggestions in her speeches. We used to listen to her suggestions and our UPA government tried to implement them. Today when Nishikant Dubey ji was speaking, he gave big data and a very good history lecture of 60 years. He narrated many things about 60 years. He, too, has been part of the treasury bench for eight years. I said it once last time, I didn't want to repeat it, but his history lecture of 60 years took so long, I just have to remind him that eight years is also a considerable time. Even when a new bride comes to her in-laws after marriage, no one hears about these legacy issues after eight years of marriage that have been prevailing since the time of her mother-in-law's. In eight years, the bride becomes a full-

fledged member of that family. This is the problem of inflation. I remember Sushma ji's words, which are fully applicable to his speech today, "The common man does not understand the language of percentage, he understands only the language of what he is gaining out of the money he is spending."

16.00 hrs

My friend and colleague Mrs. Kanimozhi ji said about a child. That is correct. Today, the letter written by Kirti Dubey, who is six years old, has been published in all the newspapers. She has written the letter in beautiful handwriting. I want to ask this government that a six year old girl is writing a letter to the Honorable Prime Minister. The slogan of this Government is – 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.' This daughter of India is writing letters for a pencil. The 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' programme that was pioneered by Honorable Atal ji, was a very good programme. When we were in power, we also did it. Let me read it once and give details of the things on which they have imposed GST. Here in Maharashtra, we have a poem, I will describe to you about GST while reciting the poem. When we were children, we were taught – "*Dutta-Dutta*, you may know the God Dutta, *Dutta-Dutta Dutta chee gaay*-means Dutta's cow. *Gaay ch doodh* means cow milk, *doodhaachee saay*- means the cream of the milk, *saayeecha dahee*- means the cream which turns curd, *daheecha taak*-means the buttermilk, *taakaacha lonee* - means butter, *lonaya cha toop* - means ghee. This means *datta-datta*, *dattaachee gaay*, *gaayacha doodh*, *doodhaachee saay*, *saayeecha dahee*, *daheecha taak*, *taakacha lonee*, *lonaya cha toop* ."

16.02 hrs

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

We grew up listening to all these poems. You have imposed GST on everyone except God Datta Guru, and cow... (*Interruptions*) It has not been imposed GST on God yet. ... (*Interruptions*) Just think, paneer, curd, lassi, jaggery, sugar, natural puffed rice, murmura, our friends from Kolkata were talking about this for a long time. They had been mentioning rice, wheat, tender

coconut, rice flower, etc. Shri Nishikant ji was telling very good things about wheat, I enjoyed listening to him. He was saying that the government is providing food to every poor in this country, this is a good thing. When the Prime Minister of the country provides food to the exploited and deprived, he takes their blessings. He does not ask for an account of that. The Government is like a guardian. When a mother feeds her children every day, they do not thank her, it is their right. Mother feeds children with love and they eat food considering it a blessing. In this country it is called Annapurna. Shri Nishikant ji was saying, will you not take it as gratitude? Has the condition of this country become such that today the poor of this country would say to the Prime Minister that they are thankful to him, as he gave them meals. Is this what you're thinking? Have you forgotten the entire dialogue of Smt. Sushma ji?

I would like to say one more thing about GST that when their reply comes, they will say that the GST Council has done it, it has been done by the ministers of every state. I want to say on record and can also table the letter that when we were in the government in Maharashtra, it was functioning smoothly, the then Maha Vikas Aghadi government wrote an on record letter to them and asked not to do all this. It should not be mentioned that the Maharashtra Government has also supported the GST Council. Do they ever conduct voting? There are many things to be mentioned. Last time also, I had asked the Honorable Finance Minister that what is included or not included, she should answer on record in yes or no. All the things which are passed in the GST Council, are they passed unanimously? If not, then give details which state protested, so that things become clear. Let us be clear because we are tired of hearing that it is the GST Council which did it. They got a good opportunity because they are in majority, it became an excuse.

Many people spoke about demonetization, I just want to remind them one thing. Shri Nishikant ji said that this policy went wrong during the 60 years of

governance, it is okay that we must have made many mistakes, that is why we are sitting in opposition, otherwise we would have been sitting on that side. One who works also makes mistakes, no problem. A mistake was made. There was a discussion about demonetization. I was not going to speak on this earlier, but I am just making a comment on it. Someone spoke about Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. *[English]* Bangladesh today is an export remittance and agriculture driven economy, and we were doing well together. *[Translation]* The Government has implemented demonetization, what happened after that?

[English]

India grew at 3.7 percent and Bangladesh grew at 8.2 per cent. The only reason was demonetization. *[Translation]* What did you get from this? I do not want to repeat what my previous speakers have said, but so much money is being deposited. *[English]* You were absolutely right when you talked about it.

Even I want to ask the hon. Finance Minister how much currency is in circulation, the CiC. He quoted a lot of numbers. I am not a finance expert nor am I an economist, but I know this much little about finance that probably printing the money is the right thing when you need it because you want to raise demand. So, you need to bring in the cash. I appreciate that, but everybody knows that whenever you print extra notes, it leads to inflation. It is a very common economic knowledge. You do not need to be very smart for that. In that case, when you are looking at reducing moneys, why did you print so many notes? What is the exact amount of currency in circulation? You are at one level.

You keep telling people to go to banks. I want to bring this to your knowledge very quickly that you are encouraging the people to go to banks, which is a welcome thing. We all have worked very hard to make sure that everybody in our constituencies go to the bank. Sir, do you know how much it costs? If you withdraw money from an ATM, many banks allow up to five free

transactions and every time thereafter, *[Translation]* In some banks, if you withdraw money after the fifth transaction, you will have to pay money. Do you need to pay while withdrawing your own money? We have to pay money to withdraw the white money which we are keeping in the banks by trusting the government. There is a debit card annual fee also. If a poor person loses his card somewhere, he will have to pay Rs 200 to get a new card. If we want a print of the bank statement, which is our right, you will have to pay Rs 50 or Rs 100. *[English]* There are charges for money transfer through RTGS and NEFT, service charges on basic bank transactions and cash withdrawal from banks and cheque book charges etc. The rate at which we are going, it is only like Dutta's cow problem, same problem persists in the bank. Only going to the bank and coming out of the bank is free. For all rest of the things, you have to pay for whatever you do. I really want to ask this Government what their thinking is.

Nishikantji talked extensively about LPG. I just want to ask him one small question. I will not repeat all the points which my colleagues who have spoken earlier raised.

He said that the price was the same, but he forgot to mention that the Government at that time was paying subsidy. The UPA Government never let the LPG cylinder price go above Rs. 300 or Rs. 400. Where is this magic number of Rs. 1,000 he is creating from? Only he knows this. Maybe, we will get a reply for it.

Somebody talked about the falling rupee. I still remember Sushmaji. It had pained me. So, I would like to quote her here: "the prestige of a nation falls with the devaluation of its currency." I just want to ask the hon. Minister two very small questions. I have never got a reply to the question of cess from this Government. This Government charges cess for primary education, secondary education, health, GST compensation and additional cess. So much cess gets collected. There are 12 ways in which you collect cess. Why do you not give this to the poor consumer? I think, they deserve to do it.

I want to raise two very small points about U-turn of the Government. The Government talked about wheat. Literally, these are my last two or three points. I will raise them in short.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You may raise two points.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, I will club them together.

Sir, this Government made a policy. He talked about wheat. What did this Government do about wheat? One day the government made a policy that people can sell. Within three days, there was a U-turn on that policy and there was a complete ban. Why? On one day, you say that you have enough reserves. When two rupees extra are going into the kitty of the farmer, why did you stop it? I want to ask this Government: will you give me a White Paper on doubling of farmers' income? The other day, the Minister was saying Oh! It doubled. You tell us how it has doubled.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Supriya ji, please conclude now.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, I will raise one last point only.

Sir, they are talking of GST on solar energy. They keep saying that they have a complete kitty of coal, hydrogen and everything together, and it is going to be a green country. By 2030, they want to get rid of petrol.

It is only eight years away. That is the commitment this Government is making, when they are taxing everything related to solar energy at 18 per cent. Is the poor Prime Minister, who has a great vision, confused by his own Ministers? About the policy that one *Mantralaya* is doing and the policy that the other *Mantralaya* is doing, they are misleading the Prime Minister of this country. In his speech, he keeps telling us that he is going to make sure that it is a green country, it is a safe country and it is going to be an affordable country to live in while each of his Department comes with a different story. *[English]* I am really concerned because what he says and what happens in reality are two different things. *[Translation]* All I want to say is that today there is a woman

Finance Minister. She knows the pain. The Hon. Minister is very wise, she has talked about onion only, because the prices of onion keep increasing or decreasing.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, please sit down.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Statistics do not feed the belly. Even a poor man needs paddy to satisfy his hunger. It is my request to the Hon. Finance Minister... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, please sit down.

Shri Margani Bharat.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: She is a woman, she also runs the house. One of their BJP presidents told me to go home. It was told to me, not to you... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Supriya ji, nothing is going on record.

... (*Interruptions*) ...*

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY): Sir, I thank the Government for having brought this burning issue of price rise for discussion. If the Government would have done it earlier, the House would not have stalled for these many days and we would have had very good discussions in the House. I would like to add value-added points here. As we all are people's representatives, we are very much familiar with the perils faced by the common man due to the rise of prices, like cooking gas, pulses, grains, groceries and so on.

*Not recorded

Of course, we understand despite the pandemic and the war between Ukraine and Russia having affected and impacted the whole world, it shall be our priority to reduce the impact of inflation in the shortest possible time. We all know that prices of everyday necessities of common man, like cooking gas, as I said earlier, has shot up in March 2022. It is shaking the monthly budget of the common man. For instance, I would like to quote here that the price of cooking gas has shot up by 25 per cent. How come the common man can survive from this? I would like to read out the analysis of the Department of Economic and Policy Research of RBI. The output losses of first pandemic year are round about Rs. 19.1 lakh crore. In the second pandemic year, it was round about Rs. 17.1 lakh crore. In the year 2022-23, the losses projected are round about Rs. 16.4 lakh crore. If you look at the GDP growth, it came down from 8.9 per cent. It is projected to come down to 7 per cent. The Government needs to focus more on this. As per the given analysis, it will take up till 2034-35 to overcome the losses during Covid and to revive GDP growth. What are the measures Government is taking to curtail the price rise? The Government should focus more on the alternative source of fuel. I would like to highlight some of the figures relating to imports. As per the statistics given, the imports of crude oil are round about USD 170 billion, which is 30 per cent of our total imports. For precious metals like gold and precious gems, it is round about USD 88 billion, which is 15 per cent of our imports. It roughly comes to round about USD 570 billion. The Indian rupee has dropped by 13.5 per cent against the US dollar recently. How can we overcome all this?

I would like to give some fine suggestions here. The Government should focus more on alternative source of fuel. I will give you an example of a hydroelectric power station, like the Three Gorges Dam in China. It produces about 22,500 MW of power. It saves around 110 billion units per day. So, it is producing so much of power for the consumption of whole of China. Likewise, Atal Bihari

Ji, former Prime Minister, had conceived and dreamt of interlinking of rivers project. In that, we can create big dams, so that we can generate more power. In fact, our hon. Prime Minister is also planning for alternative source of power as Supriya Sule Ji has rightly mentioned here. By 2030, we are going to curtail burden on petrol and diesel. How is it going to be possible in a span of eight years? The Government should give more focus on that.

I would like to add one more thing here. Our country is an agrarian country. Since 75 years of Independence, our country is more into the agricultural products. Even today, we are the major importers of palm oil, an edible oil. The duty on the import is much higher. Due to this war crisis, the price of edible oil has skyrocketed. So, the Government needs to promote local edible oils like coconut oil and mustard oil, and also should reduce duties for these edible oils. Even though the Government has given a lot of incentives for the fertilizer and subsidies are being offered by the Government, even then the fertilizer prices have crept up and have skyrocketed. ... (*Interruptions*). Sir, we have more time, at least three more minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The total time allotted for the discussion is just two hours.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Sir, our number is 22. At least we should be allotted five minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, you continue. But please conclude it within the allotted time.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: As per the hon. Speaker's direction, the allotted time is two hours and each party's time is well enunciated here. You continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Sir, we need to ensure preventive measures for the farmers to earn more profits. I also suggest here that MSP should also be revised to keep pace with inflation.

The Government should focus and encourage farmers to go in for alternative crops. We have been importing cotton, we have been importing finished goods of cotton, even edible oil. So, instead of that, we need to encourage our farmers to produce more of what we are importing from the other countries.

I would like to give some suggestions here. The unpredictable monsoons have been one of the major factors for inflation. So, to keep it intact, I suggest that steps should be taken to diversify alternative crops, encourage farmers with incentives, rain water harvesting, re-use of organic waste, desalination of water and so on and so forth. The Government should focus more on the Free Trade Agreements for stabilizing export and import. India has seen some notable positives from FTAs in the recent past. As the data shows, there is significant increase in the exports to some countries. So, in that way, as I said earlier, the Government should focus more on alternative fuels; the Government should make the common man live with the limited budget that they have. In the long-term plan, the Government should focus on these issues in the coming couple of years. The Government should take preventive measures to control this.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD): Sir, thank you. Today, after a long time, this House is again functioning at its own pace. First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Speaker and the entire House that the whole India

sends us here with great expectations to discuss all these things and to take decisions on it.

Sir, today, inflation is being discussed here. Hon. Manish Tiwari ji and Hon. MP Shrimati Kanimozhi from opposition have put forward very important things. I think before discussing inflation, we need to pay attention to many things. If the prices of commodities have increased, I am using the word 'if', if prices have increased what is the reason behind it? If the prices of commodities are increasing in India, what are their effects? What steps has the Government taken to reduce the prices? What have been the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a challenge to the global economy and the entire world struggled with for 2.5-3 years? Today, there is war going on between Russia and Ukraine. What effect will it have on the whole world during and after the war and what effect is it having today? China, which is struggling with its internal system, has an imbalance of demand and supply and due to the increase in demand from other countries; the export has also increased from other countries. It has resulted in the shortage of commodities and due to that the prices have increased. We have to pay attention to that also.

Hon. Manish Tiwari ji had said that they pulled out 27 crore poor people from below poverty line and they have become poor again in Hon. Modi ji's regime. Hon. Kanimozhi ji said that the poor in the country are facing a severe crisis. They get a wage of Rs 300 and they are not able to run their house. Hon. Manish Tiwari ji also said that 92 capitalists have as much money as 55 crore poor people have in India.

Sir, I am saying this because these are the reasons, the Hon. Prime Minister is making serious efforts to build this country. If all these facts had not been there, Hon. Modi ji would not have given the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas'? Equality is to be brought. The poor has to be

uplifted. The middle class has to be uplifted towards the upper class. These were the challenges that's why the Hon. Prime Minister put forward these things as pilot project and started working on them. How can we forget that during the lockdown, everything that was needed in the world was impossible to fulfill. In those adverse circumstances, the Hon. Prime Minister of our country, Shri Narendra Modi ji, our Government provided essential commodities to every home and did not let anybody face any shortage in India.

Sir, I also would like to say through you that the whole world is facing challenges after the lockdown. Today at least we are in such a position that we are able to run this country smoothly, for that I would like to thank our Government and the Hon. Prime Minister. Almost every member has spoken about the prices of petrol and diesel. I would like to urge the House through you that if there had not been panic regarding the petrol and diesel prices, our Prime Minister would not have announced a price cut of Rs 8 to 10 per liter in single day in this country? He was worried that the price of petrol and diesel was presenting a challenge to middle and lower middle class, that's why he reduced the price. He reduced the duty on these. I can say with full confidence that BJP ruled States also reduced the price by Rs 2 to 2.5 per liter at that time. Who had stopped West Bengal to reduce the prices? Who had asked not to reduce duty in Rajasthan? Today, I can say that the highest rate of petrol is in Jaipur. There is no need to tell that whose Government is there.

Sir, I would like to say through you that in the 10 years of UPA and I am not asking for accounts of 70 years, the prices of petrol and diesel increased at the rate of 116 percent. Perhaps they do not want to look in the past or do not want to deliberately present it before the House. During the current tenure of 7-7.5 years of NDA Government, the rate of increase in the prices of petroleum products is only 16 to 17 percent. There is no comparison between 116 percent and 16 to 17 percent, these are not my statistics. I am not an economist. But on

the basis of my study and superficial knowledge, I can say that these things are in the public domain and are in front of everyone.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to urge through you that if they have so much concern about prices of petrol and diesel, as many Hon. Members from opposition have said that the Hon. Finance Minister is hiding things under the guise of GST Council, they should go to the GST Council with a good heart and propose that the petroleum products should be brought under the ambit of GST. The way the Government of India distributes GST to the States, the money collected through GST on petroleum products will also be distributed at the same way throughout the country. Why don't they agree to bring all petroleum products under GST? It will also check the black marketing in various States as prices are high in one State and low in others. We will also get rid of the allegations and counter-allegations regarding inflation and the prices of petroleum products.

If we have our Government in half the States of the country, the remaining States have the Government of opposition parties. If the opposition parties are so concerned about the citizens, why do they not take this tough decision?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, many of our colleagues have spoken on inflation. I would like to say through you that if we look at the inflation data in past times and compare these with the Government of Hon. Modi ji, the inflation rate in the year 1973, during the Hon. Prime Minister Late. Shrimati Gandhi was 16.9 percent, in the year 1974, it was 28.6 percent and in the year 1991 it was 14 percent. At the end of the second tenure of Hon. Manmohan Singh Ji's Government, the inflation rate was 11.6 percent. Later, when the Hon. Prime Minister took charge of our country in the year 2013-14, the inflation rate came down to 6.67%. In the year 2018-19, it was 3.9 percent. When the whole world

was struggling during COVID period, this rate had increased to 6.8 percent. As of today, RBI considers the rate of inflation at 5.5 percent as ideal. The Government is working on it and trying to maintain the inflation rate around this target. I do not justify the partial inflation. I am not saying that when there is chaos in the principle of demand and supply, then somewhere the country and the society have to face these things. But we also have to keep in mind what are the steps the Government is taking to tackle this problem.

Today, the matter of steel was also raised. The Government has reduced the import duty on raw materials in the steel and plastic industry, so that steel remains available at reasonable price in the country. Steel should be made available at reasonable rates for the infrastructure creation including the houses being built for the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Due to all these reasons, import duty has been reduced on steel. The whole country is seeing that the prices of steel have continuously come down. I think that after some reduction, we would be back to the old rates. Export duty has been imposed on steel products so that these goods are not exported. The goods of India should remain in India. Import duty has been slashed. In edible oils, the Government has allowed duty free import of 20 lakh tonnes of soybean and sunflower crude oils during the current and next financial year, so that the prices of oils do not increase.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today we had talked about Ujjwala Yojana. If it seems that the rate of LPG is expensive, then the Hon. Prime Minister has provided a subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder. If the prices were reasonable then there would have been no need to provide a Government subsidy. As the Hon. Prime Minister cares for the public that's why he has provided that subsidy. Hon. Adhir Ranjan ji during the UPA-2 regime, you would remember that there was an issue raised because the Government had announced a cap of 6 to 8 cylinders per year per connection. At that time the opposition used to raise the

issue of increasing the cylinders cap from 6-8 to 12 cylinders per year. Why was it that the number of cylinders was a matter of discussion during the UPA-2 regime and now, the Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has removed this limit. Now, anyone across India can use whatever number of gas cylinders they want. Our Government has provided free gas connections and cylinders to the women in 9 crore poor households.

Sir, on one hand, we used to talk about the limited number of cylinders and on the other hand, today nine crore women can get unlimited number of cylinders. Hon. Chairperson Sir, today Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji has started the self-declaration Scheme which is the most important thing. The women who could not avail facility of gas connections and cylinders as they did not have Aadhar and BPL cards, but were from poor background, the Hon. Prime Minister has asked such one crore women to make a self-declaration stating that they are from poor background and they need this facility. The Government has made this provision separately for one crore women. I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for this step.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the issue of sugar price inflation is also being discussed here. With regard to the export of sugar, the Government has clearly stated that the export limit of 100 lakh tonnes is set to ensure that when the sugar season starts in October, the Government has sufficient reserves to cover for the sugar consumption for three months. For this purpose, our Government has imposed a capping of 100 lakh tonnes. This is only to control the sugar prices.

The Government has imposed a ban on wheat exports to enhance food security and bring down the prices. The Government has made preparations to provide assistance of Rs 1 lakh 10 thousand crore to farmers on fertilizers in

addition to the budgetary provision of Rs 1 lakh crore in the current financial year. The Government would not have taken many such decisions if it was not concerned about the farmers which constitute 65 to 70 percent of the country's total population. Due to the concern for these farmers, the Government under Hon. Modi ji has increased the support price of Gram to Rs 5200 per quintal which was Rs. 2800 in the year 2011-12. The Opposition is talking about Minimum Support Price. In the year 2011-12, the MSP of lentil was Rs 2700 per quintal. In the last seventy years, the MSP of lentil had reached only up to Rs 2700 per quintal. The Hon. Prime Minister ji has increased it up to Rs 5300 per quintal in the year 2021-22. This rate has almost been doubled. In the year 2011-12, the support price of pigeon pea was Rs 3000 per quintal and today the same is around Rs 7000 per quintal.

