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Agrahayana 11, 1943 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 01 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 02, 2021/Agrahayana 11, 1943 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice of adjournment regarding Mullaperiyar Dam. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: After Question Hour.

Q. No. 61 – Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma

... (*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs

At this stage, Shri B.B. Patil, Shrimati Kavitha Malothu, and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

11.02 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No.61. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma.

(Q. 61)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Hon.Speaker , the answer given by the Hon. Minister is sufficient, but still I want to know some things from the hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

I want to know about the progress made in setting up of Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Authority, a proposed special purpose company to implement the Ken-Betwa River linking Project. ... *(Interruptions)* It will be good if the hon. Minister provide the details of this. ... *(Interruptions)* A steering committee is to be constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Department for policy decisions related to Ken-Betwa river project. ... *(Interruptions)* Has that been done? Have the funding arrangements for the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project been made? I would like to have the details in this regard from the Hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* Has the inspection of the Center Water Council team to finalize the Ken-Betwa link project been completed? ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to know about this too from the Hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member that he has welcomed the decision taken under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister regarding the Ken-Betwa river linking project and thanked therefor. . . . (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has asked four-five questions together. . . . (*Interruptions*) I would like to give the combined reply for all the questions. . . . (*Interruptions*) Before I say anything, I would like to congratulate and express my gratitude to the Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. . . . (*Interruptions*) Ken-Betwa River linking project is not just a programme to interlink two rivers. . . . (*Interruptions*) The issue that we should transfer water from surplus basins to deficit basins was being discussed in the country since the time of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. . . . (*Interruptions*) This is the beginning of a new era in that direction and an agreement has been signed between the Union Government and the Governments of both the States in the august presence of Hon. Prime Minister on 22nd March, 2021. . . . (*Interruptions*) PIB has given approval for this. . . . (*Interruptions*) After getting the investment clearance, it is now under consideration of the Cabinet. . . . (*Interruptions*) Once approved by the Cabinet, action will be taken on all the issues raised by the hon. Member. . . . (*Interruptions*) Nevertheless, I am confident that with this, a new era has started in the country. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know one more thing from the Honorable Minister that in my Parliamentary Constituency, Panna district also comes under the Ken-Betwa link project. . . . (*Interruptions*) The Tiger Reserve has also been affected due to this. . . . (*Interruptions*) In this House, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that at

what extent, irrigation facility will be made available in Panna district under this multi-purpose project.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker , I can tell about the irrigation facilities which will be made available on-the-whole in Madhya Pradesh, but as the honorable Member wanted to know especially about Panna district, I will inform the Member about it in writing in detail....
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, although this question is related to Ken-Betwa, but he has given a detailed explanation in the reply given by the Hon. Minister.... (*Interruptions*) I want to say one thing to the Honorable Minister that there is a Kosi-Mechi link scheme in Bihar. ... (*Interruptions*) That scheme has also been approved and the Central Government has decided that the projects with irrigation potential of more than two lakh hectares will be declared as 'National Project'. I want to know from the Hon. Minister that whether the Government proposes to declare the Kosi-Mechi Link project as a 'National Project' because it will provide irrigation to two lakh seventeen thousand hectares. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Chairperson, the hon. Member has sought information regarding Kosi-Mechi link. ... (*Interruptions*) DPR and PFR of Kosi-Mechi link project has been prepared. ... (*Interruptions*) Certainly, there is a provision that all projects with an irrigation potential of more than two lakh hectares may be recognized as 'National Projects', but at the same time there are other various criteria and if a project fulfills all these criteria, it can definitely be considered.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri R.K. Singh Patel. Please raise your issue regarding the question only.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.K.SINGH PATEL: Hon. Speaker .Sir, I would like to ask question related to the said question itself....(*Interruptions*)

Sir, through you I would like to say to the Hon. Minister that in the Ken-Betwa Link River Linking Project, you have included Banda, Mahoba, Jhansi, Lalitpur districts of Uttar Pradesh and I would like to congratulate you for that. But, Chitrakoot district is not included in it... (*Interruptions*) Chitrakoot is the shrine of Lord Rama.... (*Interruptions*) Please create a link by linking Baghin and Paisuni with Ken river from there. (*Interruptions*) Paisuni river originatges from Sati Anusuyya ashram.... (*Interruptions*) It originates from Madhya Pradesh.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to know through you whether there will be any proposal to make a link canal connecting Mandakini and Baghin river by linking this river in Ken-Betwa project?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, the hon. member has asked whether there is any such proposal. We all know that water is a state subject and the State have the right where and how to use their water resources..... (*Interruptions*) If the concerned State Government makes any proposal about it and wants to use its share of water at its own expense by making some other link, they are free to do so...(*Interruptions*) Such proposals from the State Governments are not under consideration with the Central Government and the Central Government has not received any such proposals..... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER : Question Number 62 – Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande.

... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 62)

SHRI SADASHIV KISAN LOKHANDE: Sir, Shirdi Devasthan is under my Parliamentary Constituency *(Interruptions)* There are 36,000 people residing in Shirdi and every day, one lakh devotees from all over the country and abroad come and visit Shirdi *(Interruptions)* Sometimes even five to ten lakh people come to Shirdi.... *(Interruptions)* After Tirupati, the place which is visited by the highest number of devotees in the country is Shirdi.... *(Interruptions)* I propose to make Shirdi Devasthan a 'Smart City'.... *(Interruptions)* Earlier, Hon. Naidu Saheb was the Minister of this place and now it is Puri sahib.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, there is a temple of Saibaba in Shirdi. Because of this temple in Shirdi, there is also an airport. There is a National Highway *(Interruptions)* Presently, the work of Surat-Hyderabad Highway is going on in full swing. Samruddhi highway of Maharashtra passes through there. The poor people who are working in IT Park will get employment by developing the smart city here. There will be provision of housing for the educated unemployed people.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, people from all over the country and abroad want to settle in Shirdi. They want to live in a smart city.... *(Interruptions)* I have a suggestion that Shirdi should be given the status of smart city.... *(Interruptions)* You have laid down the condition of population of one lakh people for smart city. The population of Shirdi municipality is 36 lakh.... *(Interruptions)* Every day one to 1.5 lakh devotees come there. I would like to ask whether you will make any special proposal to give smart city status to Shirdi ? This is my first question to make Shirdi a smart city.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, with regard to the question of the hon. Member about Shirdi being declared as a Smart City, I would like to say that the Smart Cities Mission was conceived post 2014 and was implemented from June 2015 onwards.(*Interruptions*) The selection of Smart Cities as well as the number of Smart Cities in a particular State was to be done based on a formula, which takes into account the urban population and the number of statutory towns.(*Interruptions*) According to this formula, Maharashtra was allocated eight Smart Cities. The selection of all 100 Smart Cities have already been done between 2016 and 2018.(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the hon. Member is absolutely right that the holy city of Shirdi has a population of 36,000. But that number is according to the 2011 Census and today the population of Shirdi would be closer to 50,000.(*Interruptions*) The more important aspect is that because it is a holy city, a large number of devotees and pilgrims come there daily for *darshan* and seeking blessings.(*Interruptions*)

I would like to say that the Smart Cities Mission is not the only way the infrastructure of a city can be attended to.(*Interruptions*) We would be very happy whenever Smart Cities Mission-II comes up and if the State Government of Maharashtra at that point of time would recommend Shirdi to be included in it. But this scheme of Smart Cities is closed once the 100 Smart Cities were selected.....(*Interruptions*)

However, Shirdi has done very well as a beneficiary of other programmatic interventions of the Central Government, namely, AMRUT,

Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc. The city has always been a very clean city. It has also got the ODF++ status.*(Interruptions)* I think all the other urban interventions of the Central Government are available for the city.*(Interruptions)*

Sir, as I mentioned, the proposal for the inclusion of a city in the Smart Cities Mission comes from the people and the State Government....*(Interruptions)* It is a citizens' anchored proposal. Regrettably, Shirdi was never recommended by the Maharashtra Government and as it was not included, the question of its being allotted Smart City status did not arise.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SADASHIV KISAN LOKHANDE: Sir, I have another question. Eight smart cities have been developed in Maharashtra. There are eight smart cities including all the metro cities. What is the current status of those smart cities? I suggest that Shirdi should also be given the status of smart city....*(Interruptions)* Only those cities which have smart city system have benefited.... *(Interruptions)* If you go outside metro city then there is no benefit...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know the status of these eight metro cities, the demand of the local people in these metro cities and the action taken on those demands.

[English]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I would be very happy to sit with the hon. Member and review the status of each of the eight Smart Cities of Maharashtra.*(Interruptions)* The Smart City scheme is designed to take up projects, the proposal of which comes from the people. Those projects are identified at the initial stage of the selection.*(Interruptions)*

Now, those smart city projects were originally placed there and different smart cities are at a very advanced stage of implementation. The nerve centre of a smart city is the Integrated Command and Control Centre. I think, we have about 76 Integrated Command and Control Centres already operational. ...
(*Interruptions*)

In so far as eight cities are concerned, I can give a very rough overview of these cities - Aurangabad, Kalyan-Dombivli, Nagpur, Nasik, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, Solapur and Thane. Some of them were allotted in round one, some in round two and Pimpri-Chinchwad in round three. In respect of ranks, some of them are doing quite well. For instance, Pune is at rank number 17. The total amount of cost has been placed at Rs. 995 crore. In terms of percentage of work done, tenders awarded and at work order stage, the total cost is about Rs. 21,900 crore. ... (*Interruptions*)

I will be very happy to sit with the hon. Member and go over the details of each of the smart cities and the progress for each of the projects in those smart cities. In fact, we are monitoring these on a real time basis from the Urban Observatory in my Ministry. I will be very happy to invite the hon. Member there and go through each of these. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HIBI EDEN: Sir, Cochin was selected as one of the first 20 cities under the Smart City Project. When the ADB area is defined in the smart city's design, the bureaucrats decide which are the wards to be taken in the Cochin Municipal Corporation and which area is to be developed.

Unfortunately, none of the Members of Parliament or Members of Legislative Assembly has been taken into confidence while the ADB area is defined. They are neither included in the Smart City Committees. Actually, there are a lot of implementation procedures and at ground level, when something has to happen, the local people's representatives have to be involved

in the process. None of the MPs is in the major monitoring committees of the smart city where the implementation is at a very slow pace.

Cochin was in the first five smart cities, but unfortunately, there are many hurdles and hassles in the implementation of these projects. Whenever there is local resistance, MPs and MLAs can play a major role. Why does the hon. Minister not include the Members of Parliament in the monitoring committee?
... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, it stands to reason that the representatives of the people must be included in some mechanism where their voice is heard and they can bring the requirements of their constituencies to the attention. ... (*Interruptions*)

What we have typically done is that for every smart city, a special purpose vehicle has been established. That special purpose vehicle ideally should be at an arm's length from the State Administration so that there is no duplication. ... (*Interruptions*)

In so far as consultation is concerned, if any particular smart city is not in a mood to consult or not consulting the hon. Members, that can be rectified. All smart cities have an advisory forum and the MPs are members of that advisory forum. ... (*Interruptions*) There is an advisory forum as against a monitoring forum. They are members. If there are some in which they are not, we will be happy to look into it. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would advise the hon. Members to bring it to my attention. I would be very happy to call the Manager of the special purpose vehicle of the smarty city and ensure that it is rectified. ... (*Interruptions*)

Thank you.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I think that the Minister has misunderstood or misconstrued the Question. If you may note, the question is : What is to be done to develop Shirdi as a modern/smart city? Now, the question is whether we will develop it as a modern city. Smart city has a particular connotation as far as your Ministry is concerned.

The question is whether you are really going to do something to modernise Shirdi. Now, if I may mention to the hon. Minister, earlier under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, there was a special provision for development of pilgrimage places and tourist places, like Puri, Haridwar, and Nanded in Maharashtra. ... (*Interruptions*)

May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to renew such a project and have a special project for development of holy cities and tourist interest cities instead of focussing on smart cities. ... (*Interruptions*) The Smart Cities programme as a whole has failed. If I may humbly submit, nobody wants smart city according to your connotation. We want modern cities. I would like to know whether you are going to take steps to make Shirdi a modern city. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Both the body of the answer and the response to the supplementary must be seen in the context. We have said in the body of the answer that all the Central schemes and all the programmatic interventions, like AMRUT Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, they are all available there. And any other help that can come from the Central Government is being given. ... (*Interruptions*) In fact, Shirdi has done very well. Shirdi is processing 11 tonnes of waste every day. Shirdi has also done well in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in terms of the demands made. ... (*Interruptions*) Equally in AMRUT, projects worth Rs. 37

crore have been approved. Even though Shirdi had a population of 36,000 in the 2011 Census, it was put under AMRUT as a holy city. ... (*Interruptions*)

All the steps that we can take for holy cities are being taken. If additional steps are needed, we are happy to consider them. But I cannot agree with the characterization of the smart cities. I would be very happy to sit with the hon. Member. It is one of the fastest implemented programmes. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like the hon. Member to visit Nerve Centre, Integrated Command and Control Centre, where some of the simplistic perceptions can be corrected. It is a highly successful scheme but it is an area-based development scheme. It is not that the entire city can become a smart city. ... (*Interruptions*) There are projects taken up. Those projects are identified at the point of application and then implemented within a five-year period. I would be very happy to sit with the hon. Member and correct his impression. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON.SPEAKER: I would like to ask questions to several hon. Members regarding this. I request the hon. Minister to tell his vision by discussing with the hon. Members from the Lok Sabha constituencies where smart cities are being developed. Thank you.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I would be very happy to correct his characterization of smart cities. I can meet the hon. Member anytime to have a serious discussion on what both the brownfield and the greenfield projects are about. I have an open invitation to the hon. Member to come and sit with me anytime to deal with this. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 63, Shri Dharmendra Kashyap

Shrimati Sangeeta Azad.