The people talk about pulses disappearing from the plate of the poor. It is our NDA Government under the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji which has increased the MSP of Moong from Rs 3000 to Rs 7300 per quintal which is grown by 65 percent population of our country. I also want to urge the friends of the media through the House that as soon as the grain of the farmers becomes expensive, there is a great hue and cry in the country that flour has disappeared from the plate of the poor houses. Some say that pulses have disappeared from the plate of the poor.

I want to urge that when 65 percent of the population of this country is a producer of crops and is dependent on farming, then if their grain becomes expensive then why do we need to have a problem over this? Why is this even a matter of concern? I always say that if money goes into the farmer's pocket, the same money comes out and goes to the market. With the same money, the farmers buys steel, pulses or flour. The person who works as a labourer for the same farmer will receive the same money in form of his wages. They would get money through the Government's MNREGA Scheme. The flow of money

should not stop in the market. If money keeps circulating in the market then even partial inflation is not a challenge for a person, if he has money. The Government has mainly focused on the fact that there should not be any shortage of money in any sector. In terms of infrastructure, if a road is built, steel will be sold by the businessmen. If the road and house under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are built, the cement industry will also get a boost. If these works are carried out, our carpenter will also get work. Electrical goods and painting material would be sold. The labours would be paid wages. It means there are many fields which are dependent on this money. The most important thing our Government has ensured is that the common man, farmers, needy and poor should not have shortage of money. The money should keep circulating in the market. As the Government has overcome this challenge with ease, I would like to thank the Union Government for that.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the biggest challenge was to give a corruption free system to this country after the year 2013-14. If anyone has successfully completed this challenge, it has been the leader of our country, Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. He has given a corruption free Government in India. Today, whether it is the Central Government or the State Governments, no one can make allegations of corruption. While other Governments running in States, you are seeing that at some places Rs 50 crore are being confiscated, at some places Rs 100 crore are being confiscated. Somewhere inside the car, Rs 1 crore is being found. However, we think twice to keep even five thousand rupees in the vehicle and think why to do so. We think that instead we would use the cards while other people are traveling in vehicles with Rs 50 lakh each. This was a challenge.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, Hon. Prime Minister has provided houses to the poor. Earlier, rich people could take loans from the banks by mortgaging their houses, lands or property, but the poor persons had no such facilities. Our Hon.

Prime Minister has given the land rights to the poor in the place where he is living. Now, he can also mortgage that certificate in the bank and can raise a loan on that. Our Hon. Prime Minister has taken this step to help the poor in the country.

The Government has provided M.S.P. and Samman Nidhi to the farmers. The most important of all steps is that the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government has worked even for the street vendors who belong to the extremely lower strata of our society for whom the people in opposition are concerned today but limit themselves to speeches only.

If inflation has increased due to adverse circumstances or a little mismanagement has occurred due to COVID, no one but the Government has worked to directly help the street vendors in the country. Hon. Chairperson Sir, Ayushman Bharat scheme has been launched recently. The poor in the country lack money. Out of concern for them, the Government introduced the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The largest medical health programme in the world has been launched by the Hon Prime Minister Modi ji. Crores of people in the country have been covered under the Ayushman scheme today. Hon. Chairperson Sir, we launched the Start - up programme because we care for the youth. Hundreds of youth are getting employment through the Start-up scheme who earlier used to run for employment. Hon. Chairperson Sir, before concluding, I would like to say that our Government is working in earnest. I would like to speak within a minute about Madhya Pradesh which is a BJP ruled State. One of our colleagues had spoken about 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' in our State. In our State, we execute a Fixed Deposit of Rs. 1,20,000 on the birth of girl child. The education for the girl child is free of cost. The Government provides her transport after passing class X and scooter after passing class XII. When the girls pursue higher education in Medical or in other fields, their fee is paid by the Government. The Government spends Rs. 51,000 on the occasion of

her marriage. When she conceives, we provide financial assistance to her. When she gives birth to a baby, the Government provides assistance to ensure nutritious food for her post delivery. Our Governments provide assistance from birth till death.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, in the end I would like to say that our Hon. Prime Minister has continually helped the poor and farmers of the country. Through this House, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister also. Those belonging to the lower middle class and middle class form the priority class for our Government. The day, this lower middle class group of people become financially strong, I think that our challenges will vanish because it is this lower middle class group of people which expects the most from the Government at present. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to provide more assistance to our people belonging to the lower middle class in future, just the way we have helped the poor people and farmers. In the end, I would like to sum up the views and concern of Hon. Modi ji for the country through this couplet. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Adhir Ranjan ji, the thinking of Hon. Modi ji for the country is like-

*'Teri Khairiyat ka hee zikr rehta hai Duaaon mein,
Masla sirf Mohabbat ka hee nahin,
Teri fikr ka bhi hai,
Desh ki fikr ka bhi hai.'*

Thank you very much.

[*English*]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Hon. Chairman, being a Member of Parliament, you would be following the proceedings of the two Houses of Parliament very well. We all know that from the 15th Lok Sabha to the 17th Lok Sabha, the issue of price hike was discussed nearly 70 times in Lok Sabha, and about 11 times in Rajya Sabha. However, the Central Government

has been incapable of arresting the price hike during these regimes - the 15th, 16th and 17th Lak Sabhas.

I was hearing the speech of one hon. Member saying that because of COVID-19, the price hike is there. May I ask a question to this House that before COVID-19 whether price hike was not there in the country? Has inflation not increased in the country? What did you do? Now, another *alibi* has come. The *alibi* is that because of Ukraine and Russia battle, the world market has gone down and price hike is there. Okay. Before Ukraine and Russia battle began, was there not a price hike? *[Translation]* You never said that our country is running smoothly because we have good relations with all the countries of the world. You said that our Hon'ble Modi ji ran the country smoothly. You never said so earlier and now you are saying that *[English]* because of Ukraine and Russia battle, the market, the economy, everything has gone down. *[Translation]* You never said so earlier.

[English]

The International Monetary Fund is calling on Governments to focus on giving support packages to those who need it the most to avoid triggering recession. It is a fact that out of 130 crore people, over 97 crore Indians – or about 71 per cent of the country's population – are unable to afford nutritious food in our country itself. All limits of price rise have been crossed when the Government imposed GST on packaged food items like milk, dahi, lassi, chura, muri, paneer and other nutritional food items which has seriously affected the intake of the consumers. India has become world's top milk producer with a minimum profit in this sector in the country. But this policy will soon help big players to enter into the sector which will adversely affect small dairy farmers of the country. Milk consumers are price conscious. Milk with muri, chura, sattu and milk products being essential consumables, the Government should rollback their decision.

Due to 12 per cent GST on condensed milk, butter, ghee, and cheese, the wholesale price inflation for milk product rises to 20.33 per cent in June 2022 against 6.96 per cent in June 2021

Rising food prices have become painful to us where 42 per cent of household incomes are spent on food in India. India's wholesale price inflation also runs at 30-year high; 2021-22 has become the year with the highest average yearly wholesale price increase in the past decade with an increase of 13 per cent. All the records have been crossed. *[Translation]* You leave aside the seventy years of our rule. You discuss about the condition of common people at present. *[English]* Much of this increase is driven by fuel prices, which accounted for 25 per cent of the jump in wholesale prices. Prices of manufactured products are contributing 60 per cent to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Sir, I will give details regarding just a few items or commodities that we all use every day. The inflation rate for primary articles in June 2021 was 8.59 per cent; it has increased to 19.22 per cent in June 2022. The inflation rate for cereals was (-) 2.77 per cent in June 2021; it has increased to 7.99 per cent in June 2022. The inflation rate for wheat in June 2021 was (-)1.77 per cent; it has increased to 10.34 per cent in June 2022.

The inflation rate of vegetables was -0.78 per cent in June 2021. It has now risen to 56.75 per cent. Some hon. Member was talking about tomatoes. You should first look at potato and then we will come to tomato. In June 2021, the inflation rate of potato was -31.09 per cent. It has increased to 39.38 per cent in June 2022. In the month of June 2021, the inflation rate of fruits was 6.96 per cent, and it has now increased to 20.33 per cent in June, 2022. I now come to the most important commodity of fuel and power, in which case the inflation rate in June 2021 was 29.32 per cent, and it has now increased to 40.38 per cent. The inflation rate in the case of cement, lime, and plaster has increased from 2.13 per cent in June 2021 to 9.16 per cent in June, 2022.

As per NSO, the consumer food price inflation for rural areas was 3.94 per cent in March, 2021. It went up to 8.04 per cent in March, 2022. Similarly, the CPI inflation for rural India has gone up to 7.66 per cent in 2022, from 4.61 per cent in March, 2021. These figures belong to two years of your regime. Please see, within one year how much it has increased.

Poor or rural households, in general, are actually not getting food within their expenditure basket due to high prices, which is a sign of deep distress, particularly among the poor population. Rural inflation was recorded at 7.09 per cent in June, while urban inflation was 6.92 per cent.

The average annual food expenditure per household across India has risen from Rs.24,650 in 2014-15 to Rs.28,870 in 2020-21. *[Translation]* You came in power in the year 2014-15, no one among us came. *[English]* It is now expected to rise to Rs.33,610. This is not due to rise in income, but due to price rise of food items during that period. A report says that rapid increase in economic growth surely trickles down to an average Indian household. Indian economy is facing stagnation, which means the unemployment and inflation at the same time remain continuously high. High inflation has come at the back of higher food and beverage prices. Data analysis shows that food and beverages have contributed 43 per cent to inflation year-on-year and 198 per cent month-on-month.

The wholesale price index based on inflation rose to an eight year high of 7.3 per cent in March and is elevated at 7.8 per cent higher on food, and fuel prices. Food prices, which comprise about half of the inflation basket, accelerated to 7.75 per cent in June, while fuel and electricity prices went up to 10.39 per cent.

Shrimati Supriya Sule ji was correct when she was talking about the bank transactions. When Ravi Shankar ji was the Minister, he thought about the Digital India. Modi ji has also thought about the Digital India. I would like to say that for one bank transaction we are paying money. I would suggest you to

just lift the veil and then you can see how the money is being squeezed from the pockets of the general public at large. If you wish to take the Cheque Book now, you have to pay GST. I am thankful to Madam Sule for pointing it out before the House. This is happening. Everyone is now talking about online banking system. It is for whose benefit! Is it for the benefit of the consumers or the bank itself?

This question has now come up for consideration. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I will just finish.

In case of subsidized LPG, the direct benefit transfer of domestic LPG was Rs. 22,726 crore in 2019-20, which came to Rs. 3,658 crore in 2020-21.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please leave the statistics.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: I do not want to burden with more statistics.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Leave the statistics.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, I am not on statistics now. I have an appeal to each and every one present here. This is an important discussion which is taking place. I have given you the statistics. More statistics will come next month. There will be arguments and some points will be drawn from those arguments. We will also criticise. But ultimately, who are the sufferers in this country? Ultimately, who are suffering? These poor people are suffering. What are you doing for them? [*Translation*] It is no use of merely crying. You say, the country is progressing, but where it is heading.

[*English*]

Sir, you are an hon. Member of Parliament. You have seen it yourself. You have gone to the rural places. I have visited extremely rural areas of four Assembly constituencies. You have given gas cylinders. You have given stoves. What are they doing with these? Subsidies are not there. Now, these poor women are not using gas cylinders and the same have been kept in their almirahs. They are now again using coal and wood for cooking.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kalyan Ji, now please conclude.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Thank you, Sir. I am lucky that whenever I speak, you are in the Chair. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

Now, Madam Jothimani Ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

***SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR):** Hon Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for allowing me to take part in this discussion on price rise.

I come from an ordinary farmer's family. My family has 10 acres of land and a house in village. Only rain can bring a difference. If there is rain there will be growth of crops in our farm land. We can rear 20 goats. Only the revenue through these cattle will be for the farmers. If this is the living condition of a farmer, what will be the fate of a farming labourer who is totally dependent on the 100 man days of work under MGNREGA. This MGNREGA is like a boon to them during their hard times. This nation is thanking Annai Sonia Ji for such a visionary scheme. I am thanking Madam Sonia Ji on behalf of the people of my constituency. This is the state of affairs of my village, my Karur constituency, my State Tamil Nadu and this country India under your rule.

Your Government do not support the MSMEs or Small Scale Industries. You support the corporate giants and rich industrialists in a duty-bound manner. You go to the neighboring country, Sri Lanka and bargain for an agreement with that nation on power sector to be signed in favour of corporate companies who are your friends. We have not seen in Indian history that any Prime Minister of our country has openly bargained with a neighboring country. There was a cyclone in the political circles of Sri Lanka due to this. You are not ashamed of this. From Airports, Ports, and power sector agreements to 5G Spectrum allocation, everything is given to your corporate friends.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

After you came to power, in the last 8 years, your friend Adani has become the fourth richest industrialist not only in India or Asia but in the world. Such miracles happen in your Government. We the opposition cannot sing songs in praise of you. But we are opposing you for the common cause as you failed in controlling or containing price rise.

We are protesting against the GST and price rise which are affecting the common man of this country. You are unable to tolerate if we protest for the common good. You anger takes action against the protesting representatives by making them sent outside the parliament premises.

I would like to state some statistics for your consideration. During Congress Government rice per kg was Rs 26. In BJP Government it is sold at Rs 36 per kg. Wheat was sold at Rs. 20 per kg during Congress Government whereas it is sold for Rs 30 per kg during BJP Government. Toor dal or pigeon pea was Rs 69 per kg during Congress Government and in BJP Government's rule it is sold at Rs 101. Urad dal or de-husked black gram lentils were sold at Rs 65 per kg during Congress Government's rule. Whereas it is sold now at Rs. 103 per kg. Groundnut oil was sold at Rs122 per kg and now in BJP's rule it is Rs.184 per kg. Mustard oil was Rs.95 and now it is Rs.183 per kg. Vanaspathi was sold for Rs.73 per kg and now it is at Rs.160. Sunflower oil was Rs 96 per kg during our rule and it is Rs. 188 per kg in your rule. Palm oil, used by the poor people was sold for Rs. 74 but it has increased to Rs.156 now. Rice, Pulses, Milk, Cooking oil, curd, Rooms in Hospitals, emergency services, and even electric crematorium has seen a 5 per cent of GST. Milk is the supplement for a child. How can a poor mother, who is fully dependent on 100 man days of work through MGNREGA, feed her only child with milk if you charge 5 per cent GST on milk. Have you thought about it?

Our Finance Minister is a woman. I am not asking her to take responsibility for this as she is a woman. She as a woman should have more sensitivity than men. Can she put GST on milk, rice or pulses? How the

common people can survive. Education can pave way for a better future for the poor children. Education can save them from atrocities in the society. Education can make them to create history. You have put GST on pencil. How can they afford to pay for their education. Are you not sympathetic? Can all be given treatment in Government hospitals. Can't they go to private hospitals for treatment? You are putting such medical treatments in private hospitals under 5 per cent GST. This Government is so cruel than the British. Electric crematorium. In my Karur parliamentary constituency there is a private electric crematorium. They charge Rs 600 for cremation. There were people who cannot even pay Rs 600 for cremating such dead bodies. Such people with tear filled eyes wait outside these crematoriums with dead bodies and without money to pay. I have tried to help them. You cannot see such incidents as you are happy serving your corporate friends and obliging them. This Narendra Modi Government is putting tax on people from birth to death. I am condemning you as you have no mercy towards our people but you are putting taxes on people without application of mind.

Gas cylinder cost was Rs 410 during Congress Government's rule. But it is Rs. 1100 during your *Ache Din* rule. You claim to have given cylinders to Crores of people. During the time of Government led by Shri Manmohan Singh, gas cylinders were given free of cost. I should say that 2 Crore people have not even booked one cylinder in last one year. They have gone back to using wood for cooking, the eyesight and health of women are affected. But you are not bothered in anyway. But if we protest holding a placard stating Rs. 1,082 per cylinder, you are terming it as a wrongdoing.

For Petrol and Diesel, during 2014-15 budget Rs.72,160 Crore was the tax amount. It was Rs 29,279 Crore for petrol and Rs. 42,881 crore for diesel. But during your rule, Rs 3,92,000 Crore is the tax amount. And it is Rs 1,21,730 Crore for diesel and Rs. 2,70,270 crore for petrol. Is it not daylight robbery? Oil bonds. You say that you are paying those oil bonds. Oil bonds are brought

during Vajpayee's Government. It was to the tune of Rs. 9,000 Crore. When Congress was demitting from power, 1,34,429 Crore worth bonds were purchased. Only two such bonds attained maturity in 2015 during the Government led by Shri Narendra Modi. They are for Rs 1,750 Crore each. Altogether it was only for Rs. 3,500 Crore. That means Rs. 1,30,929 Crore. You have paid only Rs 3,000 Crore and rest was paid as interest. This was stated in your Budget document. But why are telling the untruth. The remaining amount is Rs 3,82,500 Crore. Where this money has gone? Why are you taxing the common man? This money is already collected by you by way of looting the public. Where have you utilized this money?

You have given Rs. 1,45,000 Crore to the corporate giants close to you in the year 2020 as corporate loans. They are termed as tax rebates to Corporates. ...* Common man is struggling hard for rice and other essential commodities. But you are into horse trading of MLAs by giving 100 Crore, 200 Crore or 300 Crore to each of them. You are a Government affecting the common people. Don't forget this.

Unemployment is at its peak. If you see the percentage of unemployment, it is 4.4 percent in Japan; 6.9 percent in Germany; 8.8 percent in Israel; 9.4 percent in Pakistan; 9.5 percent in Nepal; 9.6 percent in USA; 26.1 percent in Sri Lanka and 28.3 percent in India. You should be ashamed of this. If we protest, you will send ED to the leaders of Opposition as well as Congress party. We are not afraid of ED. The Government led by Shri Manmohan Singh lifted 27 Crore people above poverty line but you pushed 23 crore people below the poverty line. Either you control price rise or take back GST or resign and go home. Thank you.

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

17.00 hrs

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important subject ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, although this subject is within the purview of the Finance Minister and she will be responding at the end of this discussion, I feel that if the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs can also intervene in the discussion and apprise the House on what his Price Monitoring Division in particular, and his Ministry in general has done to monitor, control and contain prices of essential commodities, it would definitely add value to this discussion.

Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Speaker for permitting to take up the discussion on price rise which is really hitting the common man. It is a double whammy for the poor and the middle-class. First, they suffered due to the pandemic and now this skyrocketing of essential commodity prices. Running inflation and hike in fuel prices are adding fuel to the fire. I hope that the *manthan* of this debate will give *amrit* in the form of suggestions. I am confident that the hon. Finance Minister and the Minister of Consumer Affairs would take them in good spirit and act on them to rein in the prices of essential commodities which are really pinching everyone.

Sir, I tried to analyze, with my limited knowledge, the main reasons behind the rise in prices of essential commodities and found unabated increase in the prices of petrol and diesel are the main reasons, followed, to some extent, by the Russia – Ukraine armed conflict. It is not just the common man but even small businesses, like restaurants, food joints, hotels and others are also suffering. There is substantial increase in prices of fuel, vegetable, chicken, edible oil, fruit, gas etc., and small-time restaurants cannot increase the prices of food items. If they do, they lose customers; if they do not, they are incurring losses. Such is the situation. They are in a paradox. So, for all these ills, I feel, the only solution is to bring petrol and diesel under the purview of GST. This is my first suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, inflation is hovering at more than 7 per cent, much more than the RBI's threshold limit of 6 per cent. For many months now, the CPI has been hovering around 8.5 per cent and the WPI registered 16 per cent in the month of May. Inflation is nothing but taxation without legislation.

I agree with the hon. Finance Minister that price rise is a global phenomenon and India cannot be insulated from this. I also agree, to some extent, when the Finance Minister says that the Russia – Ukraine conflict also disrupted supply chains and resulted in increase of prices. This is true. But at the same time, inflation is primarily caused by two reasons. One is demand-pull inflation; and the other one is cost-push inflation. The former can be controlled by reducing money supply, or increasing prices through taxation. But when it comes to the latter, the measures needed are to increase the supply to meet the demand which is not happening. More so, with floods in almost every part of the country, this will further worsen in the coming days. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister the details of monetary, fiscal, administrative, and price control measures taken by her and the Reserve Bank of India to control inflation. This is my second point.

My next point is on containing retail prices. As per the existing system, retail prices are fixed by market forces and people think that the Government has a limited role to check spike in an unacceptable price rise. This is not fully true. Look at the Legal Metrology Packaged Commodities Rules. It has a provision to fix the retail price of essential commodities if the prices go up and now the retail prices have shot up abnormally. It is not applicable to just packaged commodities, but also applicable to loose items sold in retail market.

So, I suggest the hon. Finance Minister and also the Minister for Consumer Affairs to take proactive steps and fix retail price for essential commodities for a certain period of time in the interest of the consumers.

Sir, vulnerable sections of the society are suffering due to high prices of commodities right from vegetables, pulses, oil, milk and what not but, to rein in

high prices, we have one more mechanism and that is Market Intervention Scheme. The objective of this Scheme is to intervene and stabilize the prices in the market and ensure that shortages do not adversely impact the consumers. So, the House would like to know and the country would like to know about the interventions which the Government of India has made through the Market Intervention Scheme to stabilize the prices and whether such initiatives give good results or not.

Sir, it is not just the Market Intervention Scheme but we also have the Price Stabilization Fund to tackle inflationary trends. What has the Ministry done to implement this to deter speculative and hoarding of essential commodities? These details may also be explained to the House.

The next point that I wish to make is relating to GST imposed on curd, buttermilk, lassi, atta, rice, etc., from 18th of this month. You know that GST collections are breaking records and giving huge revenue. By imposing five per cent GST on these items, how much extra could you possibly earn? Secondly, look at the message that you are giving to the poor by imposing GST on these items to garner a few crores of rupees. So, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister and the Government to remove the GST on the above packed or pre-packed items which will give a sigh of relief to the common man.

Oil is also an essential item in the kitchen whose prices have also gone up and to address this, the Government of India has allowed duty-free import of 20 lakh tonnes of crude soyabeans and crude sunflower. I feel that this quantity is not enough. Hence, I request for increasing the quantity of 20 lakh tonnes more on duty free terms which will further soften prices of edible oil in the country.

Sir, my last point is this. I have seen in some reports which say that India has zero per cent chance for recession. With global recession already underway in some regions and quickly spreading to other parts of the world, how will India be immune to such a global recession? This may kindly be explained to the House. And if we are not immune, what is the financial impact on India,

what are we going to do to prepare for this and how will this global recession impact the inflation in India further?

Thank you, Sir, for giving me the time to participate and I look forward for a response from the Finance Minister.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, it has been decided to conclude the debate by 6.30 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. and then the hon. Minister has to reply to it. So, all the Members are requested to confine themselves to their time limit. This is the direction from the hon. Speaker. Adv. Ariff may speak now.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, I take this opportunity to thank this Government for their magnanimity to allow a discussion on price rise on the floor of this House after two weeks of constant protests by the Opposition Parties both inside and outside the Parliament.

In the discussion on price rise, currency depreciation and inflation, and unemployment, you cannot escape just terming these issues as global phenomena.

Sir, every now and then, the BJP Members remind us about worshipping the *gomata* and they are trying to scientifically prove the medicinal benefits of products like *panchagavya* made of cow milk, curd, urine and cow dung.

Sir, I would like to get an answer from my colleagues belonging to BJP on why they are dishonouring the *gomata* by levying a five per cent GST on products like milk and curd. No doubt, *gomata* will curse this Government definitely. I thank this Government that cow dung and urine are exempted from GST. I have only a humble request to this Government not to bring them also under the purview of GST in the next round.

This Government has been arguing for the past few days that the decision to levy five per cent GST on products like packed rice was taken unanimously in the GST Council. In the GST Council, it was informed that it would be applicable only for sales in big shopping malls. But this Government has tried to make it applicable for all kinds of shops through the back door.

Rice is the staple food of Kerala and, on behalf of the people and Government of Kerala, I express my strong protest on charge of five per cent GST on rice and rice products.

Sir, the price of domestic LPG cylinder has become Rs1,083 now from just Rs.263 in 2014. You started giving subsidy amount to bank accounts saying that subsidy will reach the real beneficiary. But for the past one year, you have not been paying even a single paisa as subsidy. Now the real beneficiary is none other than the Central Government.

Sir, this Government introduced the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide free gas connection to poor households and large hoardings of the Prime Minister were kept in almost all the petrol pumps praising him. What is the current status of this Scheme? Since 2021-22, not even a single penny has been spent by this Government for the Ujjwala Yojana. This answer has been given to the question of hon. Member, Com. A.A. Rahim in the Rajya Sabha. The answer is with me. Not a single rupee has been given to the Ujjwala Yojana. So, I request the Government to remove such hoardings kept to deceive the people of the country. In modern India, thousands of households have switched to traditional fuels because they are not able to bear the price of LPG.

Sir, this Government has come to power by giving a false promise to the people of the country that it will reduce the price of all petroleum products including petrol, diesel, kerosene, and LPG by half. India's LPG cost per litre is the highest in the world, third in petrol. May I read one speech of hon. Modi Ji on 23rd May, 2012? It says: "Massive hike in petrol prices is a prime example of the failure of the Congress-led UPA Government."

Regarding the value of rupee, Sir, the then hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi had made a spectacular speech long time back and I quote him. "When the currency of a country is depreciated, it means that the country has become weak." In that speech, our Prime Minister exhorted that the value of Indian rupee against US dollar went down the most during the UPA regime.

What is the situation now? If the exchange rate against US dollar was Rs.63.33 in 2014, now it is Rs.80. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to rewind that news clip available in social media and publicly offer an apology to the people of this country for his remarks.

If you wish to control the price rise whole-heartedly, there are so many alternatives. Please look at the State of Kerala. If Kerala can become a model, why not the whole India? It just needs Government's sensitiveness to the wishes of the people and political will power.

Sir, I am proud of the decision taken by our LDF Government not to increase the price of 13 essential food items sold through the Maveli store in every nook and corner of the State and that it has kept its words for the past six years.

Let me just read out the prices of some essential items with no change in prices for the past six years for the information of hon. Members. The price of sugar in open market is Rs.40 per kg and we are giving it at Rs.22. The price of red chilli in open market is Rs.116 and we are giving it at Rs.37 only. The price of coriander in open market is Rs.72.50 and we are giving it at Rs.39.50 only. Now we have decided to give 14 essential items free of cost to eighty lakh ration cardholders. Sir, this is the real model of India. They can use this model to keep the price rise under control.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA (DAUSA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you very much. I have attentively listened to the speeches and views on inflation put forth by my colleagues from the opposition. I can understand that they would have got something more to speak about if they had had a glance on the 75 years of their history.

Hon. Member of Parliament from our party Shri Uday Pratap Singh ji replied to all the points raised by them. I think that he also clarified the reasons for the price rise of certain commodities keeping in view the balance between demand and supply. Still, some of the Hon. Members have said some emotional things. I listened to the emotional speech made by Hon. Supriya ji. Hon. Supriya ji is a very senior Member of Parliament. Kanimojhi ji is also a very senior Member of Parliament. This thought comes to my mind:

"Jinke paanv na fati Biwarii, vo kya jaanein peer paraii."

I would like to say one thing. Hon. Members mentioned 60 years versus 08 years. Only if they could introspect and feel the difference made in our villages, poor people, our people belonging to the middle class, the honour of our country and the rising respect of our country in global community, that they could have realized that there was a time when the country got independence and had a population of 33 crore people; at that time hon. poet Dinkar ji had said that:

*"Shwaanon ko milta Doodh Vastra, Bhookhe bachche akulaate hain,
Maa ki haddi se chipat thithur jaade ki raat bitate hain."*

They do not remember this. If they had remembered, they would not have compared 60 years with 08 years. The 08 years of rule by Hon. Narendra Modi ji give us an impression of unprecedented development and the increasing honour of our country and the poor people. Quoting a small example, I would like to say so much so that he has so well managed the economy of the country despite the COVID pandemic that first time after May, 2014, the rate of

inflation has been capped to 08 percent in April, 2022. If they consider this 8 percent rate of inflation as negative, I would like to remind them that the rate of inflation had crossed 12 percent during the year 2009. When Hon. Modi ji took over as the hon. Prime Minister, the rate of inflation was 13.50 percent. Under these circumstances, when we look at the balance of rising population and depleting resources and the way the affairs of the country were managed even during the Corona period; the whole world is astonished. Today, we are able to sit here without masks. We have put the message of 'Vasudhaive Kutumbakam' in to practice by sending the vaccination doses to other countries after making proper arrangements for vaccination of 200 crore people in the country. We have cared for the poor people and for the farmers.

If we have a look at inflation, I think that everybody was making hue and cry regarding prices of diesel, petrol and gas cylinder only. The proceedings in the House got affected for so many days. The Members who were agitating and disturbed the proceedings in the House by showing placards with labels and rates of gas cylinder must at least introspect that when they left, the rate of gas cylinder was Rs. 1241 and there was a subsidy of Rs. 423 on it due to which they were able to boast. The way our hon. Prime Minister exhorted to give up subsidy, enabled the Government to provide nine crore gas connections free of cost to the poor people. I would like to say one more thing that the opposition Members speak about farmers' concerns but they are agitating when the prices of farm produce have increased. I would like to tell all the Members in the House that I am a daughter of a poor, unlettered farmer and housewife of a small farmer household. I know it well that when the farmer gets good price for his produce his face beams with joy. Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji has supported higher MSP as said by hon. MP of our party Shri Uday Pratap Singh ji. I hail from Rajasthan and the Government of Rajasthan has not purchased even a kilogram of millet after fixing the MSP of millet as Rs. 2300.

Farmers had to sell their produce at lower rates of Rs. 1,100, Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 1,300. Even today, millet is rotting in their homes. I also would like to say that our colleagues from TMC have criticized us strongly, but behind this criticism, there should be some truth as well. Right now, I have traveled through about 25-30 villages in West Bengal. I have seen that there is a small pond dug, but they haven't got toilets. Our Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi gave Rs. 12,000 for constructing toilets under the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,' but toilets have not been built there. The Central Government gave money to build a pucca house, but people did not get a pucca house there, the Government provided Farmer Welfare Schemes for the farmers but they did not get any benefit from either. In that area, people are drinking water from a small pond, bathing in the same water and ducks and chickens are being raised in the same pond. In that area, my sisters wear just a dhoti and spend their life. Don't they feel bad about their poor living conditions? They live in metropolitan cities. A population of 20-25 lakhs has elected them. Are they helping these people by providing the benefits of the Government's schemes run for the welfare of these poor people? If the State Government would have helped, then the huge amounts of money would not have been recovered from the home of a Former Minister named Parth. Friends, I would also like to mention about the incident that three Congress MLA have been caught carrying huge amount in their cars. If our Hon. Minister of Finance and Prime Minister has implemented digital currency, then why would our transactions involve hoarding black money like this? Whose money is this? This money belongs to those poor teachers who paid Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs, but ended up with fake jobs. Are these misdeeds, their bad deeds not affect inflation, would not it affect our economic policy ultimately? I would also like to tell you all that India's situation was such that whenever Indian leaders went abroad, nobody would recognize them, nobody would come and see them.

Today, when Modi ji visits abroad, people chant, "Modi, Modi, Modi." World leaders lay out carpets for Modi Ji. Why do they welcome him like this? Is he corrupt? Is he dishonest? Today, not a single Minister in our Government is tainted by corruption in any way. This is an unparalleled government of 8 years. Would you think something about this Government? They say that 10 crore people are below the poverty line. To lift these people above the poverty line, the Government has provided them with pucca houses, toilets, the Farmer's Welfare Scheme, gas connections, electricity connections, tap water connections, and so on? Have you even ever thought about all this? Today, to strike a balance between the increasing population and the dwindling resources, our eminent Prime Minister and all our cabinet colleagues are working day and night. They are not wasting any time, they are working hard... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude it now.

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA: Sir, our Government believes in hard work and formulates policies under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji. The opposition is talking about petrol, diesel, and gas. The poor in the village do not need petrol; they need to have a dignified life. That farmer needs access to flowing water, and with that flowing water, he can increase his production and sell it at higher prices. They are the ones who consume. Sixty-five percent people provide us food, and 25 percent work as agricultural laborers alongside them. Have they ever thought about them? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON: Meena ji, now please conclude.

SMT. JASKAUR MEENA: Sir, I would want one more minute. Fellow Members, I want to say that India's rapidly improving economic situation points towards its future. The work done in the last 8 years has been exceptional. It's also true that leadership matters, and it's in the hands of a person who understands poverty, who has made a living by selling tea. He has lived his life with modesty. Those who ruled for 60 years they have luxurious bathrooms. You know this well. They don't realize it. I want to say that in 2014, when Hon.

Narendra Modi's Government came to power, it signed a monetary policy framework with the Reserve Bank on February 20, 2015 to provide relief to the people of the country from high inflation rate. ...*(Interruptions)* It was decided under this agreement that the consumer price index-based inflation rate in the country would be below 6 percent in 2016. I want to tell you that this agreement is undoubtedly a milestone for our financial system and a stepping-stone for the country's inflation and future. ... *(Interruptions)* By when they will keep misleading this country by talking about high inflation rate of diesel, petrol, and gas. How long will they rely on lies? ... *(Interruptions)*

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON: Madam, please wait for a minute.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA: I would like to say that they talk about price of petrol in our country, but there are hundreds of other countries and there are 15 such countries where people are facing severe financial crisis and people have deserted their vehicles in front of their house due to high price of petrol. But there is no one in India who has deserted their cars due to petrol...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, the whole nation is worried about the rising prices of essential commodities including food items and other things. The only question before us is, what exactly is the reason for all these things and how to address this burning issue of our country.

Sir, the Government is trying to hide in a safe zone by saying that it is an after-effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and also an impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. They even say that it is a global phenomenon. To a certain extent, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war must have put an impact

on this. We are not denying this fact. But at the same time, if we make a meticulous study, we will be able to understand that the Indian Economy was clearly showing a downward trend even much before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. What was the management of financial fundamentals of this Government?

Sir, there are certain yardsticks to measure it. They are, Gross Domestic Product, unemployment rate, inflation rate, fiscal deficit of the Government, domestic currency's relative value against US Dollars, balance of payment, level of poverty and inequality, etc. If we analyze all these things of this Government in the past, we will understand that the performance of this Government was a poor show. They have to admit this thing. Of course, there was wide publicity and false claims regarding this.

Sir, what exactly is the position now? Kitchens are in turmoil because of the pressure of inflation. We had lockdown in the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. I apprehend, we will have lockdown in our kitchens also because of this negative strategy of this Government. Similarly, there is an erosion of people's purchasing power. It is diminishing like anything. It goes without saying that the family budget is collapsing. Moreover, the devaluation of the Indian Rupee against the Dollar is the most worrisome issue. We can understand this very well.

Sir, a paradoxical situation is also coming up where a large dependability on import and a diminishing trend in export can be seen. That is also a worrisome issue. We can very well understand that that will lead to imported inflation which would also be a burden on the people.

Sir, the GST Council's decision on imposing tariff on the items of mass consumption is also terrible. My learned friends were explaining all these things. It goes without saying that nobody can have any kind of adjustment in this. India's debit obligation is also very high. It will also have a very big impact on our economy. This is making a negative marketing sentiment against India.

So, if we analyze all these things, it is amounting to a bad position as far as India is concerned.

Sir, I wish to ask a question from the Government whether it is serious to take up meticulous kind of activities in order to arrest these kinds of bad synergies. I feel, the Government is not at all interested in that. What is the priority of the Government? The Government's priority does not seem to be of economic reforms. They are engaged only in political kind of considerations. They forget all these things when such things happen. So, I do not want to elaborate it further.

Sir, one of my learned friends from the other side was saying that under Modi ji, their Government has done wonders. What is the position of India now? Where does India stand today? They are all saying that they have done wonderful things. I would like to quote the report of the United Nations Development Programme.

The Human Development Index 2020 report was published by UNDP. As per the report, India stands at 131st rank out of 189 countries in the world. Now, I want to ask them where does India stand. They are all making false claims. Similarly, in terms of World Press Rankings, India slipped 8 positions below 142nd rank last year out of 180 countries in the world.*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: I am concluding. There also you can see that India's position is much lower. In the Global Hunger Index also, India's ranking is at 101st position, which is much below even the African countries. If this is the position of India in international indices, then what is the meaning of their claims?

Sir, in order to have progress in a country, the essential ingredients are a congenial atmosphere, peace and co-existence. Unfortunately, you have spoiled that. There are many things to say. The people are worrying today.*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: I am concluding with only one thing. The Government is purposefully opening the floodgates of trouble. That is why I am saying that unless you ensure peace, and do justice to everybody, we will not be able to attain economic growth in the country.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. S. T. HASAN (MORADABAD): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Samajwadi Party. This is a topic that affects every individual in this country. That's why there was so much uproar in Parliament. The way inflation is increasing in the country and the way the poor are suffering is not hidden from you and me. I understand that the main reason for this is increasing the price of diesel and petrol. We remember the time when oil was selling at 140 or 150 dollars per barrel in the international market, and we used to buy oil for 70 rupees per liter. We also saw that period when oil was available at 30 dollars per barrel, and we bought it for 80 rupees per liter. Where did this disparity come from? Where did the money go? What did they spend it on? How did they suck the blood of the poor and all of us? Everyone knows this.

Through you, I would like to tell the Government that suddenly a decision came and demonetization happened, and there was a note ban. Everyone knows what happened in the country after demonetization. The Government took out whatever little money our women, our sisters and daughters had saved. They kept it for emergencies. Sir, our country has unfortunately seen that phase when the COVID emergency came, and thousands of people died. At that time, the poor did not have firewood to cremate their loved ones. Why does no one listen to the cries of the poor? We are engrossed in our own worlds. Due to COVID,

approximately 50 lakh people became unemployed. The Government had promised of providing employment to two crore people annually. In eight years, 16 crore people should have got employment. Now you have seen the report that only seven lakh people have been employed. What is the point of giving these long speeches? Why do the government misguide the public? The value of one dollar crossed Rs. 80. There was a time when if the dollar increased even slightly; there used to be a big outcry. This is also a significant reason for inflation.

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to ask, as to how much subsidy has been given by the Government to the corporate sector? They have removed the subsidy on gas cylinders. They have imposed GST on food items, milk, curd, and even on pulses and flour. Do they want the poor people not to consume basic food? Everyone knows that there is a significant amount of adulteration in unpackaged food items. Due to adulteration in food, people in the country are falling sick. Some are suffering from kidney problems, some from liver problems, and some are even getting cancer. Is this indirect way of reducing the population also a strategy? They have imposed GST on items that were part of the poor man's plate. Through you, I would like to request the Government, to immediately revoke the GST. Sir, I very well understand how a poor patient seeks treatment. They sell their wife's jewellery, mortgage their homes, and even pledge their land to get their family members treated. They have even imposed GST on a room costing Rs. 1000. The poor are already struggling to survive, and now they are burdened with these taxes. At this time, there is hardly anyone left in the country who is not paying taxes. You can see the inflationary conditions in the country. Through you, I request the Government to immediately reduce the increased GST rates and bring down the prices of diesel and petrol in line with international market rates.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important subject. This topic is closely related to everyone, and it is unfortunate that our colleagues from opposition have been coming to the Well of the House, waving placards, and trying to discuss this issue for many days. We thought that there would be something significant that they would present to us today. All of us were listening very attentively to their speeches. After listening to the views of all the speakers from that side, I must say with great sorrow that a couplet by Saint Kabir that we were taught in school during our childhood comes to my mind: "*Bura jo dekhan main chala, bura na milaya koi, jab dil khoja apna, mujhse bura na koi.*" They wanted to set a false narrative of inflation but they failed to do so. But yes, if they want to see the inflation then they should concentrate on the States ruled by them. You have talked about inflation, about the poor, and have also presented many figures. You also said that statistics did not satisfy the hunger. Supriya Sule ji is a very senior Member, she has rightly said that statistics do not satisfy the hunger. I will tell you how to satisfy the hunger of a poor person. I visit all the panchayats of my district, be it Peto Panchayat, Rampur Panchayat or the Dehar Panchayat and when I go there, people from all the villages and *dehat* say that they have been provided with food by the Honorable Modi ji and by our Government. Since the COVID pandemic has occurred, we have provided free food grains to all under the Garib Kalyan Yojana and made a provision to cater to their needs. Look at the plate of a poor man which they might not be able to see. They should visit Jharkhand with me which is a very poor state and observe a poor man's plate. If they ask him what price he has to pay for the rice, he will reply that rice is available free of cost today. Pulses are also available either at a very low price, or free of cost. They should note that the vegetable which used to be available for ten-fifteen rupees earlier, is still available either at the same price or maximum for fifteen-twenty rupees. They cannot say that the prices of vegetables have increased. They

should look at the price of eggs. They can also take the example of flour and milk. Our government has had incredible control over everything which is beyond imagination. This did not happen at all during their regime. Today the plates of the poor are not full of statistics, but of food-grains.

This is the reality that went unwelcoming to them. They want to point out inflation, but are not able to prove it, because, there is no inflation at all. If they look at it from the general public perspective, they will clearly see that not only their plates have been filled but many more things have been provided to them by this Government.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, my sister Meena ji just said that if they see, today we have provided facilities like - bank account, electricity, toilets in the houses of the poor, we are providing water and pucca houses too. Earlier, they were struggling to get treatment at a Hospital, but today we are providing them health insurance worth Rs. 5 lakh under the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana'. After all, what inflation they are talking about when we have given such a big boon of Rs 5 lakh to crores of people in the country? Today, we are providing gas cylinders to crores of people in saturation mode. Adhir ji is present here and he is aware of this. Satyapal ji and VD Ram ji are also present here and along with me they are also the Members of the Public Accounts Committee including me. In the same Committee, the CAG examined the cases with utmost seriousness and sincerity. They informed us that earlier, while at one time no one was getting even a single gas cylinder, on the other hand, now, almost everyone has got gas cylinders under the 'Ujjwala Yojana'. On an average, 3 to 4 cylinders are being taken every year. Those who had nothing earlier, are taking 3 or 4 gas cylinders annually. Kalyan Banerjee Sahab was saying that the cylinders are locked in the cupboard. I would like to ask that in which cupboard they are locked? When the CAG has physically inspected and confirmed that today 3 or 4 cylinders are being purchased every year, they why are they leveling such false allegation?

They are trying to set narrative of inflation, but they are not able to find any ground for that. They are not allowing this House to function because they are not able to point out any traces of inflation. They just had to come to the well and pretend that they are very concerned about inflation.