... *(Interruptions)*

(Q. 63)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD : Hon. Speaker Sir, the construction of National Highway No. 233 in my Lok Sabha constituency Lalganj Azamgarh has been going on for the last four years, but it has not been completed yet. This highway connects the highway to Market and the road from Nasirpur turn to Bhira turn in Lalganj and from Dev Gaon market to Baraubaba turn has destroyed. ... *(Interruptions)* There are too many potholes in it. Last time I spoke to the officials but the officials just gave me assurance and the road has not been repaired yet.

The responsibility of repairing the market highway adjacent to this highway has been given to NHAI. I request the Honorable Minister to direct the officers on your behalf and the Ministry so that they may at least complete the repair work as soon as possible and the people can commute without any difficulty. Thank you.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Honorable Speaker Sir, the honorable member has a question regarding the maintenance of the highway about which he has discussed. It will be properly repaired by taking it in the annual plan. I promise you that. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE : This question of mine is not directly related to the main Question. But I am sure the Minister will know about this. The problem is this.

In my constituency, at Dankuni, the work related to Shaktigarh Bypass is going on. After evening, it is impossible for the general public to travel on this stretch due to tremendous traffic jam. Do you have any plan for extension of national highway in such stretches? Please extend the highway at the Dankuni spot itself. It has become very crowded. Will you kindly inform us whether over bridge or under bridge can be constructed or not?

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker , the work regarding the question which has been mentioned by the hon. member is in progress. It will be completed by December. Regarding the suggestions he has given. I would request him to write a letter and discuss with me the things he exactly wants about the project.... *(Interruptions)* I will help you by consulting with the officers and finding a way out in this regard.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Speaker Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways and congratulate him for the way he has worked for the progress of roads in this country under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi..... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, this ministry is working for the development of roads in this country through two important projects 'Gati Shakti' and 'Bharatmala'. Through you I want to know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the detailed action plan for 'Gati Shakti' and 'Bharatmala' projects in the coming times and on which important projects the ministry is working?

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker , 'Bharatmala' Project had come before 'Gati Shakti' scheme. At present, about 20 thousand kilometers of work is going on under it. Green Express Highway is also being built under the same. Be it Delhi-Mumbai Highway or Delhi-Katra Highway, about 24 to 26 such highways are being built. As far as 'Bharatmala' scheme is concerned, it was for 65 thousand kilometers in Phase-1 and Phase-2. Work on this plan is going on in full swing.... *(Interruptions)* In the coming year, we are going to start the work for its phase-II once again, which will definitely change the picture of the national highways of the country. As far as the 'Gati Shakti' scheme is concerned, we have got approval for that. As per the approval for the 'Gati Shakti' scheme, the National Highway which was 1 lakh 47 thousand km in length till now is proposed to be increased to two lakh km. Under the 'Gati Shakti' scheme, we have got the approval to build 2 lakh km of highways... *(Interruptions)* Along with this 65 thousand kilometer length of highways have been approved to be constructed in two phases under the 'Bharatmala' scheme. On the basis of this, we will give recognition to the new National Highways by preparing some criteria. On the basis of the criteria the backward areas, important areas from tourism point of view and ports and airports from the point of view of logistics in 'Gati Shakti' scheme have been added especially to bring down our logistics costs. Simultaneously, in both these schemes, we have formed a company and we are building a logistics park. We have started work on about 35 logistics parks. In the coming times logistics parks worth two lakh crore rupees will also be built next to this road. This will greatly benefit the country's economy and the logistics cost will also be reduced....*(Interruptions)*.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I am happy to inform that work is certainly being done in our developing states, but the work is also in progress in areas like North-East, Uttarakhand and Kashmir. Under 'Bharatmala' and 'Gati Shakti' scheme. Today

I am happy to inform that in North-East only we are working on schemes worth Rs 2 lakh crores...*(Interruptions)*

Tunnels are being built in Kashmir on schemes worth one lakh crore rupees and work is being done on them on a large scale. Of course, I want to at least assure the House that after the implementation of these two plans, India's road infrastructure will be at par with European standards. Not only this, we will try to bring it up to the American standard.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Speaker , I am grateful to the Hon. Minister that he has talked about giving 60 thousand km more in 'Bharatmala Yojna' and 1 lakh km more in 'Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti Yojana', but there is a problem that a road from Patna to Areraj has been covered in the Buddha circuit of the Bharatmala project and after 25 km, Bettia is located which is the district town of West Champaran and there at Nandangarh Lord Buddha became Lord Buddha from Siddhartha, but that area has not been covered. I met the honorable minister and he added it under the scheme on my request. So, through you I thank you for this and also thank you for connecting Kushinagar to Bettiah by new national highway 727A, but somewhere mistakes are committed by the officers, so I would like to ask the honorable minister whether MPs will have a role in the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti Project and in the Bharatmala project? He himself had corrected a mistake. He did the work of ensuring four laning of Buddha Circuit and Bettiah, in the same way, is there any such plan for participation of MPs in other works?

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker, especially the scheme of Buddha Circuit is a very important scheme. Under the plan of Buddha Circuit, about 20 thousand crore rupees are being built. The plan includes road from Bodh Gaya to Rajgir-Nalanda and Biharsharif, which is Old NH 82. It is a 92 km long plan with a cost of Rs 2200 crore and 4 laning work is

going on. The second one is from Bihar Sharif to Bakhtiyarpur which is Old NH31, which is 30 kms long and has a plan of Rs 1400 crore, of which 4 laning work is going on. Bakhtiyarpur to Patna, which is a 50 km long road. This plan costs Rs 574 crore, on which also the work of 4 lane has been completed. Patna to Vaishali-Rampur-Khajuria is a 120 km long plan. It is a plan of Rs 2100 crore, on which DPR is being prepared. Rampur, Khajuria, UP-Bihar Border, Kushinagar N.H. 27 plan is there which is 157 kms long. This costs Rs 1200 crore and its 4 lane work has been completed.

I am happy to share that Buddhist circuit attracts people from South East Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and our Government has taken a very good decision and made an International airport in Kushinagar and Varanasi. We have in this plan the place where Lord Gautam Buddha was born, where he got inspiration from Buddhism, where he did spiritual sadhna and the cities that were associated with the life of Lord Gautam Buddha, where he attained Mahaparinirvana. We have connected all those cities and with this I am happy that in this we have covered Ram Janaki Marg up to Nepal, the birth place of Mother Sita. We have also covered the Ramjanaki route, so I will say with confidence that the suggestions given by the honorable members in the plan of the Buddhist circuit of Lord Gautam Buddha have been included in the DPR. After this, in both Bharatmala and Gatishakti scheme, in particular, the demands made by the Members of Parliament from different states will get the highest priority and along with that the State Government's recommendation, Member of Parliament's recommendation and at the same time, our logistics, tourism and backward areas are being decided, on the basis of them there will be 100% solution for almost all the members, I believe so. It will definitely build tunnels, roads, bridges and express highways in all the backward areas and it will bring huge results.

Speaker, Sir, I want to tell you that I went on the Mumbai-Delhi highway near your area. Highway work is going on in full swing. As an experiment, the car was driven at a speed of 180 km and it was tested under such condition. It's a very nice highway. The highway has been built at par with foreign countries in your area.

Now after this, we can reach Delhi to Dehradun within two hours, Delhi to Jaipur within two hours, Delhi to Haridwar within two hours, Delhi to Katra in six hours, Delhi to Amritsar in four hours, Delhi to Mumbai in 12 hours and Delhi to Srinagar in eight. I am sure that we will get all these roads completed within two years.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Honorable Members, this is a question related to Uttar Pradesh and you all want to ask, so we will get it discussed next time.

Question No. 64, Shri Sridhar Kotagiri.

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

(Q. 64)

SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI : Sir, COVID-19 has been a serious problem for the travel industry. ... (*Interruptions*) I am very thankful to the Government for having air bubbles connectivity between countries. ... (*Interruptions*) But I would like to alert the Government to be sensitive now to revive our tourism industry. ... (*Interruptions*) I am hoping that the Government can set a first-mover advantage for our country in opening as many connections' world-over as possible. ... (*Interruptions*) For the last two years, travel-hungry people have been sitting at home. ... (*Interruptions*) They are waiting to get out and visit different countries. ... (*Interruptions*) So, I hope that our country is fully prepared for it. ... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, there are several first-time travellers, as they age, coming outside their country every year. ... (*Interruptions*) For the last two years, none of them has been able to visit or travel abroad. ... (*Interruptions*) So, they are eagerly waiting to make their first trip. ... (*Interruptions*) I was hoping that our Government can do some kind of COVID-related insurance for free, so that they are welcomed to the country and feel secured. ... (*Interruptions*) We would have the first-mover advantage, and we would also be encouraging this entire population of first-time travellers. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA: Speaker Sir, the hon. member has raised a very important question. ... (*Interruptions*) As the Prime Minister has said, life is more valuable than anything else, if one survives one can have anything in the world.... (*Interruptions*)

Speaker Sir, during Covid, the facilities of transport around the world were closed in the civil aviation sector on 23 March, 2020.... (*Interruptions*) After that, on 7 May, the transport facilities under the 'Vande Bharat' scheme have been started for the travelers of our country and for the foreigners returning home. ... (*Interruptions*) I am happy to inform this House that till date about 1 crore 83 lakh people have returned to their homes with this facility.... (*Interruptions*) It has always been our aim that we normalize it gradually. As you all know, the whole world has become cautious again due to the Omicron variant reported during the last few days. WHO and other agencies have also said that we have to be careful....(*Interruptions*) Currently, we have air bubble agreements with 31 countries and we also propose to sign air bubble agreements with ten countries. ... (*Interruptions*) We increased the number of air bubble agreements with several other countries. For example, we started the transport facilities between United Kingdom and America which have been stopped till November and these facilities have been started only for the students and diplomats...(*Interruptions*) It has started with Singapore as well, but we have to keep in mind the concerns regarding health, public and transportation facility....(*Interruptions*) At present, 11 countries have been kept 'at risk'. So, we will have to ensure testing of all the travelers who come to India from those countries...(*Interruptions*) The 11 countries includes all the countries including United Kingdom. South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.... (*Interruptions*) As you are aware that this process has started from yesterday and after testing all the travelers they are able to live their lives comfortably in the country. We have

put a limit of 15 days. They have to be in home quarantine for seven days. After testing them on the eighth day and monitoring them for the next seven days, then, they can start travelling (*Interruptions*) We have to keep this in mind and this has to go hand in hand. The second part of his question was about the facility we can provide for first time travelers. There is no government scheme currently for this. ...(*Interruptions*)When everything becomes normalized in the future, the movement of people will start again which will include first time travelers. I am sure of that.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA : Sir, through the detailed reply from the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation, it is quite evident that the Government has introduced more stringent guidelines for the international travellers arriving from 'at risk' countries. But, is the Government planning to restrict travel from certain countries or 'at risk' countries after the surge of Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus? If yes, can the Minister provide details regarding the same?

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA: Speaker Sir, this is the domain of the Ministry of Health, which sets the rules and our job is to implement it. As I have just said in my answer that 11 countries have been identified as "at risk" and their checking has started from yesterday. ... (*Interruption*)

I want to tell the hon. Member that for the last two-three days, our preparations have gone on a war footing. Our estimate is that our passengers come in 11 airports in almost 11 countries and in 17 airports where our passengers come from "not at risk" countries...(*Interruptions*)Our estimate is that around 8500 passengers will reach those 11 airports from the said 11 countries. That's why we have prepared for both RTPCR and Rapid RTPCR with complete testing

process. Yesterday's figures are that about 5500 people have been tested at 26 airports including these 11 airports and the rest are "not at risk".
 ...(Interruptions) About 3300 people, which means that 60 percent of the passengers have chosen Rapid RTPCR and about 2000 people have chosen Normal RTPCR. They departed from the airport after doing all the checking...
 (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, when a Member has asked a question in English, why does the answer is not being given in English? The question is asked in English and he is capable to give the answer in English...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, he knows fluent English.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANISH TEWARI : Sir, COVID-19 is an evolving situation which we need to internalise into our lifestyles. I can understand that with regard to a specific variant, there are certain specific precautions which need to be taken temporarily but *de hors* we have a specific situation. If you look at the entire global paradigm of travel, every country has different sets of restrictions which are in play, despite the number of vaccinations going up almost globally. What I wanted to ask the Minister is that between the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organisation, can't a Minimum Operating Procedure be evolved whereby passengers who have been vaccinated do not have to through repeat RTPCR tests when they travel or there is some kind of uniformity, some kind of synchronicity which is established. Would the Minister be willing to take some kind of an initiative in this direction so that we have certain uniform global rules emerging with regard to this travel?

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA: Speaker Sir, I can understand the point of view made through the question raised by the hon. Member.

Speaker Sir, that's good... (*Interruptions*) About what Baalu Saheb has said....(*Interruptions*) [*English*] I would be more than happy to reply in English as well. I am always available for you Baalu *sahab* in every language that I know. I am at your service. The hon. Member gave the suggestion that the ICAO work with WHO. I would like to apprise this House that covid is a pandemic that the world has not seen in the last hundred years. Therefore, it is difficult to say that WHO and ICAO should mandate a uniform rule for nations across the world. Every nation will take steps in its own national interest to protect its people. We must be respectful and cognizant of that.

It has been our effort over the last six months or so to slowly increase our flights internationally. As I mentioned in my previous answer, we have started with Singapore on the 29th of last month and the Singapore airlines flights come to Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi. We have two flights to each city. We have also renewed it with Canada lately, in the last two or three months, which started on 22nd September. The US only allowed diplomats and students earlier. Now, even for tourists, that process has started from the 8th of November. But Omicron is certainly a setback because all countries across the world need to be safe and secure. That is our first priority and, therefore, different countries have put in place different yardsticks. I think, the yardstick that has been put in place by our Government with putting eleven countries marked as 'At Risk' and testing them completely is the right way to go.