Sir, I would like to add one more thing to this and that is today the poor are not experiencing inflation, due to the visionary thinking of the Hon. Prime Minister. They should understand that how much attention he must have paid to it. When I was in the Ministry of Finance, on 15th August, the Prime Minister announced that he would link every household with Jan Dhan account and between the period from 15th August to Republic Day, bank accounts, were provided to everyone and poverty is being eradicated through it. They talked about 27 crores. When the COVID broke out, we transferred money to everyone's accounts through the 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. It is their own leader's historical sentence that there used to be 85 percent leakage, but today there is no leakage. They are getting the benefits they should have because we have already created DBT. We have provided Jan Dhan and through this JAM Trinity, we have kept the people secured from inflation and have created a protective shield for them. This was our visionary thinking. I would like to tell my friends in the opposition that when the COVID pandemic occurred, we had such infrastructure and financial system that we could keep everyone safe through this shield. This is why that when they try to find inflation among the common people, they will not get it, because today due to the bold policies of the Hon. Prime Minister, we are keeping them safe. I am saying this from the point of view of the common people. I am also telling them from the point of view of a poor person, but there are many such colleagues in our opposition who talk big, they produce different statistics, IMF figures and data from all others sources before us. If we look at these figures which are although not claimed by us, but have been stated by IMF, the World Bank, the experts and the economists all across the world, they are appreciating that the way the Government under the Hon. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi ji has handled these economic crises and adverse situations, is really incredible. Everyone including the Hon. Prime Minister has faced the two recent severe economic blows and acknowledged them as devastating shocks happening once in a century. During this period, we ensured not only the safety of the people, but made sure that they did not get affected by inflation. The recovery that we have made after COVID and despite the Ukraine crisis is atop the world. I am not exaggerating this, but this is what the IMF and the World Bank are saying. As Udasi Sahab was saying that we were the fastest growing major economy in the World despite these economic shocks.

Adhir ji, we realize the value of light only by facing the darkness and we all have witnessed the darkness under UPA Government. I would like to mention some data. During the UPA regime, the situation was such that the price of oil started increasing and the country faced similar shock as we are facing today due to unprecedented price rise of oil in the Global market. Everyone started complaining about the rising price of oil. Similarly, during the UPA period, the price of oil started spiking from 60-70 to 100-110. During that period, the rate of inflation in the country kept increasing very fast. Now, I am presenting some technical aspects of the then inflation scenario. Do they know what was the rate of inflation at that time, starting from 10 percent and crossing 11 percent it reached at 12 percent compelling the people to take to the streets. When people started to protest against inflation by coming to the streets, then we came to know about the inflation. This time the same situation has arrived again. They must be aware as they all read the newspaper. They are all knowledgeable people. The price of oil has started rising again these days. It is the outcome of instabilities taking place in the world market and not the matter of our domestic market. Adhir ji, this is a matter of the world market. You know that there is a similar situation arising here and the price of oil is increasing from 100 and 110 to 120 but what is the rate of inflation? Is it 10 per cent, 11 per cent or 12 per cent? No, not at all. Because, the decisions we have taken and

the policies we have formulated, have been good, that today the rate of inflation is stagnating at only 7 percent. They should also know what is the inflationary trend in the world and in the U.S.A. today. During the UPA regime, our country was facing the dark age with 12 per cent inflation despite the fact that there was minimal inflation ranging from one per cent to three per cent in U.S.A. and Europe. But today, while on the one hand, the inflation in U.S.A. and Europe is hovering around 8 to 9 percent, on the other hand we have lesser inflation rate of just 7 percent than what they have. This clearly shows the dark phase of the UPA regime and the brighter phase of the NDA regime.

What is skill, what is qualification, these all are clearly depicted through figures. I have also spoken about the plate and about the figures too. You will not find inflation anywhere despite searching for it in the plates, or in the data. It is only you who want this to happen. Why so?

Government had many policies. The Government has reduced duties on many commodities including edible oil and soyabean. The excise duties on petrol and diesel were also reduced as the Government adopted many policies. We have taken lots of bold and concrete steps and then only we were able to control the inflation. The UPA Government could not achieve this but we have done it. Discussion is going on regarding growth, I would like to draw the attention of the all the Members from the opposition party that today, the GST data has come. You have been telling the negatives of GST, the data of GST is out. As of July, 1.5 lakh crore is collected as GST. It is August now but the data provided is of July. Do not think this is the reason for inflation. GST to GST ratio is a very important ratio because our compliance and collection efficiency is increasing and it has reached 6.9 percent. It shows the efficiency with which we are controlling the economy.

Sir, to conclude I would like to say that we have to be concerned about inflation and we have the Hon. Prime Minister. Therefore, we are feeling completely secure and assured that in today's time, we do not have to be

concerned about inflation. Adhir ji, we have to be concerned about something, it would be about you because as the Hon. Prime Minister has told and taught us, there are so many people in search of freebies. Many people are roaming in this country for freebies. You visit Kolkata. You know that Sandesh, Rasgulla and Mishti Doi are being distributed. I have so many friends in Rajasthan also. There is Meena ji. You know that Choorma is being made in Jaipur, ghee and sugar is being added to it. They are being fed with Choorma. The people of Delhi got such a Halwai who is also making Jalebi. That halwai has reached Punjab with his cooking pot and will feed Jalebi to Amritsar too. Now, as the election is coming, Jalebi wala is wandering around Gujarat and Himachal with his cooking pot to feed Jalebis. Friends, we have to be concerned about the Sandeshwalas, Choormawalas, Jalebiwalas and Rewariwalas who are destroying the country. We are fortunate that the Hon. Prime Minister is leading the country. He will keep us secured. I would like to say one historical matter in the end.

HON. CHAIPERSON: Kindly conclude.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Hon. President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt introduced social security in America. Through that, Medicare and Medicaid have come. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was so popular that he won elections thrice and later, people said that if we do not want him to win again, we had to set term limits. Like that, only if we introduce term limits, then only we can remove our Hon. Prime Minister from his position. The people of this nation want him to remain in his position and he wants to protect us from the jalebiwalas. Thank you very much.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG): Thank you so much, Sir.

It is incomprehensible that the Government stubbornly postponed the debate on an issue like inflation till today. The same debate which is taking place in this House today could have taken place two weeks ago on the 18th or 19th. Who is responsible for the time wasted in the House? When we talk about

inflation, no one denies that the people of the country are facing back-breaking inflation. What should have happened is that those on the treasury benches should have clearly acknowledged that the people are facing inflation and they should have suggested the solution for it. But here it is denied with great stubbornness or such justification is being given for it, which has no foundation anywhere.

Sir, according to the NSSO figures, inflation is 7.4 percent, which is CPI inflation. The tolerance level is 6 percent. They themselves admit that the CPI inflation is higher than what it should have been. I would like to talk about the Wholesale Price Index. I will not repeat the figures which have been repeated in the House. The inflation of the wholesale price index is 15.88 percent. This has not increased this year, it is the highest in the last thirty years. It had not grown so much in the last decade, in the past years it was around 13.11 percent. In this whole situation, it is impossible to say that inflation does not exist anywhere. It is baseless, the statement has no foundation. Why did this inflation happen? Where it is going and the whole world and the country is appreciating the measures and steps taken for it. Demonetization has been considered a disaster both inside and outside the country. This was the first step which was against the condition of the country. We are still struggling with its effects till today. After that, more steps were taken, like farm laws and misallocation of precious resources. The money that should have been spent on employment generation. He used the money on other things and he did that because of his ego hassles.

Sir, the second thing is about GST. The foundation of GST was laid so that all these resources get centralized. Now the situation has become such that in Jammu and Kashmir, before 1947, there was a time of dictatorship, tax was levied on everything from the cradle to the grave, from birth to crematorium and in that system, tax was levied on every household and every day from the time a child was born until that person passed away. Today, the same example is seen in this Government. Now they say that there is no inflation and tax anywhere.

You have put tax even on an eraser, an LED bulb and packed food. Can you find such a tax regime anywhere?

Look at the history. We are hearing this from those who are considered great scholars and have a status of their own. There was no time to hear such things. Sir, the matter of Jammu and Kashmir is something different. Sir, around 61,000 families have such employees, workers and workforce, who are underpaid and underemployed. Sir, they are divided into compartments. Some have been told that they are casual workers and some have been told that they are need-based workers. There are around 61,000 families who do not even get minimum wages. Sir, try to look at the effect of inflation from their point of view. Sir, you will be surprised to hear that there, a home guard gets Rs 2700 per month. It is the home guard who has just carried out the rescue operation in Amarnath and has saved human lives and while in Delhi, a home guard gets a salary of Rs 22,000. There are around 61,000 people who get less than the minimum wages. It is called Hospital Development Fund, College Development Fund, Casual Workers, Need Based Workers or other workers. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, the biggest problem there is for those who are waiting for regularization of their jobs. Their jobs are not being regularized. Sir, there are employees of CIC, employees of Rural Development and other employees who are hit even harder by high inflation because they are underpaid and they are not getting what they should be getting. Sir, what is the solution for this? What should the Government do? We hope that when the reply will be given, then solutions will be discussed. Right now they may deny it, and say that there is no inflation. Sir, the first thing is that you should reverse the decision of the latest tax imposed on everything. You defended the Farm laws vehemently, but when you realized that these were not sustainable, then you renewed them? Sir, the inflation will reduce but first rollback the taxes you have imposed. The lowest class is unhappy with this, not the upper class, it is the lowest section of the society that is unhappy, they are unhappy with the new taxes and the resultant

inflation. Unless you reverse it, the impact of this inflation will not reduce on the lower class, on the disempowered, on the unattended persons of the society. Sir, what is there and what is not there in the mainland of country, but in Jammu and Kashmir, there are around 61,000 families and workers which is almost 30 percent of the population that is living below poverty. These matters cannot be left to the market forces in such a state. You should provide relief to them by intervening there. There is scope for affirmative action for the poor in our system, which has been envisioned in the Constitution. Number two, the price of fuel and gas will not come down because several times high duties have been imposed upon them. The Government keeps the earning of those duties for itself and do not share revenue with the States. That is a different thing, but until they lowered duties, this level of inflation will not go down. It will not be the relief that our disempowered, unattended and downtrodden section wishes for.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, it is already 6 o'clock. If the House agrees, we will extend the time till the debate on this subject matter is over. Do you want reply today itself?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House is extended till the conclusion of the debate.

18.00 hrs

⁴**SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (BATHINDA):** I thank you, Hon. Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the important issue of price rise. For two weeks, the proceedings of the House remained suspended. Crores of rupees of exchequer were lost in the process. Only then did the Government agree to have discussions on the issue of price rise. On 17th of last month,

⁴* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

during the all party meeting, it had been decided that price rise must be discussed in the House. But, the Government refused to let the discussion on this issue take place. At least, now we are discussing this important issue and I am happy about this.

18.01 hrs

(Shri Kodikunnil Suresh *in the Chair*)

Sir, tall talk from all sides is the order of the day. The treasury benches say that there is no inflation and price rise. They make fun of this fact. The Government is sprinkling salt on the wounds of poor people. Congress makes tall promises regarding waiver of loans of farmers. The present Government makes tall claims regarding doubling the income of farmers. However, the ground reality remains dismal. This is what they said in 2015. 2022 has come and situation is critical. Now, they talk about the tricolor flag. Where are the farmers whose income has been doubled?

The farmers are in a miserable state today. I hail from Punjab. The Central Government had said that ration is being given to the poor. But, why are the poor people suffering. During Covid, we had seen the crumbling of Government infrastructure. The farmers of Punjab continued to fill the Central pool with foodgrains by the dint of their sweat and blood. However, these farmers of Punjab are in a miserable condition. Spurious seeds of pulses and sunflower have wreaked havoc. Paddy crops, wheat crops are being damaged due to various reasons. But, the Central and State Governments do not take any action against the guilty shopkeepers or companies.

We talk about Swaminathan Committee Report that it will be implemented. However, a cruel joke is being played against the farmers. Promises were made regarding constituting a Committee on MSP. An agitation was launched by farmers. 700 hapless farmers lost their lives. They became martyrs. However, when the Committee on MSP was set up in 2021, it failed to deliver justice. Farmers withdrew their agitation. At that time, the agreement said:

[Translation]

‘It is clarified that the farmer representative will also include Representatives of S.K.M. One mandate of the Committee will be to ensure how MSP can be provided to the farmers of the country.’

[English]

My Hindi may not be up to the mark but this is what is written here. When the Gazette was issued in 2022, all 26 Members who had been included in the Committee were those who had supported the black, draconian laws. Farmers have rejected that Committee. Tall claims are made ‘to make the MSP more effective and transparent’. But, it is far removed from reality.

The Central Government claims that there is no inflation or price rise. Why doesn’t the Government tell what is the price of diesel, seeds, medicines etc.? Prices of all essential commodities are going through the roof. When petrol and diesel prices soar, it has a cascading effect on all items. Input cost of cultivation increases. There is 100% increase in cost of everything in the last eight years. MSP is hardly increased by 2%. What an irony!. Diesel, petrol, seeds, fertilizers, urea etc. – the cost of all these items increased by 100% but MSP is increased by a paltry 2%. This is a cruel joke perpetrated against the farmers.

Government says that things are rosy. There is no problem. However, the poor and farmers are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Farmers cannot send their children to schools. Poor people cannot get treatment in a good hospital. What a sorry state of affairs that Government is patting its back and has turned a deaf ear and a blind eye towards the plight of poor and farmers. I am pained. I demand that the Swaminathan Commission Report must be implemented. Promises made must be fulfilled. GST is being imposed on items like curd and rice.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Please give me two minutes, Sir, you are imposing GST on everything. The farmers must get their rights. It is very unfortunate that this Government says that there is no inflation and price-rise. The poor people are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. I do hope that the Government will take tangible steps to meet the crisis of inflation and price rise and provide relief and succor to the common man.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to speak. I would like to know from the Modi Government, women folk of this country are questioning you as to why you have deprived their innocent children of milk and eggs. The young truck drivers of the country is asking you that his income has not increased since 2014, but his expenses have doubled. The plumber of the country is questioning the Modi Government that he has been unemployed for two years. He is in debt due to Covid-19 and cannot even buy a cylinder of gas. The population of the youth in the country is 50 percent and 28 percent of them are unemployed? Why has the Government written unemployment in their destiny.

Sir, today, the Anganwadi workers of the country are questioning the Modi Government that how will they survive on Rs 4,500 per month. At the same time they are told to remain as frontline workers. The mothers of the country are questioning the Modi Government that the price of the cylinder under the Ujjwala scheme has doubled today compared to what it was in the year 2015. Today they are not able to refill the cylinder.

Sir, women from poor households are asking the Prime Minister of the country about why the cost of basic groceries has increased by 68 percent, whether the Modi Government is aware of it? Today, the workers of this country are questioning the Modi government that since 2015, their salaries have increased by only 22 percent, but the prices of essential and food items have increased by 50 percent.

Sir, the poor people of the country who are sleeping hungry today are asking the Prime Minister of the country, Modi ji that my children go to bed empty stomach at night, but the number of billionaires have risen to 215 in the country. For how long will the money of the poor keep going to the billionaire, those poor people are questioning the Modi Government. The youth of the country are questioning the Modi Government that they are working in the

fields, but their wages do not increase. The PLF survey says that 42 percent to 45.6 percent of the youth are working in the fields today. Is the Modi government aware that nine million people been working in MNREGA for these eight months of the financial year 2022? Is it a good sign for economy or does it indicate the destruction of the economy? The Government has not yet paid the dues of Rs 4,700 crore to 15 princely states.

Sir, at the same time, a soldier with broken heart is asking the Prime Minister of the country that after all he has ruined the country's economy in eight years, that is why he has to recruit Agniveer. Today, the heart of that soldier is filled with despair, who spent his youth standing with resolute focus against the armies of China and Pakistan. He has ruined the economy and have messed up with the security of the country by making the youth of the country destined to be Agniveer.

The innocent children of the country who go to school are asking the Prime Minister of the country, why has the 18 percent GST been imposed on their books, pencils and pens?

Sir, the experts of the country's economy are asking the Prime Minister that we made a law that the consumer price index would be fixed between 2 and 6 percent, why did it become 7 percent and WPI became 15 percent.

Sir, 40 crore poor people of the country are openly saying to the Prime Minister of the country and sending the message that inflation is equal to corruption. These 40 crore poor of the country are saying to the Prime Minister that there is no difference between his Government and the UPA Government. Inflation is corruption in their eyes.

Sir, the poor man of the country who used to invest 95 percent in FDs is asking the Prime Minister of the country that he is facing 3.5 percent loss per annum due to the wrong decisions of his Government and 7 percent inflation. At the same time, the poor people of the country are asking the Prime Minister that because of his wrong policy, they are buying less flour, biscuits and toothpaste.

Those people of the country who had taken house loan and car loans, their loan has increased by one percent.

As per your view, RBI increased it by 0.9% and banks have increased it by 1% due to wrong policies. The farmer of this country is asking the Modi Government that State Bank of India does not give him NOC if 31 paise are due, but the Government has Written Off Rs 1,45,240 crore bad loans of big defaulters. The poor of the country are asking the Prime Minister of the country that who is actually that big industrialist, whose name starts with 'A', 14 thousand crore rupees are given or 12 thousand crore rupees are given, whole discount becomes NPA. For how long will this scam continue, will you keep making the country...*? [English] FD rates have risen by 0.1 per cent, but banks are charging 0.8 per cent. What is this?

[Translation]

Before concluding my words, I would like to remind that our Finance Minister had read a couplet in one of the budget speeches, “*Yakin ho to koi rasta nikalta hai, hawa ki oat bhi lekar chirag jalta hai.*” I would like to say that respected Finance Minister Madam, you have extinguished the lamp of the poor and you have raised the spirits of the rich. You have closed all avenues for the poor. The poet had rightly said about the Hon. Prime Minister of the country that “*Jo kehta thaa tare todkar laaunga, usne aasmaan hi gira diya mujh par*”.

Sir, this is their policy. This is the policy of Modi Government. Kindly see, only fifty MPs are sitting. They are not concerned with price rise. You please understand the anger of the people of the country. You have to understand that today the poor are disappointed with this Government.