As far as the suggestion regarding double vaccination that has been given by the hon. Member is concerned, I also apprise this House that double vaccination does not give us hundred per cent immunity. There are still breakthrough infections that take place despite double vaccination, and if

breakthrough infections take place despite double vaccination, not only you yourself may be very badly harmed but you also have the capability to spread the disease. Therefore, we need to take steps that ensure the safety of our citizens in our country which is why our Government has taken steps that have been dealt and spelt out in the circular of 30th November, 2021, by the Health Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Sir, this is an issue related to the farmers of Telegana. This issue is related to paddy. During the last three days, we have brought the issue before the Government. During the last seven years, due to the water provided to Telegana, free electricity and Rythu Bandhu Scheme *[English]* we are number one in India with regards to paddy production. Paddy procurement is the responsibility of the central government .This government does not procure paddy ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA : Hon.Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Minister that 90% of the runway work of Belora airport in Amaravati has been completed. The fund required for the runway and building as well as its work order and tender has been released, yet its work has not started yet. The Government of Maharashtra used its entire fund for Covid. I want to know from you that this airport comes under the UDAN scheme and we are two years behind in this work. The headquarter of our division is in Amravati, which is the business hub. You must have seen that there is a Cityland and Busyland there. We have to strengthen the airport for the education of students, to set up big hospitals and to bring surgeons in Maharashtra.

Sir, I would like to say that the things and information you wanted from the department of Maharashtra have been given to you. When will you release funds for this? I request you for this.

11.50 hrs

*At this stage, Shri B.B. Patil and some other
hon. Members left the House.*

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA: Honorable Speaker Sir, this is not relevant to the question. The question of the honorable member is on air bubbles and international traffic.... *(Interruptions)* But I want to tell the honorable Member that he must come to meet me. Giving priority to Amravati is not only needed for Maharashtra but for the country. Whatever transport facility needed for Amravati, will be provided.... *(Interruptions)* You must come to meet me, both of us will discuss this matter and we will think about the things which can be done in the future.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Hon. Speaker, Sir, India has entered into air bubble agreements with almost all countries in the Gulf except Saudi Arabia. Hon. Minister may be aware that there are lakhs of Indians working in Saudi Arabia. My humble submission to the hon. Minister is that if India enters into an air bubble agreement with Saudi Arabia also, it would be a blessing for lakhs of Indians working in Saudi Arabia and they can travel at reasonable rates to Saudi Arabia. I humbly submit and request the hon. Minister to examine the possibility of entering into an air bubble agreement with Saudi Arabia.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I request all of you to ask the question in brief and the honorable Minister should also give a brief answer.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA: I hope you don't mind, because I am giving information. If you want a short answer, I will give a short answer....

(Interruptions)

[English]

Basheer sahab has raised the issue of air bubble for Saudi Arabia. We have ten proposals pending for air bubbles which we have forwarded to those countries and Saudi Arabia is one of them. We are waiting to hear back from the Saudi Arabian Government. We have sent the proposal from our side.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 65, Dr. Manoj Rajoria .

(Q. 65)

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to first thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister for putting more than 85 thousand crore rupees through 59 projects under the Prime Minister's Agricultural Irrigation Project in the last six years. Irrigation arrangements have been made in more than 20 lakh hectares of unirrigated area, where there was dry land, where there was no cultivation, and today more than 20 lakh hectares of land is being irrigated there. I think our Government, Honorable Prime Minister and honorable minister deserve congratulations for this.

Hon. Minister's reply has been received, I have two questions regarding this. The first question is that there is an important topic of Chambal-Panchana-Jagar dam lift project under Karauli district of my parliamentary constituency Karauli-Dholpur. The scheme of irrigation and drinking water for the farmers there, which was long pending. The State Government has sent this scheme to the Central Government of India under Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, I have such information. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government will discuss this matter with the State Government. As Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project and Chambal-Panchana-Jagar Dam Lift Project is an important project of 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan. What are the views of the Central Government and the State Government in this matter?

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank the Honorable member that he has approved the recommendation of this important program to be run under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country.

The question of the honorable member is not related to the basic question of the scheme of PMKSY. But still I would like to tell for the information of

Honorable Member and this House that the 13 districts for which this important project has been discussed, that project is an inter-linkage of reverse project between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The old agreement between the two States, if discussed accordingly, if seen from that point of view, from the availability of water and the dependability of yield, has not been agreed upon between the two. Till the time the agreement is not reached, then technically the CWC should upgrade it and sanction this scheme. That's not likely yet. We are in constant touch with both the States.

I also urge the Hon. Governments of both the States through this House, I also urge their Respective Members to sit between the States and agree on this issue, so that this scheme should be sent to CWC immediately after appraising it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Since I come from Rajasthan, I am familiar with the entire area. ...*(Interruptions)* This is certainly needed across the region, but the question of yields of 75 per cent and 50 per cent dependability is still between the two States and an agreement has not been reached. ... *(Interruptions)* Only after that happens, anything can be done in this regard... *(Interruptions)*

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Hon. Minister, thank you. ... *(Interruptions)* I hope that the whole of Rajasthan will get its benefit. ... *(Interruptions)* One such important project of South Rajasthan is the Mahi Bajaj Sagar project, which is pending for a long time, due to which drinking water and irrigation Scheme for the districts of South Rajasthan like Banswara, Udaipur, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh etc. was pending. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to know that what the Government is planning with the State Government on this subject, so that the people of these districts can also get water for irrigation and drinking.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I will request you again that this question is not related to the original question. ... *(Interruptions)* The situation regarding the Mahi Bajaj Sagar project, which has been discussed by the Hon. member, is still the same that both the States – Gujarat and Rajasthan – have not been able to agree on it. ... *(Interruptions)* Only after getting the consent, some further action can be taken on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, flood and erosion are the two anathemas ravaging the State of West Bengal and that too also perennially. This year also, the flood had assumed an alarming proportion.*[Translation]* We have three to four districts under Damodar Valley Corporation. ... *(Interruptions)* These districts are Medinipur, Bankura, Purulia, Hooghly and Howrah. ... *(Interruptions)* This time also these districts have been devastated due to floods. ...*(Interruptions)* Our Chief Minister says that this is a man-made-disaster, a man-made flood. We don't know the reason for this, people are confused. There is another issue also in our Bengal, which is of erosion.

You know where erosion takes place , I went there, took stock of the place and told you everything over the phone. The Bengal Government says that the Central Government does not give us funds. Man-made disaster on the one hand, no funds on the other. What is the reason for this? What should we say to people? We are asking for information, so that we can tell people. Thank you *(Interruptions)* This is associated with question 66. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Sudip ji is also asking simultaneously.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I think that the Hon. member has asked the question in advance. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please reply Sudeep ji and Adhir Ranjan ji together.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT : Hon. Speaker Sir, I seek your protection. Question 65 is being discussed and the Hon. member has asked a question related with question 66. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, if you want to reply , please do, if you don't want , then do not give the reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Do you have any answer for this? ... (*Interruptions*) Tell me if this is a man-made flood or not? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Floods are not man-made. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDOPADHYAY: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to reconfirm this point. Our Chief Minister calls it a man-made flood. [English]I reconfirm it. The reason behind this is this. [Translation]Floods come in our Bengal due to the water that DVC releases. They release uncontrolled water. Our Chief Minister has only one demand that when water is released [English] and it is lakh cusecs of water, the State Government should be consulted. It

should be discussed in a very scientific manner, in a proper manner by which people of the State of West Bengal can remain aware that this water may cause massive flood in the State.

So, I would request you to take up the issue on all priority. We reconfirm it that this flood is being created. As per the demand of the Chief Minister, it is a man-made flood. A section of DVC officials is doing it in a very motivated manner.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the Hon. member. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have one minute.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker. Sir, the concern expressed by the Honorable members, is although not related to the original question, but still I would like to state that the main purpose of the dam is to hold water, irrigation as well as the facility of electricity generation and to generate capacity and also to do flood mitigation. There are schedules of operation and maintenance in dams. I would like to thank all the Honorable members that in order to bring efficiency, proficiency in the operation of the dams, all the Honorable members unanimously passed the Dam Safety Bill in the country, so that the operation of the dams could be done more efficiently.

12.00 hrs

As far as Damodar Valley Corporation is concerned and for the question of water release raised by the Honorable member, I would like to say that all the partner states in the corporation are members and the decision of water release is made by sitting with them. According to the amount of water that comes from

behind, the amount of water to be sent forward after opening the dam, is decided by discussing it in the presence of the representative of the State Government. I think instead of creating such misconceptions that it is a manmade flood, how and with Efficacy we can operate the dams, the State Governments need to cooperate on this. The State Governments need to work together on this issue with an open heart.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**(Starred Question Nos.66 to 80
Unstarred Question Nos.691 to 920)**

* Available in Master copy of the Original Version of Debate, placed in Library.

You can also visit <https://sansad.in/lis/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.

12.01 hrs

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Shifting of Haj Embarkation point from Chennai

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, first of all, I would like to submit two letters: one letter is from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and the other is the proof of having sent that letter. I would submit these two letters to the hon. Speaker.

On 11.11.2021, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written a letter to the Prime Minister of India, and this letter has been received also. What does it contain? It is concerning a most important issue. Hitherto, the ferrying point for the Haj pilgrimage was Chennai International Airport. All of a sudden, the Government of India, especially the Ministry of Minority Affairs headed by the Minister... (*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister is not in his seat. Mr. Minister, kindly come to your seat. Shri Naqvi is my good old friend.

The ferrying point should not be shifted from Chennai International Airport to Kochi, which is 700 km. away from Chennai. Chennai International Airport is being used as an embarkation point by the pilgrims coming from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, South Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. More than 12,000 people have registered this year for the pilgrimage out of which only 6,000 people will get the opportunity. How come a letter sent to the Prime Minister on 11.11.2021 has not been received by the Minister for MinorityAffairs? In reply to a question, I could see him saying that the

Ministry has not received the request from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to include Chennai Airport as the ferrying point(*Interruptions*) How is it possible? How long will this continue?(*Interruptions*)

I would like to know whether the Prime Minister is not interested in the welfare of the minority(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: OK. The hon'ble Minister is replying.

[*English*]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: The Minister should answer in affirmative.

[*Translation*]

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Hon. Speaker, respected Shri Baalu is a very learned person and we know each other for a long time. I would like to inform him and he must be aware of that during the past two years of pandemic Haz pilgrimage has not been conducted and the Haz pilgrims' quota of India has seen sharp rise during the tenure of Shri Modi ji. It means India sends the second highest number of Haz pilgrims after Indonesia. Since Haz pilgrimage has not been conducted during the past two years of pandemic and it is expected to be resumed this time, hence keeping this in view, all senior officers and all agencies be it Civil Aviation, Health Department or Home Department(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon .Minister is replying. Please listen to him.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Whichever department deals with the Government of Saudi Arabia in relation to Haz pilgrimage(*Interruptions*) Since we have to visit Saudi Arabia for Haz pilgrimage, we have to follow the protocol as prescribed by the concerned government or the country. In view of this, there will be 10 Haj Embarkation Points in place of pre-existing 21 Embarkation Points in India. We have made this arrangement in compliance with pandemic protocol. We wish that all Haz pilgrims of India should proceed for the pilgrimage.(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: This is not correct. He should answer(*Interruptions*)

12.06 hrs

(ii) Re: Financial Assistance for Madarsa Modernisation Scheme.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Owaisi ji, do you want to say something?

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Hon. Speaker, he has stated that Rs. 520 crore have been granted under Madarsa Modernisation Scheme*(Interruptions)* I want to ask as to how much amount has been given to UP during the past five years and how much amount is proposed to be granted under Madarsa Modernisation Scheme this year?*(Interruptions)* Approximately 50 thousand teacher have not received their salaries yet. Hon. Minister should reply to this*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, Shri Owaisi had written a letter also in this regard. We are working for educational empowerment of people under separate educational empowerment schemes of the Central Government and the State Governments in Madarsas as well as all other educational institutes*(Interruptions)* As far as Madarsas are concerned I would like to inform that regarding various Madarsas*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Since you both are friends. You may resolve the matter yourself

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Regarding Madarsas, I would like to inform that there are approximately 28 thousand 590 registered Madarsas in the country(Interruptions) There are one lakh 47 thousand teachers in these Madarsas. Apart from these teachers, we have approved the demands of states based on recommendations of Madarsa Boards and State Governments of different states just 3-4 days ago. Amount will be released taking into account the U.C. forwarded by them.

HON. SPEAKER: You and Shri T.R. Baalu are friends. Hon'ble Minister of Minority Affairs has called you in his chamber. Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation will also be there. This problem will be solved there.

....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have found the solution. I am here to solve every problem. I have told you that hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation and hon'ble Minister of Minority Affairs shall discuss this matter with you. Solution of the problem will be found and acted upon. *[English]* That's all.