[Urdu]

[جناب اسدالدین اویسی (حیدرآباد): محترم اسپیکر صاحب، آپ نے مجھے بولنے کا موقع دیا، اس کے لئے بہت بہت شکریہ۔ میں مودی سرکار سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں، ملک کی ماتائیں آپ سے سوال کر رہی ہیں کہ آپ نے ان کے معصوم بچوں کو دودھ اور انڈوں سے کیوں محروم کر دیا ہے۔ ملک کا وہ ٹرک ڈرائیور جو نوجوان ہے، آپ سے سوال کر رہا ہے کہ اس کی آمدنی سال 2014 سے نہیں بڑھی، مگر اس کے خرچے ڈبل ہو گئے ہیں۔ ملک کا وہ پلمبر مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہا ہے کہ وہ دو سال سے بے روزگار ہے۔ وہ کووڈ 19 سے قرضوں میں ڈوب چکا ہے اور گیس کا ایک سلنڈر بھی خرید نہیں سکتا۔ ملک کی 50 فیصد آبادی جو نوجوانوں کی ہے، وہ مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہی ہے کہ ہم 50 فیصد تو ہیں، مگر 28 فیصد بے روزگار کیوں ہیں؟ آپ نے ہمارا مقدر بے روزگار کیوں بنا کر رکھ دیا۔

جناب، آج ملک کی آنگن واڑی ملازمین مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہی ہیں کہ ہم 4500 روپے میں کیسے زندگی گزاریں گے۔ ساتھ ہی ساتھ ہم کہہ جاتا ہے کہ فرنٹ لائن ورکر بن کر رہیں۔ ملک کی ماتائیں مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہی ہیں کہ اُجولا یوجنا کی سلینڈر کی قیمت جو سال 2015 میں تھی، وہ ڈبل ہو گئی ہے۔ آج وہ سلینڈر کی ریفل نہیں کرا پا رہی ہیں۔

سر، غریب گھروں کی خواتین ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے سوال کر رہی ہیں کہ جو کاسٹ آف بیسک گروسریز تھی، اس میں 68 فیصد کا اضافہ کیوں ہو گیا ہے، کیا مودی سرکار کو اس کی خبر ہے؟ آج ملک کا مزدور مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہا ہے کہ سال 2015 سے اس کی تنخواہوں میں صرف 22 فیصد کا اضافہ ہوا ہے، مگر پرائس آف ایسینشیل اور فوڈ آئٹم میں 50 فیصد کا اضافہ ہوا ہے۔

سر، ملک کا غریب جو آج بھوکا سو رہا ہے۔ وہ ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہا ہے کہ میرے بچے رات میں بھوکے سوتے ہیں، مگر ملک میں 215 بلینیرس پیدا ہو گئے۔ غریب کا پیسہ کب تک بلینیر ہو جائے گا، وہ غریب مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہا ہے۔ ملک کا نوجوان مودی سرکار سے سوال کر رہا ہے، کہ میں کھیتوں میں کام کر رہا ہوں لیکن میری تنخواہ میں اضافہ نہیں ہوتا۔ پی۔ایل۔ایف۔ سروے کہتا ہے کہ آج 42 فیصد سے 45.6 فیصد نوجوان کھیتوں میں کام کر رہے ہیں۔ کیا مودی سرکار جانتی ہے کہ مودی سرکار منریگا میں فائینشیل ایر 2022 کے ان آٹھ مہینوں میں نو ملین لوگ کام کر رہے ہیں۔ کیا یہ ایک ایکونامی اچھی ہے؟ کیا یہ ایکونامی کی بربادی کو بتاتی ہے؟ آپ نے اب تک 15 ریاستوں کو 4700 کروڑ روپے کا بقیہ نہیں دیا۔

سر، وہی ایک فوجی ٹوٹے دل کے ساتھ ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہا ہے کہ آخر آپ نے آٹھ سال میں ملک کی ایکونامی کو برباد کر دیا، اس لئے آپ نے اگنی ویر کو لایا۔ آج اس سپاہی کا دل ٹوٹا ہوا ہے، جس نے اپنی جوانی چین اور پاکستان کی فوجوں کے خلاف آنکھوں میں آنکھیں

ڈال کر کھڑا ہوا تھا۔ آپ نے ایکونامی کو برباد کر دیا اور ملک کے نوجوانوں کو اگنی ویر کا مقدر بنا کر ملک کی حفاظت سے کھلواڑ کیا ہے۔ ملک کے معصوم بچے جو اسکول جاتے ہیں، ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہے ہیں کہ پردھان منتری جی آپ نے ہماری کتابوں، پینسل اور پین پر 18 فیصد جی۔ایس۔ٹی۔ کیوں لگا دیا؟

سر، ملک کی ایکونامی کے ایکسپرٹ وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہے ہیں کہ ہم نے قانون بنایا کہ کنزیومر پرائس انڈیکس 2 اور 6 فیصد کے درمیان ہوگا، آخر وہ کیوں 7 فیصد ہو گیا اور ڈبلیو پی۔آئی۔ 15 فیصد ہو گیا۔

سر، ملک کے 40 کروڑ غریب لوگ ملک کے وزیر اعظم کو کھل کر جواب دے رہے ہیں اور پیظام پہنچا رہے ہیں کہ انفلیشن کرپشن کے برابر ہے۔ وہ 40 کروڑ غریب ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے کہہ رہے ہیں کہ آپ کی سرکار اور یو پی۔اے۔ کی سرکار میں کوئی فرق نہیں ہے۔ انفلیشن ان کی نظر میں کرپشن ہے۔

سر، ملک کا وہ غریب آدمی جو 95 فیصد ایف۔ڈیز میں ڈالتا تھا۔ وہ ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہے ہیں کہ آپ کی سرکار کے غلط فیصلوں سے اور 7 فیصد انفلیشن کی وجہ سے ان کو 3.5 فیصد پر اینم لاس ہو رہا ہے۔ وہی پر ملک کے غریب لوگ وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہے ہیں کہ ہم آپ کی غلط پالیسی کی وجہ سے آٹا، بسکٹ، ٹوتھ پیسٹ کم خرید رہے ہیں۔ ملک کے وہ لوگ جو قرضوں پر گھر اور گاڑی لئے تھے، ان کے لون میں ایک فیصد کا اضافہ ہو گیا ہے۔

آپ کی طرف سے، غلط پالیسیز کی وجہ سے آر بی۔آئی۔ نے 0.9 فیصد بڑھایا تو بینکس نے 1 فیصد بڑھا دیا۔ اس ملک کا کسان مودی سرکار سے پوچھ رہا ہے کہ 31 پیسے کے لئے مجھے اسٹیٹ بینک آف انڈیا این۔او۔سی۔ نہیں دیتا ہے، مگر آپ کی سرکار نے ایسے ایسے بڑے بڑے ڈیفالٹرز کے 145240 کروڑ روپے بیڈ لون کے لئے رائٹ آف کر دئے۔ ملک کا غریب ملک کے وزیر اعظم سے پوچھ رہا ہے کہ آخر وہ کونسا بڑا سرمایہ دار ہے، جس کا نام اے سے شروع ہوتا ہے، 14 ہزار کروڑ روپے دئے جاتے ہیں، 12 ہزار کروڑ روپے دئے جاتے ہیں، این پی۔اے ہوتا ہے۔ کب تک یہ اسکیم ہوگا، ملک کو آپ (کاروائی میں شامل نہیں) بناتے رہیں گے۔ **FD rates have risen by 0.1 per cent, but banks are charging 0.8 percent. What is this?**

میں ختم کرنے سے پہلے یاد دلانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہمارے فائننس منسٹر نے کسی ایک بجٹ اسپیک میں ایک شعر پڑھا تھا،

یقین ہو تو کوئی راستہ نکلتا ہے۔

ہوا کی اوٹ بھی لیکر چراغ جلتا ہے

میں کہنا چاہوں گا کہ فائننس منسٹر صاحبہ، آپ نے غریب کے چراغ کو گل کر دیا، آپ نے
 دولت مندوں کی ہوا میں اضافہ کر دیا، آپ نے غریبوں کے پورے راستے بند کر دئے۔ کسے شاعر
 نے ملک کے وزیر اعظم کے بارے میں سہی کہا تھا کہ
 جو کہتا تھا کہ تارے توڑ کر لاؤنگا
 اس نے آسمان ہی گرا دیا مجھ پر

سر، یہ ان کی پالیسی ہے۔ یہ مودی سرکار کی پالیسی ہے۔ دیکھ لیجئے، صرف 50 ایم پیز
 بیٹھے ہیں۔ ان کو پرائس رائز سے مطلب نہیں ہے۔ ملک کی عوام کا آکروش سمجھئے، غصہ
 سمجھئے۔ آپ کو سمجھنا پڑے گا کہ آج غریب اس سرکار سے مایوس ہے۔

[(ختم شد)]

[Translation]

SHRI PALLAB LOCHAN DAS (TEZPUR): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very sensitive issue. I am a new Member of Parliament. I have got a chance to come to Parliament for the first time. Today we are discussing such a big issue, which affects all of our homes. I was listening very carefully what and how they are speaking? Hon. Members spoke on the price rise. Throughout the Session, we saw that the opposition demanded a discussion on the price rise and today a discussion is taking place on it.

I am a new Member. I felt that there would be a discussion. Very learned people are here and when a discussion would take place, a conclusion will emerge that how the price rise should be controlled, how relief should be provided to the people and I will get an opportunity to listen some technical thing or some good suggestions. When I listened, I felt that the discussion here is about intention. What is the intention of Modi Government? The Prime Minister, who has no family, the whole country is his family. He has nothing personal. He is a Prime Minister who works for the country. He has not kept anything for himself. Questions were raised on such a Prime Minister. I felt that we are in a country where all the problems started only after the year 2014. Before the year 2014, there was so much prosperity in the country, it was so good and the whole system was so systematic. Only after the year 2014, everything got spoiled, the whole system went hay wire, people got into a lot of trouble, fuel prices increased and the whole atmosphere of the country got deteriorated which was nice earlier. When we were young, the country was very prosperous. At that time there was no price rise, no inflation, nothing. These happened only after the year 2014. We should look at comparative statement after the year 2014. Hon. Jayant Sinha ji, Hon. Nishikant Dubey ji and Hon. Jaskaur Meena ji presented the data on fuel price very well.

I would like to put forward only two-three points on price rise. Everyone has expressed their views very well. On making assessment since 2014, it is evident that we are providing PM Kisan Samman Nidhi to 11 crore people. No one thought earlier that farmers will get this money. Houses have been given to 2.95 crore people. How this fund is being arranged. We are providing 100 days of work under MGNREGA. We are covering 377 million population under Swachh Bharat Mission. 28 lakh women self-help groups are being provided revolving fund of Rs 65 thousand crore. Money is being given through Jan Dhan account to everyone.

Look at wheat procurement and paddy procurement in agriculture, it is unprecedented. The total paddy procurement has increased to 433 lakh metric tonnes. 5 lakh farmers have benefitted in wheat procurement. 900 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured and 1.5 million farmers have benefitted. Who is getting this money? Whether poor is getting this money or the rich? Whose house is being built through PMAY, the poor or the rich? If we are giving money to farmers, to whom it is going? If we are giving money through Jan Dhan account, to whom it is going?

If we are providing food grains to 80 crore people free of cost then who is getting benefitted, the rich or the poor? The Government is working for all the poor citizens of the country. When prices rise, everyone suffers. We also would not like it. We will not do such things which cause problems or hardships to Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, who has been given the opportunity to serve the people with 304 MPs. We will work in the direction so that he can better serve the country.

I hope in the reply of the Hon. Finance Minister, we will get to know very well, how the country will go forward and how the issue of price rise in the country will be addressed. With this hope, Thank you very much.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, today the House is discussing the impact of rising inflation on the lives of common people. From 18th till date i.e., 10 days' time was wasted by the ruling party and the opposition, where crores of rupees are being spent to run the Lok Sabha. The youth and farmers of the country look towards the Lok Sabha to know when the session will be summoned and when the Government will pay attention to their demands. 10 days were wasted. Along with the opposition, the ruling party also wasted two days in seeking apology in the issue related to the President.

I would like to thank the Hon. Chairperson of the Lok Sabha, who intervened and ran the House. Today the whole country is watching that the issue like inflation is being discussed. In the all-party meeting, the Rashtriy Loktantrik Party demanded a discussion on inflation in the House and representatives of various political parties also presented their views. Hon. Members from the ruling party and the opposition expressed their views regarding inflation. I have seen that Hon. Members from ruling party came with good preparation and delivered good speech keeping in view an expansion in the cabinet. I would like to send my best wishes to them. They might be included in the cabinet. The discussion on inflation will prove to be meaningful only when the Government takes immediate concrete steps to control inflation in the country and implements the suggestions of the Hon. Members of the House.

Former Minister, who hails from Punjab, has expressed his concern. The farmers' movement was the country's biggest and historic movement. After the martyrdom of more than 1000 farmers, the Hon. Prime Minister withdrew all three black agricultural laws. There was demand of implementing the Swaminathan report and bringing all the crops under the MSP. This was a huge and legitimate demand of the farmers. A committee was formed and there was

proposal of bringing it under the MSP. But it is unfortunate that the Government has still not paid attention to this. I would like to request the Government that the Swaminath Commission report may be implemented. The Government should seriously think upon all the issues due to which the farmers were agitating as the Government assured while withdrawing the three agricultural laws. The Government should live up to the promises made to the farmers.

The level at which inflation has reached during the tenure of the present Government has adversely affected the poor and middle class sections and it is a matter of concern. Congress was in regime since 2009. There was very high inflation during the tenure of the UPA Government. At that time BJP gave the slogan - '*Bahut Hui Mahangai Ki Mar, Ab Ki Bar Modi Sarkar*'. The people of the country trusted NDA and brought it in to power twice. In previous regime, I was also part of NDA. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hanuman Beniwal Ji, please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: The present Government has still not taken any concrete steps. I am quoting what is written in a newspaper – “declining income and rising inflation are a matter of concern and the burden of tax is being put on those who do not have employment and have empty pockets and stomach. Tax exemption is being given to rich class”. This is fact to a great extent. It is meaningless to imagine an economy without income and a river without water. If the sources dry up, the existence of both is in danger. The economy of our country is also moving in this direction. It is obvious that the current economic policies of the country are not favourable to the common people, because on one hand the number of billionaires is increasing, on the

other hand the condition of the middle class is not good. The poverty is rising and it is worrying. The inflation is increasing due to lack of demand in the market due to unfavourable policies.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. What is your final point?

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Give me two minutes.

Sir, due to continuous fluctuations, in fact the prices of all commodities in India have increased rapidly and which has adversely affected the importers too. There was instability in the financial markets and it is fact that the economy was adversely affected due to Corona and the war between Russia and Ukraine. Reiterating the fact about Corona, I would like to say that for how long will the people of the country be pushed into the fire of inflation? The Government should seriously think upon it.

The Government needs to consider that inflation is increasing day by day in the country, which is making it difficult for the common people to make a living. Prices of essential commodities like petrol, diesel, fruits, vegetables, and gas are sky-high, and the direct impact of this inflation is on the cost of living. Since the formation of this Government in the year 2014, if we talk about the situation today, there has been a lot of difference. My demand is to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel so that farmers can get diesel at a lower cost for plowing their fields. The common man should be able to travel at lower fares. In the month of May, despite the Government reducing excise duty by Rs. 9.55 on petrol and Rs. 7 on diesel, the most expensive petrol and diesel were being sold in Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan amongst the 15 major cities of the Northern India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, hon. Member, Shri N. K. Premachandran.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, hon. Chairperson, Sir.

Sir, first of all, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the hon. Speaker for having admitted this discussion under Rule 193 regarding price rise.

Sir, I am confining my point to the five per cent GST on food grains. All other issues with respect to price rise have already been discussed in the House elaborately. There is one famous quote on inflation and I quote:

“Inflation is nothing but taxation without legislation.”

This is the thing which has recently happened in our country. There is nothing to explain with regard to inflation. The alarming situation that the country is now facing is because of this five per cent GST rate on food grains. That has adversely affected the common people. The marginalised sections of the society are directly affected. There is still an utter confusion among the consumers, traders, and the people at large. There is also an utter confusion among the State Governments as well as the Central Government.

Sir, the inflation rate is at an all time high since 2014. It has increased to 7.79 per cent in April, 2022 while the market forecasts for the period was just 7.5 per cent. Food inflation accelerated for the seventh straight month to 8.38 per cent, highest since November, 2020. Inflation in cost of transportation and communication is 10.91 per cent, health 7.21 per cent, footwear 12.2 per cent and clothing 9.51 per cent. Inflation is staying above the 2-6 per cent market which is the tolerance limit set by the RBI continuously for the last four months in a row. This is the situation which is prevailing in our country.

Sir, the Reserve Bank of India is taking its own monetary measures so as to address the price rise and also giving and cautioning all the State

Governments and the Central Government to address the situation to curb inflation. Yes, I do agree that the Government of India in June has announced an excise duty cut of rupees eight per litre on petrol and rupees six per litre on diesel. Some other measures have already been taken as far as the import duties on raw materials for steel and plastic are concerned. The Centre has also announced a ban on wheat exports.

Some measures have already been taken by the Government of India. I would like to pose a specific question to the hon. Finance Minister whether the measures taken or adopted by the Government are sufficient to curb inflation.

Sir, according to me, it is not sufficient. The Government totally failed in addressing inflation and price rise which is prevailing in our country.

Sir, to fuel the fire, on 18th July, five per cent of GST has been imposed on all the food grains especially on cereals, rice, flour and curd which are pre-packed and labelled.

Sir, since it is a matter of getting additional revenue, I would like to believe our hon. Union Finance Minister and also the State Finance Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may be well aware that the State Government of Kerala and the hon. Finance Minister unequivocally stated in the press conference that this is absolutely the responsibility of the Union Government. The State Government has never spelt about an increase of five per cent duty or GST on food grains. This is the situation. The Central Government is blaming the State Government and the State Government is blaming the Central Government. The consumers, the trades, the shopkeepers - all are in big trouble. Who is responsible for that? Utter confusion is there. What are the legalities? I am not going into all those things.

Sir, the turmoil has started. For the first time, GST has moved from commodity-wise taxation to the packaged-wise taxation.

Sir, I may be given two-three minutes. I am confining to a particular point alone. I do not understand the necessity and urgency of imposing five per cent

of GST on food grains. It was taken by the GST Council without having any proper preparation and without doing any homework. For example, I will come to the confusion. If the rice is pre-packed and labelled as per the Legal Metrology Act and Rules and kept in a shop, it is going to be five per cent GST. If it is packed in the presence of a consumer, GST rate is zero per cent. If a shopkeeper takes five kilograms rice from a 30 kilogram bag and sells it to the consumer, GST rate is zero per cent. If the same shopkeeper takes five kilograms rice from a 25 kilogram bag, he will have to bear five per cent GST from his own pocket when he cannot collect it from the consumer.

Sir, how do you prove these transactions? Is it based on CCTV footage on petty shops? How are you going to assess these things? This is the same product. Kindly examine and revisit the situation. Paneer butter masala has become the star menu in social media.

Sir, if you examine GST for these things, you will find that GST for butter is 12 per cent, GST on paneer is five per cent, GST on masala is five per cent. What is butter paneer masala? I could give a fine answer. Since it is cooked and ready to serve, it can have five per cent GST. Since different items have different tax rates, it can be considered for 12 per cent. Since it is not included in any schedule, it can be considered for 18 per cent. Since it can also be considered as luxurious item by an officer, then it can be 28 per cent. What would be the fate of the people? Is there any clear clarity for these things?

Who will benefit from these things? It is multinationals, malls, and even online giants have elaborate system to adapt to these changes. But our consumers and small-scale traders are in big trouble.

Nothing is clear about it. The present inflation is a man-made catastrophe because of untimely decisions of the Central Government and is also the reason for price rise ... (*Interruptions*)

Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this important discussion. I have been listening to our opposition colleagues for quite some time and while listening to them, I remembered an English idiom that ninety-nine per cent of all statistics tell only 49 per cent of the story. Many big things have been heard from the Opposition like CPI, WPI and inflation etc. Many political and economic analysts have made this point. I am a doctor, so as a doctor I will be able to tell that I definitely noticed a disease in them that is selective amnesia. There is a disease of selectively forgetting one's memory. They very easily want to forget whatever they want to forget and very easily tell only those things which they have to say.

Their favourite word for the last two-two and half hours has been crisis. They are so fond of this word crisis that according to them the country, economy and every other thing is in crisis. Because of this attachment, today their own political party and leadership is in crisis due to corruption. They have a habit that they convert opportunity into crisis, that is, they convert opportunity into disaster, but our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji converts disaster into opportunity. This is the strength of our Hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, a lot of discussion has already been done and we have also got very little time. A common man can understand that for anything to be disrupted or for inflation to occur, the demand and supply chain must be disrupted. When demand and supply chain is disrupted, inflation increases. There are many factors for this, like external factors as COVID, Russian-Ukraine war, global warming and national calamity. My fellow MPs have explained this in great detail. We have the MVA Government in Maharashtra since the last two and a half years, which some people called it the *Mahavikas Aghadi Sarkaar*. We

used to refer it – *Mahavasooli Aghadi Sarkaar*. A different kind of inflation has been seen in Maharashtra. Through you, I would like to explain it in the House.

Sir, how was the demand and supply there? The demand was made by the Hon'ble Ministers and the supply was done by the bureaucrats. The Hon'ble Minister asked for Rs 50 lakh from the Tehsildar and the supplier Tehsildar gave Rs 50 lakh. Due to this demand and supply chain, the burden fell on the common man, because the officer who transferred the money to the Hon'ble Minister used to recover it from the common man. Because of this, during the last two and a half years of Mahavasuli Aghadi's tenure, we have seen huge inflation in Maharashtra. Let me tell you an example. The Maharashtra Government has collected Rs 300 crore as fine collection from the common men for violation of rules only during the Covid period on the pretext of various rules. Hospital bills were not controlled during that time but we have seen such type of demand and supply in Maharashtra.

Sir, I want to explain one thing to our Opposition colleagues who were speaking today as to why this discussion was necessary. China's debt trap diplomacy is being talked about all over the country or the whole world. China has created a global infrastructure development strategy through the China Belt and Road Initiative. Today, about 165 countries have been ruined in this China debt trap diplomacy and these countries have incurred a debt of 385 billion dollars. Today we have our Government. I will tell you through an article how we could save ourselves from it. When there was UPA Government in the year 2008 and Congress was a leading party in that Government. They signed an MOU with the Communist Party of China in the year 2008. Similarly, the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, an allied institute of the Congress Party, took a grant from the Chinese Government during that period. I want to say this with certainty.
...*(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL: Sir, if the UPA Government was in power today, our country would have been mortgaged to China. This is the Government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, which is why we have become self-reliant and today we are moving towards development. Finally I would like to conclude with two lines. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to conclude my talk through a couplet.

“nazar nahin hai, nazaaron ki baat karte hain,

Zamin par chaand-sitaaron ki baat karte hain,

Ve haath jodkar basti ko lutne wale.

Bhari sabha men sudharon ki baat karte hain."

[*English*]

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): Sir, before the DMK Government first came to power in Tamil Nadu in 1967, the situation in Tamil Nadu and throughout India, was that, in a village, the agricultural land was owned by ten per cent of the landlords in that village and 90 per cent of the people were labourers for those landlords. So, for getting work, they had to work with the landlords. In a year, they got around 110 days of work. They got their ration, food and money but for the remaining 255 days, they did not have any food. They had to rely on those ten per cent of the landlords. This was the situation throughout India. What happened when Dr. Kalaignar, the great visionary leader, came to power? He thought that, for the rest of the 255 days also, these labourers should not go without food. So, he introduced the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and gave food and subsidized pulses for 255

days. This brought a self-respect movement. They did not have to rely upon their landlords for food. This movement, along with the public distribution system, was brought throughout Tamil Nadu and this was later followed throughout India. So, this was the care taken by the Dravidian model and it was achieved through Dravidian principles and thus, equality and self-respect have been established. But now what do we see? We see that the Narendra Modi Government has been favouring only the corporates. You keep increasing the price of milk, potatoes and curd. How do you expect the common man to live? You say that for packed milk or curd, the GST is high but for unpacked items, you do not have it. Children and others need milk or curd only as packed items as they are safe. We do not have any objection when the Government increases the GST on any product. Let them increase it even to 50 per cent. That can be done for gomuthra which they can handle with bare hands. Let them increase the GST for it but why should they put the common man into problems? When the election comes, what do we see? We see that the prices of fuel items like LPG get frozen and once they win the election, they again increase it steadily. We are against such a practice. We want the Dravidian model to be implemented throughout India and it is for the benefit of the marginalised, the downtrodden and the people who are discriminated whereas we see that the Narendra Modi Government is favouring only the corporates. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA): Sir, I convey my thanks to my leader, Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I would like to speak in Telugu.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay but be brief.

***SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:** Sir after Corona pandemic in our country, people are still facing so many difficulties. Many people lost

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Telugu.

their employment. Price rise is affecting all sections of our society especially unemployed, poor and backward classes. Due to price rise in all essential commodities like salt, pulses, milk etc they are expecting all MPs to plead with Honorable Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister to reduce the prices of these essential commodities. Until unless prices of essential commodities are not reduced people cannot benefit from the welfare schemes that are being implemented by the Government. In this context, I request Honorable Prime Minister and Hon. Finance Minister to look at the issue of price rise.

Our Finance Minister is a role model for the women of this generation. I heartily request hon. Nirmala Sitharaman to look at this issue, because though in general, men are the earning members of a family, it's women, who manage, the day to day expenditure of a household. All costs have increased including transportation cost. We have inflation and there are reasons for this on behalf of the government. We suffered from Corona pandemic for 2 years and on the other hand we have a war between Ukraine and Russia, people may not understand these reasons. What people want is that they need to meet the basic requirements of their life. We have a saying in Telugu which means that punishing someone who is already suffering, by increasing GST on essential commodities this is adding to the price rise. Poor people of this country are not in a position to take this additional burden.

I would like to bring to your notice one important point. In our state Andhra Pradesh, our honorable Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is providing financial assistance to the poor people. Even during corona pandemic the financial assistance provided by our State Government has helped many poor families to sustain the hardships. Now when we are going to every household to explain our welfare schemes, though they are happy with our welfare SS schemes, they are requesting us to bring to the notice of the Union Government about the price rise and they want us to plead with the Union

Government to reduce these prices. Once again I request the Union Government to take care of poor people, by reducing prices of essential commodities and also by reducing GST that is being imposed on these commodities.

Thank you Sir.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Thank you, hon.

Chairperson for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the price rise. Sir, the entire country is facing a heavy blow because of price rise.

The blow is more on the common man and the economically weaker sections of the society.

This is mainly because the consumer products are being affected by the price rise. The Consumer Price Index is a basic tool for considering the rate of inflation. The rate of inflation in 2019 was 3.7 per cent and now it is 7.75 per cent. This is basically because of the rise in the price of petroleum products. The cost of petrol was Rs.70 in 2014, when the Modi Government came into power and now, it is Rs.105. The price of diesel was only Rs.55 and now it is Rs.95. The crude oil price, which is the basis of the petroleum price, was 105 US dollars in 2014 and now it is only 97 US dollars.

Sir, earlier the price of LPG was just about Rs.260 and now it is Rs.1050. This is the basic reason why the prices of essential commodities are going up. It has already been discussed in detail. The Government has imposed GST on all essential commodities, especially on the food grains, milk, curd, pulses, cereals, life-saving medicines and even on rooms in hospital also.

This is the basic reason why the people are suffering now. It is good that the Government has agreed to have a detailed discussion in the House on price rise. But what action is being taken by the Government on this issue is very important. I hope that the Government will open their eyes and take note of the points being discussed here and also take appropriate action. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this sensitive topic.

Sir, I hail from West Bengal, so I am speaking in Bengali language.

[English]

*One who loves man, serves God – He prayeth best who loveth best. This we had heard from Swami Vivekananda and today we get to hear ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’, Development for all, with all. We saw, that since 2014 India has been treading a new path, during the covid times. When polio was prevalent, it took almost 100 years to vaccinate all the Indian against this disease. But we have witnessed how corona vaccination target has been achieved within just 6 months. This is India. People want this India. During covid times, 80 crore people could avail free ration while sitting at home in the last 2 years. But even after doing such yeoman service, the opposition members raised so many issues. We have seen the Hon. Member from West Bengal Smt. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar speaking. She resorted to a drama. She ate a piece of brinjal and said that should we eat only raw vegetables? Yes, the farmers of Bengal are in such a poor condition that they are not getting Rs. 6000 meant for them. We are witness that the teachers of Bengal are sitting on dharna for the last 522 days, but are not getting jobs. Once, Bengal used to provide officers to the Centre, now we have become workers. The Minister of Bengal has embezzled Rs. 50 crores. We can recall that the present Chief Minister had thrown papers to the chair in this very House. That was the drama she enacted. In Bengal, today, only dramas are being staged. Because in Bengal, the farmers are not happy, teachers are not happy, no one is happy. There is only rampant corruption and

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

black money. The benefits of Pradhan Mantri Health Insurance Scheme are not available to the people of West Bengal today. Why? Because the State Government has stalled the project as it bears the name of Prime Minister. The name of 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna' has been changed by Chief Minister into 'Bangla Awas Yojana'. This is shameful. Names of all the central projects have been changed. Shri Narendra Modi is following the ideology of Swami Vivekananda, whereas no ideology is being followed by the State Government.

Modiji has launched 'House for all' Programme. And in West Bengal, there is corruption in the co-operative banks as well. Trinamool Congress has finished everything. The Party has taken the form of a family group. On the other hand, our BJP runs with the motto of 'will not be corrupt, will not let anyone become corrupt'. Today, you can see crores of rupees stashed inside cars or houses of their associates or friends. This is extremely shameful. Bengal's face is hanging in shame. I would like to thank Hon. Modiji for his continuous efforts to improve the lives of the common people, somewhere through start-ups, somewhere through other means. People are getting bank loans today.

I will conclude by saying that as Ramkrishna had said, 'Money is of little worth, as worthless as dust'. But today money is free-flowing. On the other hand Modiji is leading the country boldly towards development. When he is there, everything is possible. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

Thank you Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA (SHRAWASTI): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the issue of inflation on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party today. Today the whole country is affected by inflation. Today I would like to present my point on two-three points. In our country, today, when the poor, labourers, and farmers want to build their houses, they have to face the price rise in cement due to imposition of higher GST rate on it. Along with this, today 6 to 12 percent GST has been imposed on the brick kilns from which houses are built, which is breaking the backbone of the farmers, poor and labourers of our country.

As the Hon. Minister is present here, I would request her to at least reduce the GST imposed on brick kilns. Same way, GST has been applied on edible items also. Today, the largest population in our country is made up of farmers, poor and labourers. Today, if the prices of milk, curd and cheese have been increased by imposing GST, it is the poor who are suffering the most. Along with this, due to the increase in the prices of diesel and petrol in our country, the farmers, traders and poor labourers of our country are suffering the most.

I would request the Hon. Minister that today in the hospital sector also, health needs to be given the utmost attention...*(interruption)*.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA: Sir, GST rate should be reduced on every infrastructure and medicines used in the hospital...*(interruption)* I end my speech with these few words. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, in the inception, I am goaded to refute the charges made against us by the Treasury Benches that in spite of the indisposition of health of our hon. Finance Minister, we had been persisting for the discussion on price rise.

18.51 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chiar*)

With all humility at my command, I refute the charges because these charges are based upon unmitigated falsehood and *calumnies*. Since the day it was heard that our Finance Minister has been infected by COVID, we have been praying for her immediate recovery and recuperation. We have suggested to the Government that we can initiate the discussion once our Finance Minister recovers so that the reply could easily be given to us. But now, without any rhyme or reason, allegations have been hurled against us which is a disrespect to the Opposition. It is simply based on falsehood. Madam, again, we all are wishing you for your recovery and sound health. It is because being the Finance Minister of our country, you need to sustain a safe and sound health.

[Translation] Sir, this discussion has been going on since very long. I would like to make only one point that the ruling and opposition parties both do discuss upon many issues during a debate. Sir, I have come to this house *[English]* only to express our concern for the common people of our country.

[Translation] While on the one hand, the Prime Minister of our India says that the *Revdi culture* should be abolished and on the other hand, the speeches given here by the Treasury benches seem to promote the *Revdi culture*. I got a little confused that this is the *Revdi culture*, which the Hon. Prime Minister often disapprove and the way statements have been presented in favour praising the Prime Minister and the NDA Government today. *[English]* what is the distinction between ‘revdi culture’ and other culture? I am really confused about it. I would like to ask very curtly and succinctly to our hon. Finance Minister, as many economists have already expressed their apprehensions, whether the

country has been heading towards stagflation. Is it true or not? The stagflation suggests high inflation, high unemployment and stagnant growth. I do not know the view of the Government. So, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to dispel the apprehensions expressed by the renowned economists of our country.

[Translation]

Sir, our Hon. Members have raised a lot of issues, I do not want to repeat them. I want to make two-three points broadly. One of them is 'Impact of inflation on nutrition'. Our colleague Kalyan Babu tried a little to speak on this subject, but due to lack of time he could not speak.

[English]

Sir, according to the State of India's Environment Report, 2022, around 71 per cent of Indians cannot afford a healthy meal. *[Translation]* Jayant Singhji, please listen to me for a while. *[English]* The Report further said that over 17 lakh individuals die in the nation every year due to diseases that can be attributed to poor diet. According to the Government's own figures, anaemia in children and women have increased significantly between 2015-16 and 2019-21. Over 67 per cent children are anaemic in the country. PM Modi's home State of Gujarat has the highest number of anaemic children at 79.7 per cent and 57 per cent of women in Gujarat are anaemic. I am simply referring to these statistics for your convenience.

Sir, India is already suffering from a malnutrition and hunger crisis. About 20 crore people do not have sufficient access to food. One-fourth of the world's hungry population belongs to India, and India was ranked 101 out of 116 countries on the Global Hunger Index for 2021, a score that has been worsening for a few consecutive years. Now, you can easily assume how the country has been progressing towards prosperity. The statistics simply suggest that we are really in great trouble.

Sir, so far as medical inflation is concerned, I would like to highlight that in 2021, India reported the highest medical inflation of 14 per cent in Asia. According to the Report prepared by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, the out-of-pocket medical expenditure per hospitalisation in 2021 in rural areas and urban areas reached as high as Rs. 15,937 and Rs. 22,031 respectively, as per the latest National Health Profile. *[Translation]* This is not ours, but the Government's one.

[English]

In March 2022, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority of India announced a 10.7 per cent hike in the prices of over 800 essential medicines, including Paracetamol and Azithromycin among others. *[Translation]*

Today, there are big talks of 'Ayushman Bharat' going on. Shri Jayant Sinha ji, let me tell you that according to a report of the World Health Organization, 52,06,258 people died with COVID in India. You may cross-check the facts. You walk around the international arena. You had held very high positions in America. I know you have a lot of information, still if you like, you may cross-check the facts.

[English]

Now, I come to the impact of high inflation on income. Between 2013 and 2019, income from agriculture in real terms decreased by 8.9 per cent, according to the analysis of SAS survey conducted by the National Statistical Office. This is opposite to BJP's promise of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

In 2019, on an average, the Indian farmer earned more through wages than through cultivation. But for the last 33 months, the rural wage growth has been declining much to the concern of the agriculture sector.

So far as burden of inflation is concerned, you are pleading for Atmanirbhar Bharat. But where are we existing now? That needs to be clarified. The Ruling Government's anti-people and pro-corporate policies have had concurrently increasing fuel taxes, while decreasing corporate taxes. In 2019-

20, the corporate tax collection stood at Rs. 5.5 lakh crore while fuel excise duty stood at Rs. 2.4 lakh crore. The Modi Government has shifted a massive part of the corporate tax burden on to consumers in 2020-21, which is shown in the revised Budget Estimates where corporate tax collections are estimated to be under Rs. 4.5 lakh crore, a decrease of Rs. 1 lakh crore, while the fuel excise duties are estimated at Rs. 3.6 lakh crore, an increase of Rs. 1.2 lakh crore. This is not an isolated incident. The trend of the BJP over the years has been to cut corporate tax rates, enriching their allies, while hurting the poor and the middle-class ordinary citizens. The net result of this pro-corporate policy is to increase fuel prices, and as described before, to cause economy-wide inflation that especially hurts the poor through increased food prices.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to make two-three points. In response to a question on 18.07.2020 inside this House, the Government stated that *[English]* the Government has constantly boasted up about Ease of Doing Business. But the Finance Minister herself said that in 2022 alone, 14 billion dollars have been withdrawn from Indian equity markets by foreign portfolio investors.

19.00 hrs

I would like to have a reaction from the hon. Finance Minister. The trade deficit for the period between April 2021 and March 2022 has also been estimated to widen to 192 billion dollars, despite the Government chest thumping over 400 billion export figures. It should be remembered that widening trade deficit has caused depreciation of the value of rupee. In turn, the same has made import costlier making it a vicious cycle for the citizens of the country unable to afford basic commodities. *[Translation]* What is its source? Its source is PIB release. I am telling you from the PIB release. The question was raised in Lok Sabha on 18.07.2022 *[English]* | The value of the Indian rupee has depreciated by almost 25 per cent till the end of December.

[Translation]

Earlier, during the regime of Manmohan Singh, when the value of currency started to fall, then the present Prime Minister Modi ji tiraded against by saying that the currency of India was being admitted to the ICU. Where is the currency going now? It is not too late to score a century. There will be no surprising, if the Rupee depreciate to 100 against a Dollar. They make excuses for the Ukraine-Russia war. One excuse is COVID and another is that there has been inflation in many countries other than India. They talk about U.S.A.. So far as U.S.A. is concerned, five trillion dollars have been spent due to COVID in U.S.A. Can we spend five trillion dollars in our country? They must make a comparison, but carefully. CPI inflation in India is currently 7.01 percent. Shri Jayant Sinha ji, let me inform you that the inflation figures in Australia is 5.09 percent, in China, 2.44 percent, in Japan, 1.97 percent and in Malaysia, it is 2.84 percent. He should decide himself. He had better not to mislead people by making excuses for COVID and Ukraine-Russia war. For his convenience, I would like to make a few more points. He should accept that since the UPA regime, the price of gram (pulse) has increased by 50 per cent, the price of arhar dal has increased by 48 per cent, the price of urad dal has increased by 59 per cent, the price of potato has increased by 11 per cent, onion has increased by 30 per cent and the price of tomato has increased by 56 per cent. Sir, that is why we have come to discuss this subject, so that we can find a way out? We all have to think about it. But if the Government is adamant that it is not their fault, it is just propaganda, then it is not right. As a representative of a responsible Government he should tell the truth. Sir, he should say 'yes' to what is right and 'no' to what is wrong. This will further enhance the dignity of this discussion.

Sir, I do not mean to say this. *[English]* The former noted economist of the World Bank and the former Chief Economic Advisor, Kaushik Basu has slammed the current Government's economic management alleging that not enough is being done for the welfare of the poor. The renowned economist also

added that with India's population growing at 1.2 per cent annually, real GDP per capita has sunk -0.1 per cent over the past two years. Sir, according to the World Inequality Report, India stands out as a poor and very unequal country with an affluent elite. *[Translation]* That is why our leaders say that the Modi ji's Government is a Government of 'hum do hamare do'. Here, everything is being looted by two-three companies and the rest of the poor people have been left to the lurch. *[English]* Sir, the top 10 per cent of Indian population holds 57 per cent of the total national income, including 22 per cent held by the top one per cent, while the bottom 50 per cent holds just 13 per cent in 2021. It further stated that the top 10 per cent of Indians had about 96 times more income on average than the bottom 50 per cent. Similarly, Oxfam International claims that in 2021 India's top one per cent holds about 77 per cent of the country's wealth. How is this possible without the support of this Government?

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker Sir, I say this because they should not get used to lying. They should not develop a habit of lying, because their habit of lying will become such that they will start lying to everyone. Therefore, they must not lie. They should make a self assessment by looking themselves at the mirror and should not mislead the people. With this request, I want to know from the Finance Minister what concrete steps are being taken to bring India out of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir. About 30 Hon. Members have participated in the discussion on the subject of inflation. I would like to express my gratitude to all those Members that they have expressed their feelings in a great detail. *[English]* Let me, without undermining some of the points that many Members have said, say that I find that it was more a discussion on the political angles of price rise rather than

actual data-driven concerns about price rise. *[Translation]* That is why I am trying to reply in a little diplomatic manner and not intending to hurt any Member. While answering, I do not have any problem with some interruptions in the middle of my speech, wherein some Members may start shouting, “what is this”, “you are giving a political speech”, “You are compelling us to listen to this political speech” etc. *(Interruptions)* I would like to proceed with your permission.

HON. SPEAKER: They might not like it, but I will not allow disruption in the House.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, you are there, so, I am not worrying.

HON. SPEAKER: Do not allow them to create disruption.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, let us please be, in this House, looking at India today compared to what is happening in the rest of the world. Just two or three highlights will tell you where India is compared to the rest of the world. Why should we have to compare with the rest of the world? It is because whether it was in 2008 or before that, we have never seen a calamity of this kind, a pandemic of this kind. Coming out of the pandemic, all of us, each at his own level, were trying to make sure that people in our constituencies, people in our States, people in our areas are given that extra help. I recognise that everybody – Members of Parliament and also State Governments – has played his role. Otherwise, India today will not be where it is compared to the rest of the world. So, I fully credit the people of India for, even against this kind of an adversity, being able to stand up and be recognised as the fastest growing economy. This is not my assessment. Repeatedly, in the last two years, the World Bank, the IMF and many other agencies are periodically giving an estimate of what the global trade is going to be like, what the growth of global

GDP is going to be like and also recasting their assessments about what the world's growth is going to be and by country, what the assessment is going to be. Each time when they have reviewed, when they have downgraded the global growth, when they have reassessed saying that 'no, it is not as we thought six months ago; it is getting worse', in each of these times, India also has been reduced in terms of growth it is expected to achieve, but even after that we remain as the fastest growing economy.

If it was 8.2 per cent, now it may be 7.4 per cent. But even as the entire globe's growth is being reviewed, reassessed, and re-estimated, each time we remain at the highest. So, first of all, it is important for us as Indians to appreciate that our people have gone through this pandemic, Delta wave, Omicron wave, and after that, the way in which the global value chains have hit us. But in spite of that because of the various steps taken by the Government and also by the Reserve Bank of India, we are still at a much better position than most countries. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Madam, please accept the truth. You should acknowledge the facts. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, No.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Please wait a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, all of you have expressed your views. The Hon. Minister has listened to you carefully, no one has interrupted in the middle. I request you to let her finish his speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have instructed everyone.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Please continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Globally, when the situation is really like this and every agency after agency is assessing the situation country-wise, and repeatedly in their assessment India has remained at the highest, I think this House irrespective of the party differences will have to feel proud for this country and its people. They have struggled. State Governments have helped. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): People are dying. Farmers are committing suicide. How can we be proud? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, it is exactly this which I am trying to address. It is not that the country does not have problems. We have to work together to do it and we are trying to do it.

But even as we are trying to do it and even as the global agencies are saying this country is suffering like that, that country is suffering with these problems, a third country is suffering with something else, and India is like this, it is a moment that all of us will have to be true to ourselves. ... (*Interruptions*)

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): Wow!

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Excuse me, Madam. Do you have a problem if I speak? There is nothing about wowing here. I am sorry. I take objection to that, hon. Speaker, Sir. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Why are you getting so excited, Madam?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Because you are there in front of me. Before I complete one sentence... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: You are a highly respected person. Do not get excited. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Oh, thank you, very much. The person who is mercurial in this House tells me not to be excited. I take your point. Mercurial!

Sir, through you, I would like to say I am quite convinced of every input given and I think it is my duty to respond. But even before hearing me if there is mockery, I will take it definitely seriously to reply those who like to mock rather than hear.

So, I would seek your indulgence on that. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Is the Minister threatening us? [*Translation*] Whether we are being threatened? ...(*Interruptions*) Whether you are threatening us? ... (*Interruptions*) You are threatening us. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Will you mock her? ...(*Interruptions*) We will not allow you to mock. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, this is why I want to say this to you when there can be interruptions which are serious and when there is mocking tone coming from there, I reserve my right as a Member of this House to reply to those.

And if that is treated as *dhamki*, what should be the first one which comes treated as mocking or *dhamki*. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, she is not a Member of this House. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Oh! Thank you, otherwise I would not be allowed ... (*Interruptions*) All right, in that House or this House ...

(Interruptions). Dada, you are always very keen on coming up with things which are not so relevant for the conversation. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Wait for a minute, please. I would once again like to request all the Hon. Members not to comment while sitting. Hon. Minister, do not pay heed to their remarks because it is not going in to the records. It is expected from all the Hon. Members that no one will comment while sitting otherwise I will have to point out by name.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am not a Member of this House, but with your permission, I am here because I have to reply. ... *(Interruptions)* So, the senior Member, Shri Sougata Ray should probably take that into his system. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, she is not a Member of this House. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Oh! Thank you. Please recall your glorious days when you were trying to talk to me about onions! ... *(Interruptions)*. Recall those days because you always had that approach towards women in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please continue with your reply. Do not pay attention to any of their remarks.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, the GDP of the US fell 0.9 per cent in the second quarter following a 1.6 per cent decline in the first quarter, marking a start of what they call an unofficial recession. There were some Members who were saying, even Adhir Ji mentioned it, are we going into a stagflation, and will the Finance Minister reply? I will, first of all, start with the

last speaker, but the Leader of the Opposition here. There is no question of India getting into recession or stagflation. Adhir Ji, you please be assured, there is no question of us getting into either stagflation like the US. They may call it technical recession or whatever. ... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I appreciate it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON'BLE SPEAKER: No.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, it is not just me, a Bloomberg survey which was done by an economist, has said that there is zero probably of India slipping into a recession. ... (*Interruptions*) So, it is not just me saying it. There is zero probably of India slipping into a recession, even though there are several major economies which are at substantially risky position of getting into recession.