....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion on some matters from some Hon. Members. I have not given permission for any notice of Adjournment Motion.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

We the people of Kerala seek the intervention of the Government of India regarding the Mullaperiyar Dam(*Interruptions*) The safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam is in utter danger. The life and safety of the people are in danger. Therefore, we seek the intervention of the hon. Minister(*Interruptions*) Yesterday, the water level of the Mullaperiyar Dam had risen to more than 142 feet. The Mullaperiyar Dam is not in a position(*Interruptions*)

12.07 hrs

At this stage, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

12.08 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

Item Number 2, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Tezpur, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Tezpur, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019- 2020.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5130/17/21]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the

Narmada Control Authority, Indore, 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 Narmada Control Authority, Indore, 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 5131/17/21]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, 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 Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5132/17/21]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5133/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality, 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 National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5134/17/21]

- (2) A copy of the Review* (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality, New Delhi, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5135/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (GENERAL (Retd.) V. K. SINGH) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University, Mumbai, for the

* Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts were laid on 11.02.2021.

years 2017-2018 to 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University, Mumbai, for the years 2017-2018 to 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5136/17/21]

- (3) A copy of the Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.192(E) in Gazette of India dated 16th March, 2021 under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5137/17/21]

- (4) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub- section (4) of Section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:-

- (i) The Central Motor Vehicles (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.579(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2020.
- (ii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.585(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2020.
- (iii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.584(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2020.
- (iv) S.O.3310(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2020 specifying a multiplier under Section 210A by State Government.
- (v) S.O.3311(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th

September, 2020 implementing Sections 45, 74, 88, 90, 91 of Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019.

- (vi) The Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.594 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2020.
- (vii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.598 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2020.
- (viii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.628 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2020.
- (ix) The Central Motor Vehicles (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.661(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 2020.
- (x) The Central Motor Vehicles (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.673(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2020.
- (xi) The Central Motor Vehicles (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.682(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2020.
- (xii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R.690(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2020.
- (xiii) S.O.4251(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2020 appointing the 27th day of November, 2020 as the date on which the Section 36 of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 shall come into force.
- (xiv) The Helmet for riders of Two Wheeler Motor Vehicles (Quality

- Control) Order, 2020 published in Notification No. S.O.4252(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2020.
- (xv) The Central Motor Vehicles (First Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.15(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2021.
 - (xvi) The Central Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.21(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2021.
 - (xvii) The Inter-Country Transport Vehicles Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.25(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2021.
 - (xviii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.148(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2021.
 - (xix) S.O.1026(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2021, regarding Aadhaar for availing contactless services.
 - (xx) The Central Motor Vehicles (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.156(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2021.
 - (xxi) The All India Tourist Vehicles (Authorisation or Permit) (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.166(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2021.
 - (xxii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.173(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2021.
 - (xxiii) S.O.1231(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2021, appointing the 1st day of April, 2021 as the date on which the provisions of Section 39 and Section 40 of the Motor

Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 shall come into force.

- (xxiv) S.O.1232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2021, regarding Vehicle Recall Portal.
- (xxv) S.O.1406(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th March, 2021 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O.1365(E) dated 13th December, 2004.
- (xxvi) The Central Motor Vehicles (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.240(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2021.
- (xxvii) S.O.1433(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2021 appointing the 1st day of April, 2021 as the date on which provisions, mentioned therein, of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 shall come into force.
- (xxviii) S.O.1441(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2021 appointing the 1st day of April, 2021 permitting exemption for transport of oxygen cylinders.
- (xxix) The Central Motor Vehicles (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.277(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2021.
- (xxx) The Central Motor Vehicles (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.336(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2021.
- (xxxi) The Central Motor Vehicles (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.342(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2021.
- (xxxii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.343(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2021.

- (xxxiii) S.O.2159(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd June, 2021 regarding types of Motor Vehicles based on driving license issued for class of vehicle.
- (xxxiv) The Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.393(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2021.
- (xxxv) The Central Motor Vehicles (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.394(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2021.
- (xxxvi) S.O.2177(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th June, 2021, appointing the 1st day of July, 2021 as the date on which the provisions of Section 8 and clause (vii) of Section 17 of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 shall come into force.
- (xxxvii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.410(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2021.
- (xxxviii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.435(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2021.
- (xxxix) S.O.2513(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2021, recognising Common Service Centres e-Governance Services India Limited to work as “Facilitation Centre”.
- (xl) The Central Motor Vehicles (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.492(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5138/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI KRISHAN PAL) : Hon.Speaker Sir,

I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (for the State of Goa & Union Territories), Gurgaon, for the years 2010-2011 to 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5139/17/21]

- (2) A copy of the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Communication System in Power system Operations) Regulations, 2020 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. Comm.Std./PCD/CEA in Gazette of India dated 27th February, 2020 under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5140/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES (SHRI BHANU

PRATAP SINGH VERMA) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5141/17/21]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5142/17/21]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5143/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI) : Hon.Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Oil Industry (Development) Amendment Rules, 2020 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.575(E) in

Gazette of India dated 22nd September, 2020 under sub-section (3) of Section 31 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5144/17/21]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:-

- (i) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Integrity Management System for Petroleum and Petroleum Products Pipelines) Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/15- IMSPPPLReg./(1)/2021-Volume (3)(P-3385) in Gazette of India dated 8th September, 2021.
- (ii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/1-T4SCGD/(1)/2021 (P-3369) in Gazette of India dated 8th September, 2021.
- (iii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Levy of Fee and Other Charges) Amendment Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Fin/8-OC(2)/2018(P-3270) in Gazette of India dated 8th September, 2021.
- (iv) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Guiding Principles for Declaring City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks as Common Carrier or Contract Carrier) Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No.F. No. PNGRB/Auth/7-Misc(03)/2015(P-143) in Gazette of India dated 30th September, 2021.

- (v) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Retail Outlets dispensing Petroleum, Auto LPG and CNG) Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/5-T4SRO/(2)/2020 in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2021.
- (vi) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Auth/1-CGD(07)/2020 (P-884) in Gazette of India dated 30th September, 2020.
- (vii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Levy of Fee and Other Charges) Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Fin/8-OC(1)/2018 in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2020.
- (viii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Second Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/1-T4SCGD/(1)/2020 in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2020.
- (ix) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Third Party Conformity Assessment) Amendment Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/24-TPCA/(1)/2019(P-354) in Gazette of India dated 17th September, 2021.
- (x) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing

Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Auth/1-CGD(79)/2019(P-770) in Gazette of India dated 8th September, 2021.

- (xi) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board [Codes of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)] Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/19-ERDMP/(1)/2020 in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2021.
- (xii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determining Capacity of City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network) Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/9- CapCGDReg/(1)/2020 (P-2138) in Gazette of India dated 30th September, 2020.
- (xiii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Levy of Fee and Other Charges) Second Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Fin/8-OC(1)/2018(P-836) in Gazette of India dated 29th September, 2020.
- (xiv) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Pipeline Transportation Tariff) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/3/PPPL Tariff (1)/2012 Vol-IV (P-1018) in Gazette of India dated 29th September, 2020.
- (xv) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Gas Exchange) Regulations, 2020 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/35- GasEx/(2)/2020 (P-1687) in Gazette of

India dated 29th September, 2020.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 5145/17/21]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI KAUSHAL**

KISHORE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India- Union Government (No. 11 of 2021)(Performance Audit)-On Implementation of Phase-III Delhi Mass Rapid Transit System by DMRC, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 51456/17/21]

12.11 hrs

[English]

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

12th to 14th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): Sir, I present the following report*(Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes:-

- (1) Twelfth Report of the Committee (2021-22) on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Coal India Ltd. (CIL), Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)'.
- (2) Thirteenth Report of the Committee (2021-22) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in their Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF)'
- (3) Fourteenth Report of the Committee (2021-22) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Measures undertaken to secure

* These three Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 4.10.2021 under Direction 71(A)(I) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

representation of OBCs in admission in Ph.D. and appointment of teachers of Delhi University pertaining to the Ministry of Education'.

12.11 ½ hrs

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

Action Taken Reports

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI (KURNOOL): I beg to present the following Seven Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers:-

- (1) Twenty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Revival of Closed and Sick Fertilizers units' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).
- (2) Twenty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twentieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).
- (3) Twenty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Nineteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).

- (4) Twenty-seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals including Imports and Exports' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).
 - (5) Twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-first Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).
 - (6) Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).
 - (7) Thirtieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Status of COVID-19 vaccine production in India' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).
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12.11 3/4 hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

26th Report

[Translation]

SMT. RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Sir, I present the 26th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment regarding 'Babu Jagjivan Ram Hostel Scheme (BJRCY) for Scheduled Caste Boys' and Girls'.

12.12 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE -377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Permission is given to lay matters on the Table of the House under Rule 377.

.... (Interruptions)

(i) Need to expedite construction of Sitapur to Sahajahanpur stretch of National Highway No. 24 Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the incomplete road under construction between my parliamentary constituency Sitapur on National Highway No. 24 Sitapur Shahjahanpur. This road connects New Delhi to Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Due to the semi-construction of this road, people going from Sitapur to Delhi face a lot of inconvenience. In such a situation, I demand from the Government that keeping in mind the public interest, the Sitapur to Shahjahanpur semi-constructed road under National Highway No. 24 should be extended without delay. Please provide instructions for making it. Thank you.

* Treated as paper laid on the table

**(ii) Regarding inclusion of certain castes of Uttar Pradesh in the list of
Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes**

[English]

SHRI RAVINDER KUSHWAHA (SALEMPUR): I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very important and serious matter. People of Turha, Turaiya, Kharwar, Kamkar, Gor, Pal, Bhediha and Dhangad castes live in almost every district of the entire UP including my parliamentary constituency, Salempur. Even after 70 years of independence, these castes could not get permanent caste status till date, there is a strange irony with these castes that they are sometimes kept in the Scheduled Castes in some district, and in some district in the backward most backward castes, and sometimes -2 So in different tehsils of the same district, they are kept in different castes. Sometimes caste certificate is issued to these castes and sometimes caste certificate is not issued, sometimes their certificate is issued in one tehsil of the same district and not in one tehsil. In this situation, these people do not live in any caste, due to which today's youth are not able to get admission in schools for studies nor are they getting government jobs, due to which these people feel cheated. . I demand from the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and Minister of Tribal Affairs of this august house that Turha, Turaiya, Dhangad, Pal, Bhediha, Scheduled Castes and God Kharwar, and Kamkar caste people are included in the Scheduled Tribes. Kindly issue permanent certificate to them.

(iii) Need to declare birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidas on 18th

December as a national holiday

SHRI CHUNILAL SAHU (MAHASAMUND): In the saint tradition of Chhattisgarh, the name of Shiromani Guru Ghasidas is paramount, who was born on 18 December 1756 in Giraud village of Raipur (Chhattisgarh) district. Development works have been done by the State Government at a cost of Rs.14 crore in the Tapobhoomi of Saint Guru Baba Ghasidas, the founder of Satnam Panth and the great social reformer, where Jaitkham, 5 meters higher than Qutub Minar, has been constructed. It was inaugurated by the then Honorable Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh ji in the year 2015. The total cost is more than 50 crores. White flag is hoisted to give the message of world peace from the holy shrine Jaitkham. Following the path of truth and non-violence, Guru Ghasidas ji gave the slogan of self-confidence, identity of personality, human-human equal among the helpless people of the society and inspired to fight injustice, succeeded in establishing the foundation of social and spiritual awakening..

In many parts of the country, people of Satnami society and other societies live in millions of followers. Like Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan etc. In the birth anniversary of saint Guru Baba Ghasidas, etc., the festival is celebrated with enthusiasm by filling a fair and dancing and colorful activities.

Therefore, I request the government to declare 18 December as a national holiday every year on the birth anniversary of Shiromani Guru Baba Ghasidas, the founder of Satnam Panth and the great social reformer.

(iv) Need to address the problem of acute shortage of drinking water in

Sikar and other districts in Rajasthan

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR): Due to depleting ground water level in various districts including Sikar district of Rajasthan, serious drinking water situation is arising. Majority of my Lok Sabha constituency is in dark zone condition, let alone farming there, serious problem of drinking water is arising there. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti to kindly provide water to Churu, Jhunjhunu and Jaipur districts including Sikar district by connecting them through canals very soon.

(v) Regarding revision of the pension of Railway pensioners

[English]

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDESHAHAR): Even after five years of implementation of the 7th Pay Commission in 2016, the pay of several railway pensioners have not been revised in different Zones of Indian Railways. The railway pensioners are still drawing pension as per 6th Pay Commission pay structure.

In North Eastern Railway Head Quarter, Gorakhpur, pensions of many employees like Health Inspectors who retired in 2016, have not been revised according to 7th PC and they are drawing less pension due to pending cases of such revision.

I request the Ministry of Railways to take urgent necessary measures to revise the pension of pensioners of NE Railway, as per 7th PC pay structure to enable ease of living to the pensioners.

**(vi) Need to construct railway underpasses in Muzaffarpur Parliamentary
Constituency, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFARPUR): Hon. Railway Minister had made provision for making underpass at many places including Satpura, Ramdayalu Nagar, Gobarsahi under my Lok Sabha constituency Muzaffarpur in the financial budget, but till now there is no information of any positive action in this regard. Not there. Whereas, due to the absence of these underpasses, the common people in the city are facing a of difficulties.

I would like to demand from the government that in view of the past financial provisions, the construction work of the underpasses announced under our parliamentary constituency Muzaffarpur should be started soon.

(vii) Regarding filling up vacant posts of Principals in Chhattisgarh

SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI (KANKER): More than 3500 posts of Principals are vacant in High and Higher Secondary Schools run by the School Education Department of Chhattisgarh State. Normally the posts of 200 principals are vacant in Kanker district, the headquarters of my parliamentary constituency. Kanker district has been declared by the Government of India as an ambitious district for overall development. But it has to be informed with great regret that out of 241 high and higher secondary schools operating in Kanker district itself, about 200 schools are without principals, which are being run entirely by the in-charges.

Despite the vacant posts of principals in thousands of schools by the education department of Chhattisgarh state, there is frustration and despair among those teachers due to non-promotion of senior lecturers and head teachers even after working in the same post for 12- 15 years.

Therefore, while bringing to the notice through this House for education and tribal cadre lecturers' and head teachers' demand for promotion to the post of principal, I strongly demand appropriate action regularly, as per law.