Again, as we are comparing, I start with comparing things which are happening globally and also position myself in telling about India. Banks and banks' health are equally important for looking at the economy and its situation at any point in time. Compare globally, 4,000 banks in China are reportedly on the verge of going bankrupt. I want that to be taken cognizance of by the hon. Members. In India, the gross Non-Performing Assets, the NPAs, of scheduled commercial banks has hit a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in Financial Year 2022. So, in China, 4,000-odd banks are on the verge of going bankrupt, and our NPAs are improving. ... (*Interruptions*).

Sir, on Government debt, Government debt is one of the important criteria with which you measure the economy. The debt to GDP ratio of many countries are in triple digits, and that includes Japan, Greece, Italy, Bhutan, Singapore, US, Portugal, Spain, France, Sri Lanka and Canada, whereas the

Central Government very consciously has controlled its debt. It is at 56.29 per cent of the GDP at the end of 2021-22 compared to 59.9 per cent pegged in the Revised Estimates for that year.

So, even from the Revised Estimates, we have brought it further down. Even when comparing the general Government debt, which means the Centre and the States, India is in a far better position than its peers according to the IMF data -- it is not me saying it -- with a general debt to GDP ratio of 86.9, which includes both Centre and States.

I just want to draw the attention of Members. So, globally if in each country the situation is pandemic, waves -- second wave, third wave, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the disruption in the supply chain, then I have just given you some few comparisons of India's position.

This morning, we have announced the GST collection for the entire month of July, 2022. In July, 2022, we have garnered the second-highest level ever since the introduction of GST, which is Rs. 1.49 lakh crore. It is the second-highest, and compared to the last year this is one of the highest. You may be aware and I would like to gently remind that in April, 2022 it was Rs. 1.67 lakh crore, which was the highest reached. Now, we have got in July, 2022 the second-highest, which is Rs. 1.49 lakh crore. This is the fifth consecutive month that the GST collections have been above Rs. 1.4 lakh crore. The manufacturing, Purchasing Managers' Index, which has also come out in the morning, I think, and it is at eight-months highest number of 56.4 for July. So, the trend for output and new orders are strengthening, and the economy is really getting even more robust. The PMI rose from 53.9 in June -- I have said that it is 56.4 in July -- which is well above the 50 level, which is what shows it separates that there is no addition if it is below 50, but it has remained at 50 level separating growth from contraction for the thirteenth month in a sequence. So, all of India's eight infrastructure sectors grew in double digits for the second consecutive month in June. The data released for the month of June showed the

core sector grew at 12.7 per cent in June year on year. So, strictly speaking, the Indian economy in every one of these aspects is showing very positive signs.

I remind myself about the line hon. Member, Shrimati Supriya Sule, said: “It is enough, you cannot be going on talking about earlier days. Now, you had enough amount of time.” She also compared very untypically to a married woman who enters the house; she gets to be a part of that house; and you do not anymore say: “We are new whereas what has been there and all that.” But in these kinds of situations where constantly questions are based not so much on facts -- I am not talking about Shrimati Supriya ji alone, but in general -- facts will have to be reminded because of the way in which questions are being asked as though they did not exist earlier. Even now, the Leader of the Congress Party said that: “Please accept that inflation existed before the pandemic also.” Inflation exists, Sir, but at what level is the question. So, I have no difficulty conceding to that point. Inflation exists, but at what level, and that is why if you will pardon me, hon. Member, I would like to go back to recalling that let us not forget for a small paper tantrum -- I am saying ‘small’ today -- of the flood of 2008, the problem continued till 2013 that the Indian economy became a ‘fragile five’ country. But what are we today in -- pandemic, second-wave, Omicron.

Today, we are in the midst of the Russia-Ukraine war, disruption of supply chain. Today, the largest component suppliers in China are still under lockdown in several areas. In spite of that, we have held inflation well within seven per cent or even below. That has got to be recognised. ... (*Interruptions*) Sure, I will speak. So, gently, some bullets have to be remembered.

[Translation]

It is necessary for us to recall. Why do we talk of the U.P.A. rule repeatedly which prevailed over eight years ago? I say that it is not needed to be discussed. We can talk about what we are doing, how well we are doing. Perhaps, we may perform better. But the reason why do we need to talk about that is its intensity. There was no pandemic. There was problem of US Federal.

The U.S.A. had raised the rates. They tried to compress the liquidity. That was the only problem. The effect of that problem was that India got included in the 'Fragile-5' countries. It happened in the year 2013. But, today, we are facing pandemic, its second wave and Omicron variant of virus. There are lockdowns at various places in China. Even now the Global trade has not reached its normal levels, Still, we are trying and managing to keep the inflation levels in the country to seven or below seven percent. That is why, I wanted to quote an example. Retail inflation was more than nine percent. It is seven percent at present. We have always tried to keep it below seven percent. We have also got good results of our efforts twice. But, if they have a look cumulatively at the 28 months period of your rule, then you will see that it was above nine percent for 22 months during U.P.A. rule. It is at seven percent at present and we are trying to bring it down further, and still we are advised that there is too much of inflation and are being asked about our plan of action on it. They kept inflation at more than nine percent level for 22 months. Please, recall those days for a while. It was the time when inflation reached double digit, it exceeded even ten percent. ... *(Interruptions)* The inflation reached double digit figures nine times during the U.P.A. rule. When they ask us to contain inflation below seven percent, they should also recall that period. We will definitely do it. Hon. Modi ji is keeping a close watch on all issues. He will definitely do it. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: The people of the country have elected you for this very purpose. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Danish ji, please ask a relevant question by rising. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE SPEAKER: If any Hon. Member stands up again, he will be pointed out by 'name'.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, please delete his name from the records.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: We were elected for this purpose only. Hon. Modi ji got votes for this very purpose. We got votes and formed a stable Government. That is why we are keeping the inflation to below seven percent. We are performing as per the expectations of the people which drove them to vote for us. That is why we should be remembered.

The people who presided over a Government during whose tenure the inflation remained more than nine percent for 22 months and remained in double digit figures nine times should think before blaming us and shouting in the House that the inflation is at seven percent and to question the Government on the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I can speak even more on inflation but will move ahead keeping in view the paucity of time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Please tell, how shall you bring down inflation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: It has remained less than seven percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: The prices are sky rocketing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan ji just spoke. He was quoting an economist that this is how he has spoken against us.

Sir, it has become their habit. They will quote an odd one or two economists and not any other economists of the world. ...*(Interruptions)* It is their habit. They will keep quoting the comments made by those one or two economists only just as he quoted the name of an economist. He quoted Kaushik Basu ji. ...*(Interruptions)* Raghuram Rajan ji is also included in those economists because he has spoken like that.

So, I thought of bringing to your notice the statement made by Shi Raguram Rajan ji. ...*(Interruptions)* This is also correct. Adhir Ranjan ji himself is an economist. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: We want only to reduce inflation and nothing more. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, Shri Raghuram Rajan said only on this Saturday that the RBI has performed very well. [*English*] RBI has done a good job in increasing the foreign exchange reserves in India insulating India from problems being faced by neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka. [*Translation*] We should not allow the problems being faced by Pakistan and Sri Lanka to appear in our country. RBI has done a good job by preventing those problems. This is the remarks made by him. ... *(Interruptions)* [*English*] Differentiating India from its vulnerable neighbors, Shri Raghuram Rajan further added that New Delhi is less indebted calling it a good sign. [*Translation*] Just now, I read out the Debt to GDP figures including the numbers. Shri Raghuram Rajan ji is mentioning that also and saying that the Government at New Delhi has worked well to keep the Debt under check. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are very senior and respected Member. Rising every second is not correct. This is not right on your part.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, Government of New Delhi meant the Kejariwal Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON'BLE SPEAKER: This is wrong way adopted on your part.

Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, Raghuram Rajan ji has also said this that... *[English]* we have sufficient foreign exchange reserves. RBI has done a good job in increasing the reserves. We are not having problems like Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Our foreign debts are also less. *[Translation]* He spoke so clearly... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Member, this manner is completely wrong....
(Interruptions)

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you do not need to go on what she has spoken. I am looking upon everything

.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, its all right. Adhir Ranjan Ji is expressing great concern on the issue of inflation. What did Raghuram Rajan Ji say on the same matter. *[English]* – at present, there is inflation all over the world. RBI is increasing interest rates which will help in reducing inflation. Most inflation is in food and fuel. As we can see, food inflation is coming down in the world and will decrease in India also.

[Translation]

Sir, this is an assessment of the RBI about which Raghuram Rajan ji had spoken. From this assessment also, we can infer the position of Indian economy and inflation is also getting reduced in India. *[English]* Of course, he did not say about measures that we have taken from the Government, the Ministry of Finance, to reduce the cost of imports on say edible oils and masoor dal and so on. *[Translation]* I would also like to talk about it. *[English]* The Central Government has reduced Customs Duty on crude palm oil from 35.75 per cent to first 8.25 and now to 5.5 per cent only.

So, the Government drastically brought down the duty and made it possible for edible oil prices, in this case palm oil prices, come down for the common people. On sunflower and soybean oil - both of which largely come from Ukraine and Russia, we have also sourced from other countries – the

Customs Duty has been reduced drastically from 38.5 per cent to 5.5. per cent. We have taken out the Customs Duty so that *[Translation]* edible oil gets imported to India at lesser rate. The public may get to buy edible oil at cheap rates.

[English]

Secondly, TRQ (tariff rate and quota restrictions) on nearly 20 lakh metric tonnes of sunflower and soybean oil has been made nil. *[Translation]* You can import as much as you want, you can import it with zero duty, due to which soybean oil and sunflower oil will also come at cheap rates. I am speaking one by one about the steps taken by the Government to reduce prices....

(Interruptions) *[English]* The prices of edible oil have corrected sharply in June compared to May with maximum decline of 18.1 per cent coming in palm oil prices. The other categories like sunflower oil, soybean, groundnut, mustard and vanaspati have also seen correction in the range of one per cent to seven per cent in the last one month. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Madam, ...*(Interruptions)* It doesn't have any effects...*(Interruptions)* We are walking out ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

19.37 hrs

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

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I feel sad that the Congress which alleges that the Government is running away from the issue of Price rise, the Government is not doing debate and is not ready to listen to the reply today. They are running away...*(Interruptions)* They do not even have the strength to listen to the reply...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): It is their character
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN : These people had been shouting
for doing Debate since last one week. ... *(Interruptions)*

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

HON.SPEAKER: You do not have the permission.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: What have I done? They can go
out, should I not say?... *(Interruptions)* Sir, Customs Duty on masoor has been
reduced. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you may kindly speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I urge the Congress party, who has
been demanding discussion upon Price rise for the last one week and even
before that; our Parliamentary Affairs Minister was repeatedly asking them to
wait till I recover from Covid. The discussion is taking place with your
permission now. Adhir Ranjan ji, who wished me speedy recovery, May he also
be in good health. He is not ready to listen to the reply, and has left; the entire
Congress party has left. One issue is raised here and another different issue is
raised outside. When discussion is being held here, they did not stay here, and

after going out they say that the Government is running away from the discussion. They are neither ready to listen, nor in the mood to discuss. The discussion is going on now, double standard of Congress has exposed. We have taken more steps to control inflation, the custom duty on import of red lentils was up to 30 percent. We are providing a lot of support to pulses so that farmers can grow pulses in adequate amount in our country. Earlier there was 30 percent duty on pulses. We need pulses and red lentils, hence the import duty has been reduced from 30 percent to zero. Red lentils can be imported cheaply, it will be easily available. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: You are a Senior Member, please do not interrupt like this.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): ...

(Interruptions) For how long are we going to import edible oils and pulses? ...

(Interruptions) I myself being the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I fully recognise; I understand your question. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: So, I want to know this. ...

(Interruptions) When and in what manner are we going to be self-sufficient so far as edible oils and pulses are concerned ?. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, inflation has to be immediately reduced in this situation today. A lot of efforts have been made for pulses and oilseeds for the last two-three years. We are trying to increase the production of pulses by discussing with every minister in every state. Today we are discussing on the issue of price rise, we should immediately deliver it to the public at cheap rates, that is why we are excluding imports. This does not mean that we are going against the farmer. Whatever incentive is to be given to the farmer,

whatever bonus is to be given for pulses and oilseeds etc., we will definitely give it to them. *[English]* Similarly, customs duty on steel was rationalised significantly. I know that Pinaki ji raised an issue; I will address that. Further, customs duty was exempted on iron and steel scrap, while customs duty was also rationalised on copper scrap. *[Translation]* Why is this important?

MSMEs were facing a lot of difficulty in doing business due to high prices of raw material, we got many representation from them to provide cheaper raw material, the custom duty has been removed from all the products for this purpose. *[English]* Customs duty has also been exempted on coal, met coke, coking coal and ferronickel. *[Translation]* The steel industry also needs all this, the MSME industry also needs it, we reduced the custom duty in those items also for their convenience, further the steel prices are currently declining in the domestic market because its demand has has decreased by one tenth. *[English]* We have reduced the rates of the duties and imposed export duty. Prices of domestic benchmark hot-rolled coil steel at the traders' end have slipped by about eight per cent or about Rs.5,500 per tonne since May 18.

So, top steel makers have also quoted prices for June that are lower by Rs.4,500 or Rs. 5,500 a tonne. *[Translation]* MSMEs will get full benefit of it and the economy will also avail the benefit of the good performance of their business. *[English]*

In textile, Customs Duty on key raw products, like nylon chips, nylon yarn, and caprolactam, has been rationalised. Anti-dumping duty was revoked on key raw materials like viscose fibre, PTA, and other fibres and yarns so that the raw material for textile industry will also be available.

Customs Duty on raw cotton has also been fully exempted. *[Translation]* There is a lot of demand of raw cotton. There is a lot of discussion about it in the textile industry also now-a-days. I can cite many such examples, we have taken several steps to control inflation and to provide raw materials to our people at cheap rates. *[English]* 38 lakh MT of free foodgrains were provided

every month, for eight months, to 75.8 crore beneficiaries. We all know this. We have announced that it will be provided till December 2022.

Hon. Adhir Ranjan Ji asked about an issue but now he has left. If I talk about CPI and WPI, Sir, CPI based inflation in the year 2012-13 was 10.5 percent, in the year 2013-14 it was 9.38 percent. In the year 2014-15 it was 5.83 percent, in the year 2015-16 it was 4.91 percent. Similarly, during our tenure, it reached 6.16 percent in the year 2020-21 but it was nothing compared to 10 percent. It should be remembered that it was 10 percent in the year 2012-13.

I would like to speak about one more list of goods. In the year 2011-12, 2012-13, the total share of food items was 12.34 percent, now in the year 2019-20 it is 7.35 percent. The present rate in every list, be it food group, betel nut, tobacco, fuel light, housing, clothing or footwear, the number of industrial workers in the CPI index is low in all the sectors. Earlier it was in double digits and now it is in single digits. I am saying all this to remind them.

There is one more issue. Hon. Members are repeatedly comparing us with foreign countries. The statement of Shri Raghuram Rajan ji was mentioned that the situation in India is better than Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This is the statement of Shri Raghuram Rajan ji. People often say that look at Bangladesh. It is doing well. Our growth has stopped. ... (*Interruptions*)

I just want to present one or two facts before the House. Today Bangladesh is asking for a loan of 4.5 billion dollars from the IMF because there is a problem in their balance of payments. Those comparing Bangladesh should also remember that Bangladesh is asking for 4.5 billion from IMF. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Do you have any issue?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: When they are getting reply and getting to know that the situation in India is much better, now they are saying that why are you comparing with Bangladesh? People are not here who would compare us with Bangladesh and would say that look at Bangladesh, it's PPT (Purchasing Power Parity) income, per capita income and GDP. I am replying to those as I can see some of them here.....(*Interruptions*) Today Sri Lanka is seeking 3.5 billion dollars from the IMF. Pakistan, as per their own press report, seeking a total amount of 7 billion dollars from IMF. The situation in India is not like this. We have full resources. Therefore, our macroeconomic fundamentals are perfect.

I would like to quote again. Shri Raghuram Rajan ji said while crediting RBI. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not just in debate. It has also been asked in Parliamentary Question.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit in right posture.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I am telling you. This is not the way you sit in the House, please maintain the dignity of the House. You should not sit with crossed legs.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not calling by name because people will not like it. Please take the clue.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, it was said why are you comparing with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka? On this issue, the senior leader of the opposition in the House said that India is also following the path of

Sri Lanka. Was it not said? When I am replying, they are saying why are you comparing with Sri Lanka?

Sir, all countries should be economically sound. I am not wishing bad for any country. Be it Sri Lanka or Bangladesh, all countries should do well. But, we were repeatedly told that our country will also become like Sri Lanka. Shame on the leaders who talk like this...*(Interruptions)* [*English*] What happened? ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: The main concern is with regard to GST on food grains. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I will answer all that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Now, already one hour is over. ...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. Hon. Minister, why did you sit down? I have not allowed him. Everyone will start asking questions like this.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, please allow me to speak. She took my name. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, it is unfortunate that debate and discussions can go on for five hours, but the reply took a little long, a senior member is saying that it has been one hour. Come on, Premachandran Ji. I am

giving reply point-wise. The reply is getting a bit long, but what should I do? So many issues have been raised, should I answer these or not?

Sir, it was also said that if one compare the situation after demonetization, liquidity is still high in the economy. We were told that you did this, you did that. I would like to say that during the lockdown and the announcement of '*Aatmnirbhar Bharat*', many people suggested me to print currency and distribute it to everyone. Do justice to the people. Give money to them. All these were suggested. ... (*Interruptions*) They said "look at the liquidity since demonetization till date? It is because of money was printed". Sorry, they should talk the facts. ... (*Interruptions*) In the year 2018-19, it was 22 percent of the GDP of India. I am talking about the balance sheet of the Central Bank, which gives an understanding as to how much money is printed.

In the year 2019-20, It was 27 percent, in the year 2020-21, it was 29 percent and in the year 2021-22, it is 26 percent. This is in the balance sheet of Reserve Bank. Compare with USA. Let alone Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, compare it with USA. Those who say this, please listen carefully...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. Don't address them.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, in the year 2018-19, the balance sheet of the US Central Bank was 20 percent of GDP. It was 19 percent in the year 2019-20, 35 percent in the year 2020-21 and 37 percent in the year 2021-22, whereas ours is 26 percent.

In Euro zone it was 39 percent in the year 2018-19, 39 percent in the year 2019-20, 42 percent in the year 2020-21 and 67 percent in the year 2021-22. Look at the number of the print currency. This is the balance sheet of their Central Bank,

not ours. We have targeted good plans. We have helped those who were needy. Thus, we have run the economy very responsibly. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, the issue is of price rise....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, Manish Tiwari ji has raised many issues. He has spoken about GST....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Apart from the Hon. Minister, I have not allowed anyone.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, perhaps Manish Tiwari ji is not here right now, but while speaking about GST, he said that GST is a complete failure. I would like to give reply to that. A company (Deloitte) have surveyed on GST and they said that ninety per cent of Indian industry leaders feel that the GST has made doing business easier by bringing down barriers across the country.

He also said that [*English*] the GST regime has also positively affected the prices and cost of goods and services to end-consumers and along with helping companies, they optimised their supply chains. [*Translation*] I am presenting the information getting from the studies conducted on GST.

They were very concerned about the MSME...(*Interruptions*) I have told you about the ways in which we are trying to provide materials at cheap rate. I would [*Translation*] also like to say that Emergency Credit Liquidity Guarantee Scheme was included in MSME at the time of pandemic. [*English*] That has saved. [*Translation*] These are the facts we got from the SBI research. [*English*] 13.5 lakh MSMEs worth Rs. 1.8 lakh crore have been saved from slipping to be NPAs. [*Translation*] We gave them chance to survive by giving

1.8 lakh crore rupees to 13.5 lakh MSMEs. *[English]* This is equivalent to 14 per cent of the outstanding MSME credit being saved from becoming NPA.

[Translation]

Sir, we have data from the RBI also which is useful for them. This matter was raised several times about how you are collecting revenue so much through the cess from petrol-diesel. You have collected so much revenue that nobody knows where all the money went. The States are collecting less revenue. I would like to quote the data of RBI before you.

[English]

The RBI data says total developmental expenditure incurred by the Modi Government between 2014-2022 is Rs. 90.9 lakh crore far higher than what is being alleged by some sections of the Opposition. In contrast, Rs. 49.2 lakh crore was spent between 2004-2014.