(viii) Need to provide funds for construction of pit line at Latur Railway Station, Maharashtra

SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRENGARE (LATUR): In order to provide the facility of running new trains from Latur, the construction of pit line at Latur railway station was announced in 2019. An amount of Rs 14 crore was also earmarked for its construction. But till now the construction work of pit line has not started due to non-availability of funds for this work.

Latur is a very busy station. Thousands of passengers use rail services from here. Soon the Rail Coach Factory is going to start here, due to which both passenger and goods traffic will increase manifold from this station. Due to lack of pit line at Latur station, not a single new train service has been started from this station in the last 70 years. The availability of pit line at this station is very necessary to start new rail services for the benefit of the people of Marathwada.

Therefore, I request this Government that necessary funds should be made available at the earliest for starting the pit line construction work at Latur station, and, the construction work on it should be ensured in a time bound manner. The Government is specially requested to make provision of necessary funds for this work in the upcoming budget so that the construction of pit line at Latur station can be completed in the coming year i.e. 2022.

(ix) Need to provide railway services in Khargone Parliamentary

Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI GAJENDRA UMRAO SINGH PATEL (KHARGONE): Till now rail facility is not available in my parliamentary constituency Khargone (Madhya Pradesh). It is my request to the Railway Minister that a special railway project should be run in my parliamentary constituency, so that the tribal area can get railway facility, they can get employment and they can get the means to go to far flung areas.

Even after 70 years of independence, there is still no rail facility in my parliamentary constituency, my humble request is that rail facility should be made available in my parliamentary constituency so that tribal society can get benefit in all the areas.

(x) Need to develop Ambala Railway station as a world class station

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Respected Prime Minister had announced an agreement to provide world class facilities to Ambala Railway Station during his visit to France in 2015. After that French officials came to Ambala and organized a two-day seminar to discuss the project. Ambala Cantt. is also an important place from social point of view. I would like to request that action should be taken on this project at the earliest.

**(xi) Regarding frequent earthquakes being experienced in Seoni city
in Balaghat Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.**

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): Earthquake tremors of 3.5 magnitudes on Richter scale are coming continuously for last 1 to 1-2 years in Seoni town of my Lok Sabha constituency Balaghat Seoni. Due to this cracks are coming in the houses of the people. The kuccha houses are on the verge of collapse. Tremors are coming 15-20 times in a day or two. The proper reason is not being given by the department. Similar situation is in Jhabua district of M.P. There is an atmosphere of great insecurity among the public.

Therefore, the Government is requested to make arrangements for the installation of necessary equipments to measure the continuous aftershocks of the earthquake and to find out the reasons and take appropriate measures.

(xii) Regarding relief measures for loss incurred due to heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI):

During the last few weeks, normal life in Tamilnadu came to a standstill due to heavy downpour of Northeast Monsoon. The State has so far received more than 55% excess rainfall. Delta region, northern and southern districts were greatly affected. More than 50 people have died and equal numbers were injured in rain-related incidents. Over 9,500 huts and 2,100 houses were damaged. Besides, huge death of cattle, losses were incurred in 25 districts and 12 of them were severe and agriculture crop loss is estimated over 50,000 hectares and 525 hectares of horticulture crops have been inundated. As regards Delta Districts, hectares of agricultural land were submerged in flood water, standing crops were perished, thereby causing severe financial loss to the farmers. An amount of Rs. 550 crore was sought by Government of Tamilnadu for immediate relief and restoration. And 2,079 crore as permanent Central relief.

Therefore, I humbly urge upon Union Government to kindly release necessary funds as per the assessment made and submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu to Central Team / Union Government.

(xiii) Regarding setting up of AIIMS at Palakkad, Kerala

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): It has been a demand of the people of Kerala to set up an AIIMS in the State. Palakkad is the most ideal place for the same, as it is centrally located in the State. Land has been acquired which is lying unused and is in the custody of Central government. Apart from that, an institution is also willing to offer its giant campus of more than 500 acres with requisite infrastructure for the proposed AIIMS. The proposed AIIMS at Palakkad, can also put an end to the continued infant child mortality in Attappadi which is a tribal area due to lack of medical care there. This will also benefit people of various districts in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu too. Therefore, setting up of an AIIMS at Palakkad will benefit people of two States. Therefore, it is requested that AIIMS be set up at Palakkad at the earliest.

**(xiv) Regarding allocation of adequate funds for NH projects in
Kanyakumari Parliamentary Constituency**

SHRI VIJAYKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH

(KANYAKUMARI): During the last few weeks, normal life in Tamil Nadu was affected owing to heavy spells of Northeast Monsoon. So far, the State has received 55% excess rainfall. Delta region and Kanniyakumari district were severely affected.

The present status of construction, expansion and repair of NH works in respect of the Nagercoil Division of National Highways, more particularly, the below mentioned projects of NH-47B falling under my Kanniyakumari Lok Sabha Constituency, Tamil Nadu are progressing very slowly due to inadequate allocation of funds. This has also led to cost escalation and hardship to public. Particularly on this road NH 47B, due to many black spots, lots of accidents occurred and many have been injured, few of them lost their lives. The projects are:

- (i) Elimination of Black Spot in km 12/6 — 13/0 (Thovalai Puthoour) of NH 47B, Tamil Nadu Black Spot ID No. TN-(02)-00.
- ii) Rectification of Black Spot in km 5/8 to 6/4 Black spot ID No. TN-(02)-08 (Therekalputhur) of NH 47-B (New No.944)
- iii) Rectification of Black Spot in km 0/4 to 2/0 (Krishnankoviltto Kattayanvilai of NH 47-B (New No.944)
- iv) Repair and restoration of NH47B from Kalyakavilai to Nagercoil.

I have submitted a memorandum to the Central Team which recently visited Kanyakumari District for seeking funds as immediate relief from the

Centre to execute restoration works and also urged the need for devising suitable strategies to tackle any further flood during monsoon seasons in the district.

I shall, therefore, humbly urge upon hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to kindly allocate adequate funds and expedite the projects.

(xv) Regarding development of Araku Eco-tourism Circuit

KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI (ARAKU): Araku is a famous hill station of Andhra Pradesh. It is located at a distance of 120 KM from Visakhapatnam. It is famous for its scenic beauty. Located on the eastern ghats, it has valley, waterfalls and streams flowing by the side of the train track and roads. The journey to Araku Valley is most enjoying as the rail passes through tunnels, hill sides and streams.

The Araku Parliamentary Constituency which I represent, is a reserved constituency and the Andhra Pradesh Government under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister has put a lot of focus on developing a sustainable eco - tourism circuit in Araku without destroying the natural habitats.

In this regard, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, had submitted a DPR for 128.70 crores under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the development of Araku Eco tourism Circuit.

I would request the Hon'ble Tourism Minister to kindly sanction the required funds and approve the DPR at the earliest.

(xvi) Need to take necessary steps for rehabilitation of people residing in Jhuggi Jhopri clusters located on Mumbai Airport Authority land

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): There are atleast more than 80 thousand Jhuggi Jhopri clusters on approximately 175 acres land of Mumbai Airport Authority. There is lack of several basic amenities in these more than 50 years old clusters such as toilets, drinking water, roads and other basic facilities due to which the people living in these clusters have to face severe hardship. The flight service also gets hampered due to these slum clusters. The plan for rehabilitation of these slum clusters was made earlier by the Central Government but that could not be materialized. Hence, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is requested to take necessary steps at the earliest for rehabilitation of these slum clusters situated on the land of Mumbai Airport Authority in collaboration with the State Government and the Airport Operator.

[English]

**(xvii) Regarding construction of NH 327E from Parsarma to Araria via
Triveniganj, Supaul district, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): The proposed four lane N.H. 327E is to be constructed from Parsarma to Araria via Triveniganj, Supaul, Bihar. This four lane should be constructed as bypass at the Triveniganj Market. The very existence of the Triveniganj market will cease with the construction of four lane through the main market and thousands of traders of Triveniganj market area will have to face lot of difficulty. The shops and houses will be ruined due to the construction of four lane through the market area. The traders of the market have limited land holdings. They manage to make a living for their family due to their homes situated on Triveniganj Main Road.

So, it is my request to the government that in interest of public welfare the proposed four lane may be constructed as bypass at Triveniganj market so as to ensure existence of city and market and to carry out the four lane development work in a proper manner.

(xviii) Regarding repeal of New Labour Codes

[English]

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR): Consolidation of 29 labour laws into 4 codes is pro-corporate and anti-worker. It has been done without holding tripartite meetings or consulting trade unions. Indian Labour Conference did not meet and discussions in parliament were not allowed. The codes are against the interests of workers.

The existing labour laws and their jurisprudence are the collective contributions of the workers, unions and governments. Neo liberal values such as ‘hire and fire’, child labour, unquestioned retrenchment, denial of social security, maternity benefit, minimum wages etc., are implicitly upheld in these labour codes.

The provisions in essence deny right to work, right to earn livelihood and the right to live with dignity. These codes are made in violation of the ILO Convention 144 on tripartite consultations which India has ratified. So I request tripartite consultations are held and new labour codes be revoked.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today there will be discussion on an important matter.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, there is a small issue. Today this matter is related to Bengal. There is great confusion prevailing among people due to the extension of jurisdiction of BSF in Punjab, Bengal, Tripura and Assam. There is apprehension, fear and panic generated among people. On the other hand, our DG gives statement that the demographic balance is continuously getting disturbed there*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please give notice, discussion will be held.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, it shows that this matter has been raised for the minority community*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please give notice.

....*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: We will take up discussion on the matter of urgent public importance under Rule 193.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, this matter is pertaining to the government of States. It would be better if you don't interfere in these matters*(Interruptions)* We oppose it*(Interruptions)* Discussion should be held on it*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please give notice. You are a senior leader. Please be seated.

....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I will give ruling on your notice. I will give ruling on notices of all. Please be seated.

....(Interruptions)

12.14 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Today, we will take up discussion on situation arisen due to COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it.

Hon. Members, we are going to have discussion on the issue of Corona. Corona has impacted the mankind during the past two years. Corona has affected the social and economic condition of India and the whole world. In India, the entire country has tackled this challenge collectively. During this period, we have learnt various lessons also, but the whole world is concerned with the rise of new variant Omicron. In these circumstances, it is a good opportunity to have a healthy discussion on the matter. I expect to have a positive discussion on Corona in the House. We should share whatever we experienced during Corona and give suggestions here regarding the good work executed by the Central or State Governments for management of Corona.

Give your suggestions and views to remove the shortcomings. Along with this, I also expect that the relief work under taken by the people during Corona pandemic, particularly, I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members of Parliament who have carried out innovations, taken new initiatives in their respective constituencies during Corona period. It is my request that you should

share those innovations, initiatives here in this house also, so as to give a positive message to the democratic institutions of the country. I hope that today we will participate in the discussion with responsibility to have a positive discussion and also give suggestions to the government. We will also discuss as to how we can contribute to contain corona in a collective manner.

Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Speaker Sir, through you, discussion is taking place on Corona issue today after 21 months. I am thankful to you for allowing me to start the discussion on this important topic. As you have informed that there should be no politics on Corona issue and it will be fine if good suggestions come through this discussion in the House. We respect and welcome your directions. I am going to start the discussion on corona issue.

12.17 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

Chairperson Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. Whether Union Health Minister Mandaviya ji, Maharashtra's Chief Minister Uddhav Thakerayji or Chief Minister of all the states of the country, Health Ministers, Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope ji or the Members of Parliament of the country, Members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council working as public representatives in the states or all the public representatives of the local self governing bodies, Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiit, Corporator in the country, the efforts of all these representatives in corona times and that of the corona warriors have resulted today in our country going on a corona free path. Besides, we have seen many variants of Corona. First came Corona, the Delta, the Delta Plus and now Omicron is coming. I think it will be good if it doesn't spread. It is in our hand

to not let it come. I pray to God that we have quarreled a lot, fought with each other and we have suffered many difficulties but with Mother India's grace, Omicron should not come in India from the whole world. I am praying this to Mother India. I once again felicitate our countrymen, because when corona epidemic was coming and invading India and the whole world they along with various organization, various parties and various quarters were standing with our respected Prime Minister to fight the epidemic. Whether it was an initiative of lighting the lamp or initiative of beating thalis or initiative of providing vaccines, people of India supported the Prime Minister. State's Chief Minister has been helped. In our Maharashtra, there is government of Shiv Sena and Maha Vikash Aghadi, but no politics was played in this regard. Whenever Prime Minister Narendra Modiji held meetings, whatever information was given, Maharashtra's honourable Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray ji implemented it as Prime Minister's order and effort was made to make Maharashtra and Mumbai Corona-free.

Therefore, I thank the Prime Minister. Besides, I also thank all the Chief Ministers of the country and all the people. I also want to congratulate India and its people because by their cooperation, whatever the world say, India did it, which could not be done by super power like America and other big countries. All citizens have got an opportunity to lead a long and healthy life by taking the vaccine made in India. Made in India vaccine has also been given to many countries in the world. We have complimented the Prime Minister for this before also. I request the Prime Minister to work in same way and keep listening to the people and continue to do whatever as per their wishes.

Chairperson Sir, as I told, politics should not be done in the matter of Corona. But sometimes, some politics have been played in this matter. In the states where Government of opposition parties are ruling, some things were not

given, as required, made unnecessary remarks and people of those states were demoralized. Some people said that approximately 1.5 people will die in Mumbai. But fortunately under the leadership of Maharashtra's Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the Health Minister Rajesh Tope ji the work done in Maharashtra and Mumbai under the orders of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have made big cities like Mumbai Corona-free. In addition to it, everyone was worried about Mumbai's big slum city Dharavi, everyone was worried about as to what will happen in this Mumbai's slum area. Our Member of Parliament from Dharavi Rahul Shevale ji is here and he will also present his views on this issue. But in case of big slum area like Dharavi also, through Mumbai Municipal Corporation and their Corona warriors, social organizations, public representatives, all political parties came together and accepted the challenge and showed to the world that Dharavi Model should be followed. Dharavi is today corona free. I again request hon'ble Prime Minister as we used to do it frequently. But the Prime Minister at that time also, be it Health Minister, be it Health Secretary, they used to give repeated instructions and guidelines to lend the help. He was talking about the help to be given through the Union Government. At that time, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya ji wrote a letter to all MPs and in that letter he wrote that help of State Government will be done in many ways through the Union Government. Its details were given in this letter. He mentioned about ventilators, drugs, medical oxygen cylinders and PSA plant etc. in that letter.

Chairperson Sir, for your information, I want to tell that during corona times, arrangements were made for giving ventilators and PCA Plant through PM Cares funds. But unfortunately, I have to say that 60% of those ventilators are not functioning today. They are not usable even today. Hon'ble Minister should know about it. There is no fault of hon'ble Minister or hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard, but the agency which was given this work, took money

and supplied third quality ventilators. Some technicians were required for it, but even after repeated complaints, technicians of the ventilators supply agency did not go there. They did not reach villages. Due to this, the hundreds and thousands of ventilators given by the Prime Minister could not be utilized for the people.

Chairperson Sir, through you and this discussion, I want to request the hon'ble Minister Sir. Hon'ble Minister, Mandaviya ji is a good and successful Minister. I heartily respect him. Whenever we go to him and ask for something, he does the help immediately. But some people and contractors who have misused his cooperative nature and put the people into difficulty, strict action should be taken against those contractors and supply agencies. As were the ventilators, so were the PSA Plants. As per my knowledge, hon'ble Prime Minister announced to set up minimum two to 2.5 thousand PSA plants, but as I have read in newspaper, out of 1573 PSA Plants only 316 PSA Plants are active in the whole country. But other agencies after one year have laid foundation for it, put cement but even today in many District hospitals and other hospitals PSA Plants have not been set up and not been made operational. In this work who have done wrong, took money from government, but even after taking money, those people brought a bad name for the Union Government, such contractors should be put in jail. This is a betrayal with government and public. There is no need to forgive these contractors. During that period, black marketing of even remdisivir was done, but now the situation is all right. Now the situation of remdisivir is good. Some states have also set up PSA plants with their funds. Some states have efficiently set up jumbo hospitals. Especially if you see in Mumbai, you would have seen NSA plant, Seven Hills hospital, Bandra Kurla Complex or Mahalaxmi Covid hospitals. Whatever challenges were thrown by Corona in front of us, the Union Government and the State Government have done well together to face this challenge. Therefore, it is being said that even

today Corona is having its base in China from where it spread to the whole world but India is becoming Corona-free today and the Corona-free country is on the path of progress. However, several problems have emerged despite it. Corona brought a challenge before us and the country, several defunct agencies started working again, district hospitals started becoming up-to-date and active and the patients started getting better treatment there. Fortunately, the advent of Corona sidetracked the emergence of other diseases. After this, several of our doctors started giving better treatment at several places but several private hospitals also resorted to its misuse during the Corona period.

Chairperson Sir, you also know about it as you also hail from the rural area. You also know that all the private doctors were running away from treatment of Corona in the first Corona wave. ...*(Interruptions)* but when the second wave arrived, all the doctors started making money. There were insurance companies on the one hand and the doctors on the other. There was a nexus of both in this. When the Corona patient used to arrive in the hospital , the doctors used to ask whether he had the insurance. ...*(Interruptions)* if the answer was “yes”, the bill amounting to more than five lakh rupees used to be prepared. .. *(Interruptions)* if the insurance is of five lakh rupees, the bill should be of six lakh rupees. Similarly, several hospitals in several districts and cities resorted to looting and trapping the people in the name of Corona. ...*(Interruptions)* whereas Municipal hospital of Mumbai and the tribal area hospital in our Sindhudurg cured thousands of Corona patients free-of-cost, but the private hospitals in several cities looted five lakh rupees to fifteen lakh rupees from the Corona patients.....*(Interruptions)* there is a need to formulate a stringent law in respect of the hospitals engaging in trapping the people in similar pandemic situation in near future. If the hospitals engage in looting or trapping the patients in this manner, there should be a provision of sending them to jail and even death

sentence through this law. This Corona pandemic has taught us a lot of things.
 ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I understand that the hon. Health Minister will definitely look into it. Several days before, our hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had indicated that our country has reached vaccination of 100 crore people.*(Interruptions)* A tune to this effect used to run in everyone's mobile. Whenever we dialled from our mobile phone or landline, we used to get the information for two minutes regarding vaccination of 100 crore people in our country.*(Interruptions)* We also tried to gather detailed information in this regard. Vaccination of 100 crore people would definitely have taken place but my question is whether the same number of people have got both the doses ? Our country has a population of atleast 130 crore. If we leave 30 crore people of less than 18 years of age, I think that 100 crore people above this age haven't got two doses. ...*(Interruptions)* As per the information available till 9'o' clock morning of 2nd December today, the number of people getting double dose is 45,82,78,988. Only 38 percent of the total population of the country has got double dose. Can it be termed a solution ? ...*(Interruptions)* we cannot take it as a solution. If we go anywhere today, at airport, in the bus, in the train, we are asked to show double dose certificate or else we are denied entry.*(Interruptions)* Till we are able to provide double dose to the people, this thing can neither be resolved nor we can celebrate.*(Interruptions)*

Sir, there was a 32 or 45 days eligibility for second dose of Covishield in the beginning but I don't know what happened and how on research it occurred that Covishield's second dose was administered after 84 days. The timeperiod for second dose of Covaxin is 28 days.*(Interruptions)* if Covaxin was mandated after 28 days why wasn't Covaxin manufactured in large quantity? People waited for 84 days for second dose of Covishield and till then, they were

asked to not travel in the country and move out of their homes. ...*(Interruptions)*
 You will have no advantage. If you want to avail the benefit of any scheme of the Union Government and the State Government, you should have the double dose certificate. If you have the double dose certificate, you can get the benefit otherwise not.

When such problems have come before the people, it is the duty of the Government to provide double dose to the people of the country. In how many days will you provide the basis to all the countrymen in terms of giving double dose to 100 crore people ? It needs to be clarified through this discussion and through the Government.

Hon. Chairman Sir, there is a doubt, it is not a criticism, but a question in my mind, so I am compelled to put it before you. ...*(Interruptions)* of course, it is Man ki Baat. It was happening in between that doses were being given in plenty in the States which had the BJP's Government and the States with non-BJP Governments were getting doses in a miserly manner. Why was it being done? In Uttar Pradesh, 11,28,40,727 doses were given and the total doses were 16,38,12,323, in Gujarat, 8,15,25,236 doses were given and only 11,52,43,000 doses in Maharashtra with a population of 13 crores and with a mega city like Mumbai with a population of two and a half crores. Chairman Sir, it is also your beloved city, and only one crore, one and a half crore was given there.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mumbai is favorite to all.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Gujarat has a lower population. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman Sir, 130 crore population of this country belongs to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Health Minister, so why partisan approach ? If you look at Maharashtra, you treat it in a skewed manner and if

you look at Gujarat, you help it thoroughly. Elections are to take place in Uttar Pradesh, so give it more and more, this should not happen. My demand is that it should be given on the basis of population. If you provide on the basis of population, we can comprehend that you are doing justice to everyone. I would like to demand to reduce the gap of 84 days between the two doses of Covishield in future. Earlier, it was 45 days and if we continue with the 45 days timeperiod for Covishield, all the countrymen can have better convenience. People can work in a better way. Restrictions are coming through Omicron today to not go anywhere and one can move only after taking both the doses. If you want to make the people convenient, there is a need to reduce the timeperiod of Covishield. Through you, I would like to state that you should inform the hon. Health Minister in this regard to give it a serious consideration. This is my request to you.

Sir, fortunately, the vaccine losses have reduced. The whole staff has got trained in it. People have become well-informed in this regard. In the beginning, the people were hesitant to take vaccine. Now, the people themselves say that they want vaccine and they should get it at the earliest.

Chairperson Sir, I want to put forth my views in brief about the conditions arisen after corona. It is very unfortunate that upto two days before today, after start of Corona, at least 11,000 people have committed suicide. This fact is in the Government report. There were more than 6 lakh industries. These industries have been closed down now and people have become unemployed. If there were at least 100 people working in a single industry, that means 6 lakhs x 100, people in crores have become unemployed during corona time.

Country's crores of people have lost their jobs, they have become unemployed. I would like to ask what you propose to do for their future through the Government.

Sir, the Government announced to give Rs. 6,000/- per annum to the farmers living below poverty line. Initially 11 crore people were given the amount. In the second installment 8 crores and in the third installment 3 crore 21 lakh people were given the money. Mr. Chairman, Sir, definitely it would have happened in your area also. I come from Sindhudurg-Ratnagiri, there Government officials have started to send notices to the people, who got Rs. 6,000/-, stating that either deposit Rs. 6,000/- immediately or else your property will be confiscated. I do not consider it the mistake of Central Government, it is the mistake of Government officials, but at that time hon'ble Prime Minister ji said to all citizens that Rs. 6,000/- will be given per annum during Corona time or before that to all farmers below poverty line. So this way 11 crore people were given the money. Out of the 11 crore people who were paid, recovery from 8 crore people is being done on Government's instructions.

Sir, people did not ask from banks, but they get credit in their accounts. They did not ask for it but they got it. It was blessings of Modiji. They folded hand before God and said that we should be blessed with such a Prime Minister forever. They went to God and asked what has happened this, when they got the notice to return those Rs. 6,000. After Modiji's blessings, who has done this? They found themselves in difficulty. Recovery of Rs. 6,000 from 8 crore people have been done by the Central Government.

Maharashtra Government gave Rs. 5,000 to the construction workers. They gave Rs. 5 lakhs to the government servants died during Corona period. People who lost their lives during Maratha reservation agitation were given Rs. 10 lakhs. We are not asking without a reason but for the people, who lost their lives due to Corona. Even the Supreme Court had directed to help those who have lost their lives due to Corona. Central Government has not decided on this matter till now. I pray to God if some decision is taken on this matter, their

family members will get some help. Now it is necessary to give them some relief as unemployment is increasing.

Six lakh industries have been closed. Lakhs of people have left the country. Now, companies' privatization has started. We pray to get rid from Corona. There were Government companies, Government units in our country. I could not understand when and where it was said during corona to sell off all these things. Where it was said to sell Air India. it is right to sell Air India to TATA, we thank them for it. I thank hon'ble Prime Minister ji for it. Arvind Sawant ji and myself went from union's work. We congratulate them. Condition of Air India will improve after being taken over by TATA.

Sir, what was the need to privatize the BPCL. What was the need to bankrupt MTNL and BSNL? Mr. Chairman, Sir, be it my constituency or yours, whether MTNL or BSNL are functional there. There are many Government schemes. We reach to the poor people through BSNL and MTNL. On the one hand, there are Government schemes and on the other, there is network shutdown of BSNL and towers are not working. BSNL's 92% employees have taken VRS. BSNL has been made bankrupt. If you want to run 'Jio' in proper way, BSNL and MTNL should be shutdown.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Raut Sir, it has been half an hour.

SHRI VINAYAK BHURAO RAUT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is done, just little is left.*(Interruptions)* I am speaking on the after effects of Corona.*(Interruptions)* I will speak only for three minutes. Corona's ill effects have also affected LIC.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has affected the entire economy.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Sir, through you, I would like to inform the Government about the units which suffered the ill-effects of Corona. The Railways has been adversely affected by Corona. You have privatized the Railways. Corona has also affected LIC. LIC has been privatized. Corona has affected 26 Government companies, which have been privatized. Has Corona really taught us that we should privatise all the public sector companies if we want to save the country? We can understand the Corona-free India, but it would be wrong if we privatize all the companies and hand these over to others.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful that you have given me ample time. But, in today's time, there should be coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments. Many people say that Omicron has come near Delhi and Mumbai. Hon'ble Health Minister ji is saying that it has not entered our country till now. But there should be a clear guideline that whatever directions will be issued by Health Ministry, they had to be followed by all, may it be media. Media cannot comment on it. There should be clear policy on Omicron, what would be the approach of the Government exactly and what they want to tell people of the country.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you again. Due to blessings of hon'ble Speaker Sir the discussion on Corona is taking place after 21 months. Now, as Corona is waning, it is being discussed. It should not happen in future.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Last time it could not be discussed. It is OK. Thank you very much.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Thank you, hon'ble Chairperson Sir. The day, 21 October, 2021 has been recorded in the history of India. We completed the target of 100 crore vaccinations due to the efforts of

hon'ble Prime Minister on that day. Not only this, in the times to come, we will improve our position by remaining number one in the world, crossing the target of 150 crore injections.

Hon'ble Chairperson, I want to inform that this target of 100 crore crossed by us is twice that of America, five times to Japan, nine times to Germany and ten times to France*(Interruptions)*

I want to say that when this pandemic started spreading in the world, India also got hit by it. When the first case was detected in India, we didn't have masks or ventilators nor PPE kits, but hon. Prime Minister called an emergency meeting of Group of Ministers. An emergency meeting of Chief Ministers of States was convened and he called upon to speed up this task. Whereas, there was only one testing lab, we have established 2500 testing labs within three months. Earlier, we had testing capacity of 1500 per day, but today we have a testing capacity of even more than 20 lakh daily. We achieved the target of one crore daily vaccinations five times within these nine months and I want to tell this esteemed House that on the birthday of the most popular leader of the world, hon'ble Modiji, India established a new milestone in the world by vaccinating more than 2.5 crore people on that day. When Modi ji went to the U.N.O. recently in the month of September, then to the G-20 convention, and after that to the COP26 on Climate Change, great leaders of the world welcomed Modi ji with open arms. I remember them welcoming hon'ble Modiji to the G-20 summit underlining his indispensable role.