20.00 hrs

[Translation]

The development expenditure between 2004 and 2014 was Rs 49.2 lakh crore. *[English]* Whereas during the period from 2014-22, a sum of Rs. 90.9 lakh crore have been spent on development expenditure. *[Translation]* The revenue collected in the form of excise and cess goes for development expenditure. The Central Government does not own the land but the State Governments own it, hence there is development expenditure and all that revenue is used there. They say that the Central Government collected revenue but where did the money go? That money did not go into anyone's pocket. That money has been used for the development of each State...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, they talk about food and fuel. They say that it is true the roads have been constructed for development but the poor people have been neglected. We can say that we have definitely considered the poor people. I am speaking for them. *[English]* Expenditure incurred by our Government includes Rs. 24.85

lakh crore spent on food, fertilizer and fuel and a sum of Rs. 26.3 lakh crore on capital creation. Over the 10 years of UPA, only Rs. 13.9 lakh crore were spent on subsidies. *[Translation]* They keep on saying that you have done this in MNREGA and something in other but you have done nothing for the poor. In your tenure of 10 years, you have only spent 13.9 lakh crore. We have spent 24.85 lakh crore for food, fuel and fertilizer and 26.3 lakh crores for capital creation...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, extreme poverty is an important subject. They say that people have died during pandemic due to extreme poverty but you have not noticed. This is not true. Now the report of UNDP is out in which it is clearly said that *[English]* While soaring food and energy prices can push up to 71 million people around the world into poverty, the UNDP Report said that chances are that those in India, particularly those who are earning 1.9 dollars per day slipping into poverty due to this upturn would be zero. *[Translation]* The number of people below the poverty line in India will be zero. This is the report of UNDP. The report says that *[English]* recent comparative assessment of price and income support measures show that targeted transfers not only helped poorer households cope with price spikes, but also have significantly lowered the impact of carbon emission.

By praising our scheme of subsidy, the UNDP report says that there is no one in India who is below the poverty line. This is not a risk...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, there is an issue related to the IMF also but I am not going to talk about that. *[English]* Specifically on GST, item by item. *[Translation]* Many comments have been made on it and I would like to answer them. *[English]* First, GST on pencil. *[Translation]* The Hon. Member, Kanimozhi has raised a issue that a girl from UP has written a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister on pencil.

[English] First of all, I want to say *[Translation]* that no changes have been made on the pencil. Whatever the girl has written is true but the girl wrote

the letter to the Hon. Prime Minister because she believed that the letter would reach him and he will read it and he will be ready to do whatever needs to be done. She did not intend to write the letter to anyone else. We have to remember that. I would like to say this...*(Interruptions)* I would reply in Tamil...*(Interruptions)* Shrimati Kanimozhi has raised subjects in a passionate manner.

Other than that, I am coming to the topic on imposing GST on pen, pencil sharpener and hospital...*(Interruptions)* Yes, I am going to talk about crematorium too...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

On 3rd November 2021, Hon Prime Minister Modi reduced the Cess on Petrol by Rs. 5 and the Cess on Diesel was reduced by Rs.10. In May 2022, The Union Government reduced the Cess on Petrol by Rs. 9.50 and the Cess on Diesel was reduced by Rs. 7 per litre. On the same day, it was announced by the Union Government that Rs 200 will be given as subsidy to LPG Ujjwala customers. ... *(Interruptions)*

I do not know if you are getting the translation.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: *At the time of election, that's before coming to power in Tamil Nadu, the DMK stated in their election manifesto that they will be reducing the Price of Petrol by Rs 5 per litre. They also promised to reduce Rs 4 per litre for Diesel.*

Sir, I am continuing. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not allowed to talk. I do not want interruptions.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Where is the black money coming from? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: *The State Government also said that they will be giving an amount of Rs 100 as subsidy per LPG cylinder. It was promised to give Rs 100 as subsidy. These two have happened.*

Sir, I cannot shout. I am very weak. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, this is outrageous. Sir, if I am like before, I can shout but I am not able to shout now. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, only your speech will go on record, his/her words are not going on record.

... (*Interruptions*) ...*

[*English*]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, this is purposely trying to disrupt me because I am telling the truth. If they have objection, they should speak afterwards. ... (*Interruptions*) Thank you.

**I should listen to all those things which they said. You should not disturb my speech. This is not good politics. You should listen to what I say. I was listening to what all you said. **

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): You do not know how to talk. You fight. You do not know how to talk. ... (*Interruptions*) You are arrogant.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you. ... (*Interruptions*)

20.09 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy and some other hon. Members left the House.

* Not recorded

** English Translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITARAMAN: What is it, sir? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I intend to talk about the pencils used by the children, milk etc in Tamil. They can hear it from here or from outside. That is a subject in which they make mistakes. They have not fulfilled the promises they have made in the manifesto and despite of that, they are asking questions to us. Once the media asked them why they had not fulfilled the promises they had made in the manifesto as the Central Government has managed to do that two times.

[English]

When the Journalists asked the State Government of Tamil Nadu, that even after the Union Government had reduced the Cess on Petrol twice, why have they not reduced the price? A Minister from Tamil Nadu Government said that no date was mentioned for this price reduction. Just that was stated by them.

[Translation]

Whether we have given any date? *[English]*They said it, that is all. *[Translation]* You have not specified a date as to when you are going to do it but you mentioned it in your manifesto. The Central Government has done it two times but you are not doing it. When the media was asking they said that they had not given a date but we would do it. It was their answer.

They call me arrogant. *[English]*I do not mind if you call me arrogant. *[Translation]* But, I was going to answer the public that it is a crocodile tear. But, maybe that was removed saying it is unparliamentary but that is what happening.

[English]

This is like shedding crocodile tears. Union Government shall reduce but I won't reduce. Whether I have stated any date. This was their statement.

[Translation]

It was also said in their House that we have told them to do something for the diesel but we are not being able to do it. We do not have the number of people who are using diesel. We have promised to reduce the price but we are unable to do it because we do not have the numbers. In the end, nothing was reduced. They did not reduce it even after the Central Government had reduced it two times. Today, they are repeatedly asking us about petrol, diesel and LPG. We asked them to provide a subsidy for LPG but they told us that they will not give it.

[English]

*Before putting the blame on the Union Government you should state as to why you have not fulfilled your promises. We have reduced twice. But you have not reduced at least once. *

[Translation]

I am telling the DMK leaders who are saying that you have imposed GST on milk, we have clearly said that it will be imposed on branded milk. If you buy milk in loose form then there is no GST on it. What has the DMK government done which is making so many comments against the Central Government? I am talking about branded items. Nothing can be done about loose items because there is no tax on them. Suppose you have to buy one kg of curd. ... *(Interruptions)*

HONORABLE SPEAKER: If you want to tell DMK, then do it in their language.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: *They say today that the price of milk has been raised due to increase in GST.

* English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

DMK Government is blaming the Union Government for increasing the GST. GST Council has decided this in which your State's Finance Minister is also a part of it. Modi Ji has not decided this. Five percent GST is to be levied only on branded items. It has come in Newspapers. If you buy one Kg of Curd. Rs 100 is the earlier price. If you put 5 per cent tax on it, then the price will be Rs 105. But you are selling at Rs 120. GST Council only asked you to put 5 percent. But you are putting more.

Lassi should be sold at Rs 27. As a branded item if you add 5 per cent GST, it should be sold at Rs 28.35. But you are selling it at Rs, 30. You are just putting the blame of GST council. Whereas you are indirectly putting the burden on common people.

Butter milk was sold at Rs 10. If you add 5 per cent GST then it should be sold at Rs 10.50. But you are selling at Rs 12. Whether this is justified.? You are just putting the blame on GST Council and selling it at a high price. Union Government is not responsible. Your Finance Minister is also part of this GST Council. This was an unanimous decision. There is nothing new to add burden to poor people. In every branded, if the GST Council stated to add 5 per cent, you add more than 5 per cent to each item. This is wrongdoing. *

Sir, now, I come to the general issues of GST. I want to tell you the recent decision taken in the GST Council on milk or any other item. All these items have been discussed by the GST Council in full detail. I just want to highlight the fact that any GST Council decision is a decision of the GST Council in which all the Ministers are present. *[Translation]* Two-thirds voting is done by them, one-third is done by the Central Government. There was no voting, the decision was taken by consensus. I just want to make this point. ...(Interruptions) State Finance Ministers sit. Those who call this anti-poor, I will explain it in a minute, *[English]* I want to explain it. Levy is only on pre-

* English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

packaged items, labelled goods, and not on loosely sold items. *[Translation]* So it will not have any effect on poor people. Similarly, we are not levying tax even on 25 kg packets, because when the retailer buy from the wholesaler in 25kg quantities keeps it in their grocery shops to sell it to the poor in small quantities. There is no tax on that for wholesalers also. They will bring it from there and keep it in their shop. Therefore, there is no tax on the 25 kg packets even for selling them in loose form. That is why I definitely want to say that whether it is milk in loose form, rice, puffed rice or barley, there is absolutely no tax on all these. Keeping the poor in mind, the GST Council did not impose tax on it. Only if it is pre-packed, has some brand name in it, is a registered brand, there is tax on them only. You bring the goods in a sack, sell it, there is no tax on it. This must be remembered...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: There should not be any discrepancy ...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: There is no discrepancy, and every Minister has sat through it.

[Translation]

Sir, I want to tell you that how did we take this decision. In this, discussion took place at three levels. Officers sit in the Fitment Committee, there are officers from Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Haryana and Gujarat, all the officers sit in it. After that this information comes to the Group of Ministers. Ministers from West Bengal, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Bihar sit in the Group of Ministers, they discuss all these topics and then bring it to the Council.

Then it is brought to the council. The Group of Ministers in the GST Council are again over it, in which the states of Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala all have

participation. When decisions were taken after discussion on so many layers, after Group of Ministers, after another Group of Ministers, when all the ministers sat together and took the decision, not a single voice of 'No' was heard. All agreed that this correction should be done. Therefore there was not a single difference of opinion.

Supriya ji is not here right now. One should call a spade a spade. Who refused and who said what, no one said anything. We came forward at every level and took decisions to reduce leakages. But in the name of reducing leakages, no burden was imposed on the poor, they will get the same as before. We imposed taxes only on branded items.

Sir, these people talk about the crematorium and also ask sarcastically, will you tax the dead body? I feel very sad for the person making such statements. Their ministers are also sitting in the GST Council. I am not the only one to take decisions. The decisions taken in the GST Council are not the decisions of the Central Government, they are the decisions of the GST Council. When it comes to criticism, then tell the Central Government and Modi ji that they have done this in GST, they have done that in GST. Ministers from all the Provinces and all the States sit in the GST Council, all the people sit together and take decisions. That is their decision too. They should also go and say in their State that I was also sitting in it, I have also given my consent in this. Why don't they speak? Give a consensus internally and go outside and put it on the Central Government. This is wrong. Internally, you got 'yes' done at two-three levels and today you are turning back as if Modi ji had taken this decision. All of you are sitting in the GST Council. That is why I think that these are misconceptions on this subject, which must be removed. There is no GST on crematorium, funeral, mortuary, burial, or mortuary services.

There is no GST on services like crematorium, funeral, mortuary, burial etc. Still, after debating, they will say that will you impose tax on the dead body also? How will it happen by saying such a thing? They are fully exempted from GST.

All right...*(Interruptions)* Wait, why are you in a hurry? ... *(Interruptions)* Regarding the crematorium, I want to make the point that the construction that may be carried out for a crematorium, you want to build a new crematorium, you are bringing electrical equipments, the items which increase the standard rate, We impose it on them because the tax on their raw material is increasing. If tax is not imposed on it, the manufacturer will suffer loss and cannot take tax credit.

Therefore, when you bring equipment for the crematorium, there is tax on it because the manufacturer has already paid the tax, otherwise they will incur loss. Therefore, it should be understood that by counterattacking on this, by evasively talking cruelly, by saying like this, will you tax the dead body, I would like to say that your ministers are also sitting there. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, you sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, they say on rice, they say on milk and they say on lassi, that are we imposing tax? ...*(Interruptions)* No, we have not imposed tax on these things. Buy them loose, there is no tax on them. ... *(Interruptions)* This is definitely a topic worth listening to, so please listen. ... *(Interruptions)* Has the GST Council this time imposed tax on milk, lassi, rice, puffed potatoes, which is called puffed rice or chivda? We are saying that buy it

loose, there is no tax on it. If pre-packed, branded, then there is tax.
 ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, what was the situation before GST came? I want to draw attention to this once. I am speaking item-wise. Not many members are here right now. Before the introduction of GST, there was 1.5% VAT on pulses in Punjab, there was a purchase tax on wheat, which was 5.5 percent, there was a 5.5 percent tax on rice, there was a 6.25 percent tax on flour, there was a 6.25 percent tax on *Suji-Rawa*, there was a 1.5 percent tax on *Besan* and there was a 6.25 percent tax on *Paneer*. This was the pre-GST VAT situation in Punjab and now they talk about...*(Interruptions)*

In Tamil Nadu, there was five percent tax on pulses, flour-*Maida*, *Sooji*, gram flour and *Paneer*. In West Bengal also there was five percent tax on *Paneer*. ... *(Interruptions)*

That's why inflation is coming down, all these are pre-GST. ... *(Interruptions)*
 They should listen it a little! ... *(Interruptions)* In Telangana, five percent on pulses and wheat... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not talk among yourselves.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, in Telangana there was five percent VAT on pulses, wheat, rice, flour-*Maida*, *Sooji*, gram flour and *Paneer*. There was five percent VAT on these. All these States should think about it now what the status of the same is. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, in Andhra Pradesh also, there was five percent pre-GST VAT on every item, be it pulses, wheat, rice or flour-*Maida*. In Maharashtra, there was six percent VAT on *Paneer*. ... *(Interruptions)* In Jammu and Kashmir, from where

Hon. Masoodi Saheb hails, there was 14.5 percent VAT on curd. ...
(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: She is giving VAT figures of all the States. ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: This was the situation in every State. ... (*Interruptions*) A lot of concern was expressed mainly over hospital beds. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please, I have given you opportunity several times. I am warning you for the last time. The House is governed by rules.

... (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Sir, you want to give ruling. Thank you very much, I will leave from here.

18.29 hours

At this stage, Kunwar Danish Ali, left the House.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, they spoke about hospital beds. It was said that GST was imposed on ICU and hospital beds.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to clarify that the GST Council has imposed five percent tax on hospital room rent, not on ICU beds, that too if the rent is more than Rs 5,000 per day. There is no GST on emergency services and ICU either. Don't spread such misconceptions.

Sir, the speech has become a bit long but still I would like to speak on GST compensation. The compensation cess is extended till the year 2026. All

the cess that has to be paid to the States has been paid by May, 2022. This time we have also made a budgetary provision of Rs 1.2 lakh crore for compensation and out of that, Rs 87 thousand crore has already been paid to the States.

We are paying interest of Rs 14 thousand crore of back to back loan taken in the year 2020. GST compensation for only one month i.e. June is pending. We have not cleared it yet because the AGs of many States have not cleared it. We have not received the certificate yet. When we receive the certificate, we will clear it, so the Members from Tamil Nadu should not speak, particularly on GST that this much amount is due and we should give it.

[English] *GST payment to be released for Tamil Nadu is due only for June 2022. That too only Rs 2493 Crore. There is nothing due other than this amount. * *[Translation]* The Compensation due for June month will be paid after getting the certificate from AG. Sir, on many other issues like ATM, it was said that tax is being imposed on withdrawing their own money. It is not so at all. One can withdraw money five times in a month from their bank's ATM and five times in a month from another bank's ATM. One can withdraw money total of ten times in a month without any restriction. So they should not spread any misconception. I definitely would like to speak about oil bonds because Pinaki ji corrected Nishikant ji and said that he was not right. I would like to place facts on record. Oil bonds were not right in principle, because people were told that they are providing subsidy, hence the prices of oil will decrease. But subsidy was not provided. The burden of bonds was put on oil marketing companies as loan. At that time it seemed that the oil marketing companies were giving them the money which the Government was supposed to give through the budget. That money is not their subsidy, now Modi ji is paying that. The so called subsidy now has become Modi ji's subsidy because those are the bonds of the

* English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

oil marketing companies and we are paying the principal and interest amount not them. They are no more in the Government. The number of oil bonds issued, means the amount of loan taken, were 17262 in the year 2005-06, 24121 in the year 2006-07, around 20 thousand in 2007-08, around 75 thousand in 2008-09, around 10 thousand in 2009-10. Overall a total burden of 848186 was due over the oil marketing companies. Its repayment started from the year 2014 after Modi ji came in regime. Till now, only principal repayment of oil bonds was Rs. 3500 crore in the year 2014-15, meanwhile the principal was not paid, that is why Pinaki ji is under the misconception that nothing was paid.

In the year 2021-22, a principal amount of Rs 38,723 crore is being paid. We are paying it. In the year 2022-23, no principal payment is required to be made, only interest amount will be paid. We have to pay Rs 15,586 crore next year. We have to pay Rs 39,000 crore in the year 2024-25. We have to pay Rs 36,913 crore in the year 2025-26. In total, Modi Government is paying Rs 92,200 crore over the oil bonds. Pinaki Mishra ji, should correct himself. Now, how much will be the interest amount? This was only the principal amount. Rs 10,255 crore from the year 2014-15, Rs 9,989 crore, the total amount till this year is Rs 79,958 crore have been paid as interest amount only. Whose loan is it? At that time, they said they are providing subsidy. Modi ji is making payment of it.

Is there not a burden of oil bonds? Had it not been there, this money would have remained with us to utilize it for the poor. This is principally wrong. Putting the burden of the oil bonds on future generation, they took the credit of it. We paid subsidy for their oil price. This is wrong. This is totally wrong.

Now, I would like to move towards the end part of my speech. I will not take much time. I have definitely tried to reply all the questions. Only one issue has been raised again and again against us and that's why I would like to

mention this. They say that Modi Government works for Ambani and Adani. They in fact do this. I would like to give just two examples.

Sir, you are from Rajasthan. Hon. Ashok Gehlot ji, sorry, I am taking his name, he is the CM of Rajasthan, took a decision in his cabinet of allotting 2,397 Hectares of land to Adani Renewable Energy Holding for solar project in Rajasthan this year on December 15, 2021 and on June 11, 2022 and it is not wrong. The Rajasthan Government, which is a Congress Government, allotted land to Adani ji for solar power project. We did not get into the trap of Adani and Ambani. You are calling Adani ji and allotting land. Secondly, on December 15, 2021, an MoU was also signed with Adani ji's Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan Limited. It is in a joint partnership for 1500 MW capacity solar park. All this is very important. Why are these two so important? They are important because a day before this agreement, the Hon. Member of Lok Sabha, the former president of the Congress Party, not the current one, said in Jaipur that Modi Government favours Adani and Ambani. He said it in a public meeting. Next day, Gehlot ji is signed a agreement with Adani Saheb. Their own Chief Minister is favouring Ambani and Adani. The Hon. former President of Congress Party made a statement in Jaipur, but not caring about it, two agreements were signed with Adani the next day. The Congress people repeatedly allege that the Government is favouring Ambani and Adani. They called him and allotted land. Similarly the DMK, which is in alliance with Congress.

You are doing everything to Adani and Ambani. In Tamil Nadu, 59 MoUs worth 35000 Crore have been signed with Adani for setting a data centre.

* English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Translation]

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has signed 59 MoUs with Adani Group for setting up a data center worth Rs 35,208 crore.

In Tamil Nadu, Congress and DMK parties are running the Government. These parties are also doing it there, but they keep mentioning about us repeatedly. Another Government is in Tamil Nadu. Second phase of data center is also being built by Adani Group. When the Congressmen accuse us repeatedly about Adani group, they should keep in mind these examples also. Sir, I will not take much time, you have already allowed me a lot of time. Regarding electricity bills, the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself has said that we should get rid of this freebee culture. Those who are accusing the Central Government of not giving money to the States, should clear the dues of the Power Generating Companies (Gencos) and Discoms (Distribution Companies), otherwise how will these companies generate power and supply to the public? People need electricity. Could the State Governments afford to stop its supply? The Gencos have an outstanding bill of Rs. 20,990 crore against Tamil Nadu, Rs. 7,388 crore against Telangana, Rs. 5,043 crore against Rajasthan, Rs. 3,698 crore against Jharkhand, Rs. 11,935 crore against Telangana, Rs. 3,677 crore against Tamil Nadu, Rs. 2,612 crore against Punjab, Rs. 1,791 crore against Rajasthan and Rs. 1,278 crore against Kerala. The States have to be clear the dues of Discoms and Gencos.

Similarly, they are also provided with subsidies. They have not even given back that subsidy. As receivables, Discoms owe Rs. 9,000 crore from Punjab Government, Rs. 15,597 crore from Government of Rajasthan and Rs. 2,699 crore from Government of Chhattisgarh. Who will pay all these dues?

If we talk about economy of our country, despite the global and national crises happening within the country, we are the fastest growing economy. I repeatedly ask those who talk about GST with folded hands and try to explain

that the GST Council is a constitutionally mandated body in which all the States and the Central Government have representation.

Hon. Modi ji does not take decisions in that Council. All the Hon. Finance Ministers of the States sit together and take decisions. They should tell this truth in their States but they do not. They talk about one thing inside but talk about something else outside. I have a humble request for this also.

Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 11 am on Tuesday, 02 August 2022.

20.44 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Tuesday, August 2, 2022/Sravana 11, 1944 (Saka).*

INTERNET

The Original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

<https://sansad.in/ls>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

©2022 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition)