Today, the leaders of the whole world take inspiration from him. Once or twice I got the chance to visit United Nations. In my conscience, I have images of those times of Indian leaders when some Prime Minister of India used to speak in the U.N., so much so that during the UPA era, we used to see that there is no audience and today when hon. Modiji addresses the U.N., full leadership

of the whole world come attracted. Today, our COVID management has been praised profusely not only in India but even by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and it has been said that India has even surpassed America. America started the vaccination drive a month before us, but today we have done vaccination twice compared to them.

Similarly, India has been accoladed on world forums regarding COVID management. Today, we observe that we have more than 15 thousand dedicated hospitals, which are working successfully for COVID management. Today, our country has 75 thousand I.C.U. beds and 14 lakh isolation beds. The United Nations Organization has also sung songs of praise to India, observing the way, work on 'Test, Track and Treat' is going on at a very fast pace. Not only that, the World Health Organization has listed (approved) the Covaxin injection for emergency use. Within our country, the people from opposition raised various questions on our vaccine, some leader said that it was BJP's vaccine, some other said that this is Modi's vaccine. The opposition people have committed a very heinous crime against the people of this country by raising numerous doubts regarding the vaccination campaign of India going on successfully. The whole world is appreciating the record achieved by India in vaccination.

Lately, I was listening my friend and hon'ble Member of Shivsena. He mentioned about the financial condition going through the today's newspaper. India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world despite COVID pandemic. The report of 8.4 per cent growth rate for this quarter after COVID demonstrates that India not only saved its 130 crore people from Corona but also carried out the task of reviving its economy. Our G.S.T. collection is exceeding even one lakh crore rupees for the past ten months.

I want to inform that millions of people died during the pandemic that struck 100 years ago out of which around 50 lakh would have died of the

disease but rest 50 lakh people died due to starvation. I would like to thank the worthy son of this nation, hon'ble Narendra Modi ji, who has witnessed poverty from close quarters. He undertook such steps in India that some deaths might have occurred due to COVID but not a single person died in India due to starvation. This has been appreciated by W.H.O., by United Nations and also by many countries of the world. I am also in the field of politics for the past 50 years, having read about leaders world over and also witnessed within India.

13.00 hrs

I feel that the way people say about Mahatma Gandhi that there was born and lived a real living human in India who got us freedom without any fight. Similarly, the whole world thinks that India is blessed with a leader in the form of Hon'ble Narendra Modi ji, who is getting recognition for India on world stage and resolving every problem of India(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUMDUM): You are comparing with hon'ble Mahatma Gandhi ji(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, I am requesting you to please listen to me again.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Kataria ji, please.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, I want to say that during this Corona period not only Indian economy but even the agriculture sector of India prospered and we even have seen agitation for a year, but even amidst this agitation, farmers of India produced so much of food grains with their hard work that not even a single person starved. Hon'ble Modi ji has presented the world's vastest programme of welfare of the poor by providing food to 80 crore

people for the past two years and due to which the people of our country have got great relief in overcoming COVID pandemic.

Sir, today we have started using such technology that these days India is able to deliver vaccine through drones to those areas of India which are inaccessible, where delivering vaccine was very difficult. Today, 96 countries of the world have expressed consent for mutual recognition of vaccine certificates with India. Recently when hon'ble Modi ji went to participate in Climate Change summit, he put forward a vision of 'One Earth, One Health' before the whole world. He reiterated on world stage this commitment of India that today India has achieved so much progress in the field of pharmaceuticals. We are in a position to provide the vaccine to the whole world. Let all the countries of the world stand on one platform and think together about fighting this pandemic. India can help in providing vaccine to countries all over the world. This assurance has been given by our Hon. Prime Minister in front of the whole world.

Hon, Chairman Sir, all the countries have received information about the emergence of variants of Corona in South Africa, which is infecting many countries of the world including Europe. Although a meeting has been held in India under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, where our Health Secretary, D.G. and members of NITI Aayog were also present. While discussing this new Omicron variant in that meeting, all the medical specialists of our country have said that as of today there is no such case in India, but WHO has warned that this Omicron variant is six times more lethal than the Delta variant of Corona. We have to save our country from its attack, to protect it from its attack. Just as the Hon. Prime Minister had taken a meaningful initiative in this matter in January last year by calling a meeting of the Group of Ministers and Chief Ministers at the time of the outbreak of the Covid epidemic, in the same way,

as soon as the name of this variant came, the Hon. Prime Minister immediately called an emergency meeting and took detailed information about its preparations, about the implications thereof and has indicated that we need to be proactive in view of this new variant. He has said that intensive control and active surveillance should continue in places with higher number of cases. He has given such an order. He said that people need to be more alert and take proper precautions like wearing masks and social distancing. Hon. Prime Minister has also asked the officials to review the easing of international travel restrictions that India had planned in view of the emergence of the new virus. Hon. Prime Minister has also emphasized that although we are moving towards 150 crore vaccines today, but right now we need to focus on the first dose as well as more on the second dose, so that in the coming time We can cover cent-percent population of our country and the new variant which is emerging in the world, its effect should not affect our country. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Hon. Prime Minister told... (*Interruptions*)

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON: Honorable Member, you keep on speaking. Saugata da, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman Sir, the people of the opposition has no work except to criticizing Modi ji day and night. the more people criticize him, the more he becomes firm on the resolve to serve the nation and keeps on making India shine in the world.

A short while ago, a friend of mine was saying that in the States where the Bharatiya Janata Party Government is in the power, vaccines were given aplenty. But in the States where there are opposition Governments, the vaccine was not given. They even requested the countries of the world at the

international level that they should get their share of vaccine as this is not the vaccine of the Indian Government, they have asked for their share of vaccine. But the countries said that if the vaccine will be given, it will be given to the Indian Government, Modi ji's leadership will get it. When they did not get the vaccine, their faces were worth seeing.

Then they came to the same point, and those who used to say that this is Modi vaccine, this is BJP vaccine, there was a competition among them to get this vaccine.

Sir, I salute the doctors for this campaign, the administration, and our health workers, people's representatives of this house and the people's representatives of the Legislative Assemblies of the States, irrespective of the party for this campaign. They all have done commendable work. Commendable work has been done in their respective fields during Corona. All of them also went to vaccination centers, organized blood donation camps and did many relief works.

On this occasion, I would like to mention the National President of my party, Hon. Nadda ji, who issued a standing order to all the workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party to arrange PPE kits, ventilators for the public, arrange food for them. For all our migrant people, who had some difficulties in commuting at that time, our party people gave food packets, PPE kits, face masks to several crores people, and provided health services. From the data I have, I come to know that Bharatiya Janata Party workers, who were engaged in health services, distributed 22 crore food packets and provided ration to 5 crore 31 lakh people, gave face masks to seven crore people and set up several thousand blood donation camps.

Similarly, they went door-to-door as Corona Warriors. Very recently, in the National Working Committee meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the National President of the party and the Hon. Prime Minister made appeal to

crores of workers of his party to go door to door to find out what kind of a facility a person needs.

For this our party is determined to work round the clock. I would like to say in this august house that for us Corona pandemic is not an opportunity but a national responsibility. We are not doing anyone any favor. We are taking this step towards humanity, so that we can save the people of our country from this delay epidemic Corona.

Hon. Chairman Sir, it is true that today we are standing on a safe pitch. ...*(Interruptions)* We have controlled a lot, but the news that are coming is shocking. We do not need to sit comfortably. We need to be aware and follow the path shown by the Hon. Prime Minister to our country.

In the end, I would like to request to the people of opposition that it is right that the opposition has a role of its own within the democracy, they should play that role, but when it comes to humanity, don't try to give it the color of politics.....*(Interruptions)* If you cannot do that work, at least encourage the person who is doing it....*(Interruptions)* With these words I conclude my speech....*(Interruptions)* Thank you, thank you, Namaskar....*(Interruptions)*.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House is adjourned till 2.20 pm.

....*(Interruptions)*

13.17 hrs

*The lok Sabha then adjourned till Twenty Minutes
past Fourteen of the clock.*

14.21 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-One Minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

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

14.22 hrs**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE -193**

Covid-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it -- Contd.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: So, we will resume Discussion under Rule 193 regarding COVID-19 pandemic.

Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Hon. Chairperson, today I have the privilege of participating in this discussion on specific issues related to COVID. Unfortunately, the priority, which the Government should have shown to participate in this important discussion, is not visible. The bell had to be rung to complete the quorum, only then the hon. Members of Parliament of the ruling party have come to participate in this special discussion. This clearly shows the seriousness of the Government about this issue. For India's 130 crore population, COVID is not just a pandemic or a figure. Today it has become a part of our life. Every citizen of India has experienced COVID in some way or

the other in his or her life. When I think of the suffering families, I feel very sad I feel for the children who have lost either their mother or father or both parents due to the COVID pandemic. As per the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, about 3,620 children have been orphaned in the country. About 26,000 children have lost one of their parents. No words can describe the sorrow of these children. I pray to God to protect these children and give them strength to face the times to come. We all worry when we read in the newspaper that women and children have been exploited in their own homes during lock down. Does the Government have these details? Does the Ministry of Women and Child have the details of how many calls were made by the helpless children and women to their helpline numbers, and what kind of assistance was given to them. This is a public matter. All experts say that lock down has fueled exploitation. Today I demand an explanation from the Government about the number of families to whom the Government has reached.

Today people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. I am not saying this, but it has been said in the Global Hunger Index-2021. In this Index, today India ranks 101st out of the 116 countries in the world. Your own National Family Health Survey has shown that anemia in children has increased. Extreme wasting, a factor of malnutrition, has increased. I was very surprised when hon. Members of the ruling party said that there is no hunger, there is no malnutrition in our country, whereas contrary to the statement given by you, I would like the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women and Child Development to give details of the real situation of malnutrition and anemia in our country at present?

Sir, perhaps there are some sections of the society which we have completely ignored. Does the Government has details of how many differently abled children got online education, how many Divyang people got vaccine and how many Divyang people received PDS ration during the last one and a half

year? Can the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ministry of Finance tell what kind of protection we have given to our Divyang people? I am sorry that today we are talking about COVID? We are discussing COVID in the Lok Sabha because we have seen the pain caused by the COVID pandemic in the homes of our villages. Even today, despite vaccination of two doses, people are dying in your Constituency. Whether old or young but people are dying even today. This is the truth.

Sir, I feel very sorry, because at the time when we should show sympathy towards the people, we should join them in their miseries, you are trying to save the image of a special person. You are busy in improving your own image and patting your back. Have you forgotten the situation during the second wave of COVID-19 in our country? Have you forgotten that even today our grandparents do not go out of their homes because they are afraid of COVID infection? Have you forgotten that even today we do not send our children to school, because we are afraid that they may get infected. Today there is an atmosphere of fear and tension all around, but the way you are cheering Prime Minister Modi ji with laughter and feel inflated with pride, it is wrong. Do not act like this ... (*Interruptions*) because when the people listen to you, people will feel that yes, COVID has gone. This will make them feel that why should they get the second dose of COVID vaccine now?

Sir, Modi ji and the ruling party said that we have won the COVID battle, so why should we wear masks? ... (*Interruptions*) Why should we get another vaccine? You are spreading this wrong message among people that they should not be alert about COVID. We need to be vigilant of COVID, as the world is witness to this. In Israel and the United States, where 80 percent of the population has received two doses of vaccines, there is also a threat of a third wave. Today Omicron variant is coming from there, but you are giving this

message to the people of the country that there is nothing to fear from COVID, so come and take part in the election process. You should ask the people of India to be alert. The Prime Minister has said so, but I did not hear any such warning in the speeches of the hon. Members of the ruling party. I urge you that the way Prime Minister Modi ji has called for everyone to be vigilant, in the same way you should also request people to be alert in your speeches.

Sir, I remember that at the beginning of the year 2021, in the virtual summit of Davos in January, the Prime Minister said that India has won the COVID battle. Have you forgotten that in January 2021, our Prime Minister had spoken to the world that India has won the COVID battle? We all know what happened after that. You are very fond of the word chronology. I also want to remind you a little chronology. On 12th February, 2020, our leader Rahul Gandhi had said that the Government should be cautious about COVID, but at that time the Government laughed at us. ... *(Interruptions)* The same things have proved to be true today. ... *(Interruptions)* His words have proven true. ... *(Interruptions)* Let me come to the chronology. ... *(Interruptions)* In September 2020, Rahul Gandhi said that we should focus on vaccination. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Administer the vaccine to the people of India, give the shield of vaccine. At that time also you people accused us of what the Congress party was talking about, what was Rahul Gandhi ji saying, why was it spreading fear among the people, but if you had listened to us, at the time when the people of India needed the vaccine, you would not have delivered the vaccine abroad. ... *(Interruptions)*

[ENGLISH]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not interfere. Hon. Member, you please continue.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: At the time when we had to give the vaccine to our countrymen, you gave the vaccine to other countries. ... (*Interruptions*) Today I will tell you the chronology again. ... (*Interruptions*) Rahul Gandhi ji had said in the month of May that you should focus on the economy, because we have to be prepared for the impact on the economy due to corona and lockdown. At that time also you made the same allegation that Rahul Gandhi was spreading fear, lying, spreading rumours. ... (*Interruptions*) what was the outcome then? ... (*Interruptions*) What happened then? (*Interruptions*)... Our GDP declined by 10 per cent last year. ... (*Interruptions*) You should go to villages, you go there and ask. Don't listen to me. Go to your own village and ask your own people whether unemployment has decreased or increased. Whether their business is going on today the same way as it was going on before the Covid period?... (*Interruptions*) You ask the people who work in your homes. Earlier, two persons were doing jobs in their homes, today only one person is getting the job facility and the whole house is sustaining on the income of one person. You may ignore these things, but I am convinced that I am presenting before you the real situation of today. No matter how much you shout at me, you are higher in number, you are 300, but you can't ignore the truth of India's 130 crore population. ... (*Interruptions*) These people have elected you. ... (*Interruptions*) These people expect from you that when the pandemic comes and we go to the government hospital, someone will take care of us. ... (*Interruptions*) Prime Minister Modi ji made us beat thali, made us clap, so when we go the Prime Minister Modiji's government hospital, we will get bed and ventilators, we will get oxygen, we will get medicines and doctors,

but what happened. ... *(Interruptions)* At one point of time, there was such a shortage of ventilators and oxygen that you had to bring it from abroad. ... *(Interruptions)* You had to bring it from abroad. ... *(Interruptions)* It was your preparation that from abroad...* you had to ask for that because you didn't have ventilators, you didn't have concentrators. ...*(Interruptions)* Did you not have any idea during the first wave in the year 2020 that Covid affects our lungs?, Should you not have imported enough oxygen, ventilators and beds in the year 2020 itself that in the year 2021 you were so late. People are feeling helpless today because of this, people are asking as to where their Government is. When I went to the government hospital, I was sent here and there. I could not even get inside the hospital. There was no ambulance, my father's dead body was in my hands, but I could not find a bed to lay him on it. No one forgot that the corpses were flowing in the Ganga. No one has forgotten the smoldering spark on the banks of the river Ganga. They were our own pyres. Our own Youth Congress helped 500 persons, who died of Covid, in getting their bodies and their ashes immersed in water. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. Please do not interfere.

. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: As much as I am showing you the truth today, I want to praise the people of India because there is an inner strength in the people of India. No matter how difficult the situation is, they have the strength, the ability and the courage to overcome it. Look at your kids today. For a year and a half, they have not been able to read or play with their friends, but still they laugh and bloom today. Today you see that people are losing their jobs. Earlier, there used to be two or three persons in a house doing jobs, today only one person is doing the job and the second is sitting unemployed at the house.

* Not Recorded

But even today that person honestly goes to work every day and works honestly. I never thought that the Government can be so cruel at this hour of unemployment and Covid crisis. But what did you impose - the increase in the price of LPG gas, the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, what did you impose - the increase in the prices of kerosene? Was it the time to take money from the poor and then argue that we bought the vaccine. If you were so short of money, you should have taken it from the owners of big companies, what percentage of corporate tax did you waive? If the Government did not have money, they should have taken it from big billionaires, whose loans you waived in the public sector banks. But from whom did you take the money, you took the money from the farmers, from the workers and from the unemployed families. By increasing the prices of petrol and diesel, it was said that we bought the Covid vaccine. That's the situation today. Today, I'm really surprised in respect of ventilators. There is black marketing of ventilators today. Today, the respected member of Shiv Sena has said about ventilators. We have seen in Gujarat what kind of tension and doubt the people have over ventilators. What will you do against those people, what legal action will you take against those who are involved in ventilators and medicines scam? Where is the strictness? You tell me today that you take money from the poor but for Central Vista you have money to spend. There is money for that, but not for the poor who is asking for financial help, the poor is asking you to hear his pain. Today, unemployment has increased in my house, my father who used to do job has passed away. My son who used to do job has passed away. You have increased the prices of petrol and LPG gas, still I am enduring, struggling, living and managing my home and my life, but at least help me a little. I have spent lakhs of rupees on the hospital bill. There's no money to set fire to the pyre, at least help me a little. That's what our party leader Rahul Gandhi ji is saying that the Government does not have even four lakh rupees to help the families which

have lost their family members due to Covid,. Can't you give even four lakh rupees? Whose announcement was this, this was your announcement. You had earlier said that under the National Disaster Management Act, you will help the people financially and you brought the figure of four lakh rupees. When you saw that it does not fit into the financial calculations, you reduced it to 50 thousand rupees. If you have a shortage of money, increase the corporate tax. Why are you levying petrol tax, diesel tax, GST tax on the poor ? Their demand is justified because in the time of unemployment, price rise and inflation, there is lack of medical facilities during the Covid pandemic, people are asking for your help by spreading their hands, spreading their satchels. The demands of these people are only being putforth by Rahul Gandhi ji before you today. What wrong we did, will you accuse us for this also, have we done anything wrong? Today, let the Government tell us clearly what the truth is? Don't be afraid, but tell us how many people have died today due to Covid?

In hospitals it is shown that there is a death due to Covid, it is written in the death certificate as well. But when you go to the crematorium, it is changed. Today, from the portal of your own National Family Health Survey, and when the Hon. Minister is here, you can take out the data of the month of May, 2021, from the system of HMIS of National Family Health Portal. The number of deaths reported in that portal is three lakh which is more than the number of people who died since last year in May. This proves that, today, the Government does not want us to know the actual number of people died due to Covid. All these people are saying that you should audit the data. People should know the truth. The people should know that one member from their family has died due to Covid. But, you do not want to tell them the truth. You have written on the HMIS portal that the cause of deaths is fever or cold not Covid. The deaths have been caused due to some unknown reason. Do the people of India not have the right to know the truth today? We just want to know the truth. I am

not saying that it is only the responsibility of the Central Government. Every State Government has to do this. Central and State Governments have to work together for this. You should issue the guidelines and may be you have given the guidelines about how to record the deaths. But, whether the guidelines have been followed? We know that a study has been conducted in Madurai city in the year 2020. It was shown that out of the total number of people who died, only 11 percent were reported as Covid deaths. Whereas, the number of Covid deaths should have been higher. That is your responsibility. That is why we come to the House, not to just talk. We come to the Parliament to bring this information or truth to the people. What did you do? On the first day itself, you presented the Bill in the Lok Sabha and the Bill was not discussed in the House and you suspended 12 people in the Rajya Sabha. Don't you want the Bill to be discussed? You are creating an atmosphere of tension in the Parliament. We want to have a discussion. We want to appreciate you for the good works you have done and also want you to take the responsibility of the works you have not been able to do. But unfortunately, when it comes to failure, the opposite party and State Governments are being accused of. When the time comes to take the credit, all the credit is given to one person. What kind of leadership is this? Leadership means to take the responsibility for success as well as failure. Leadership does not mean that someone else is accused of the failure but all the credit is given to someone else. This is not the virtue of leadership.

Today, I request you tell to tell us about what is going to happen in the future? You have given the right to the private sector to take 25 percent of vaccine. Do you have the data regarding the number of vaccines provided to the people? Today, you have also outsourced and privatized the vaccination. Kindly tell us the number of vaccines utilized and underutilized out of the 25 percent of vaccines provided to the private sector. Because, we know that today, private

sector hospitals have vaccines but they are unable to properly distribute the vaccine to the people.

Today, we want to know the status of booster dose. There are many old people who have taken two doses of vaccine but we want to give them more protection or booster dose. Where is your policy on booster dose? Today, in various countries, vaccine is being provided to the children below the age of 18. When will we give vaccine to our children? Today, several talks are going on about population but this vaccine has been provided only for the people above the age of 18. What about the people below the age of 18? We want to know the time by when vaccine is likely to be given to them. I want to know why you are not reducing the three month gap between the two doses of Covishield. There is a possibility of third wave or new variant. Today, there is Omicron. There will be other variants in the future. So, why are you not making any arrangement to provide double doses of vaccine to the people as soon as possible?

Why are you not reducing the gap between Covishield vaccinations? Because, in other countries, the gap between the two doses of Covishield is two months but in India, it is three months. So, the protective shield of vaccine which should be provided to the people is not provided as quickly as possible.

When I look at 'CoWIN' portal, I feel happy. I feel happy that on September 17th, on the birthday of hon. Prime Minister, 2.5 crore people have been vaccinated. I feel happy because when more people are vaccinated, they will be safer and we will also feel safe. But, what really happened? We saw that on 17th, 2.5 crore people are vaccinated, but, the number of people vaccinated on the previous day was only 1.63. Two days ago, it was 96,000. I am talking about Assam. On 17th September, 2.5 crore people have been vaccinated but how did we get this number? I want to give an example of Assam. In Assam

also, on the birthday of hon. Prime Minister 7.9 vaccines have been given. *[English]* But one day before that, the number was 1.63 lakh. Two days before that, the number was 96,000 only. And, four days before that, it was 2 lakh. So, leading up to the Prime Minister's birthday, this was the level of vaccination in the country. Two days before the Pradhan Mantri's birthday, the level drops. On the day of Pradhan Mantri's birthday it jumps, and the next day it again falls. How is that possible? It should continue at that level. *[Translation]* Give me the details of 18, 19, 20 and 21 September. Give me the details of October or November. I appreciate you if you have spread awareness in such a way that 2.5 crores of people have been vaccinated in one day but why could not you keep the same number for the next week one or next two months? After that, this number had been 30,000 or 50,000. I am talking about Assam. Why does the number goes up and down? Therefore, we want you to do the work you have been doing with sincerity.

We salute and express our gratitude to all the Covid warriors. I express my gratitude towards the doctors, nurses and especially "ASHA" workers. Today the "ASHA" workers do not have the money for their personal expenses but they give vaccine from house to house by reaching there by bicycles or by walking. Whether they are being given salary? Some people are waiting for their salary for the last two months. In Shajahanpur, Uttar Pradesh "ASHA" workers are beaten by Police during Chief Minister's rally. Is this is the way in which Covid warriors have to be treated? You have given them the status but you have not provided financial assistance to the 'ASHA' workers.

It's because of those 'ASHA' workers , the previous U.P.A Government was able to eliminate Polio. They went to each house. At that time, we did not put the photo of our Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ji on all vaccines. We just did our job. It is our duty to go door to door, create public awareness and to take

assistance from various organizations and NGOs. Then, we were able to eliminate Polio. What do you do? You want to do promotion. You have to put the photo of Prime Minister Modi on every vaccine. There is not any country where the photo of Prime Minister is given on the vaccination certificate.

What have we learned from this Covid? We learnt that we have to give importance to our economy. Now, you were speaking about G.ST. G.S.T has been increased to Rs. one lakh crore but 80 percent of people in India are in informal sectors. Please go to your Constituency and check the condition of the informal sector. Today, the condition of economic recovery is that the rich people have become richer and the poor people became poorer.

We have to bridge this gap. Religion is important but we have to show humanity along with it. Today, we have come together in this time of pandemic. We all are here to serve the people. Wherever our Government is, we are with you. Wherever our Government is not, our party is with you. In Delhi, our people in Youth Congress have helped people by going from house to house. You may or may not believe this, but everybody else believes this. Therefore, I would like to say that we have to learn this. Even today, there is not adequate number of doctors, beds and oxygen cylinders in the Primary Health Centres of our hospitals. We have to improve this in our health centres.

Sir, what have we learn today? Today, many children are dropping out from schools. Today, they are gradually going to schools but they are not being able to properly attend the school for the last one and a half year because they do not have smart phones. We have to fulfill the shortcomings they had in their upbringing. Today, we have to try to reduce the burden that we are putting on the poor. Reduce the price of petrol, diesel, LPG as well as vegetables and various food items. The time has come to help the people of the country. The time has come that people may know the truth about the number of people died

due to Covid. The time has come to provide financial assistance to the people of our country.

Chairperson Sir, the Government can do promotion. I will never say to the Government not to do the promotion but the promotion should be done on the basis of truth not lies. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members are informed that those who wish to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House, are allowed to do so.

Now, Dr . DNV Senthilkumar S.

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): Hon. Chairperson, Vanakkam.

I would like to draw the kind attention of this House regarding the new coronavirus strain, that is, B.1.1.529, which has been identified in Botswana in the South African region. The World Health Organisation has classified the new strain as a high-risk variant of global concern and has named the heavily mutated strain as ‘Omicron’. It has spread to Australia, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Britain, Hongkong, and Belgium.

Omicron reportedly has more than thirty mutations in spikes which is double the number of the Delta variant and it makes it potentially more dangerous with higher risk of re-infection. Since its time of detection, it has outpaced the Delta variant and has become a dominant strain in parts of South Africa and is a greater cause of concern which might have an impact on India.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the covid situation -- be it the first wave or the second phase or the anticipated third phase -- the Government's reaction has always been reactive and not pro-active. Initially, there were confusions in the travel advisories and proper screening was not done at the airports at the beginning of the months of January and February and suddenly, the hon. Prime Minister appeared and he announced a 21-day lockdown with a four-hour notice, with no preparation or no prior warning to the common men. During these 21 days of the lockdown, people were put to much sufferings.

There was a shortage of PPE kits, face shields, and masks during the first phase and there was a breach of federalism. 'Health' is a subject under the State List. But it was the Central Government which took over the procurement of masks, PPE kits, and other things which the States should have procured. At the initial stage, the delivery of the kits was not up to standard quality for the doctors and frontline warriors to battle with. It was at a later stage that the Government had stopped or banned the export of PPEs which were required in India.

Now, I come to the MPLADS fund. When all the hon. Members had given letters for their specific districts to be covered under the MPLADS, the Government had taken a unilateral decision of taking away the MPLADS fund for two years.

So, what happened was that each Member could have uniformly distributed the funds equally to all States and all districts. The 534 Members of this House could have equally distributed the MPLADS fund just for the COVID-19 cause. We do not have any objection in the Government taking away the MPLADS fund. But if it was used for each district and each constituency, it would have had much more impact.

Now, we do not know what is the status of the MPLADS fund which was taken away and for what specific purposes it was used.

Sir, regarding the migration of labourers, after the India-Pakistan partition, this was seen as the next biggest migration in the nation where thousands of migrant labourers were left alone and they were seen walking with so much of sad stories. During this time, what did the Government do? What did the Prime Minister do? The Prime Minister was seen feeding the ducks. The Prime Minister was seen posing with the peacocks. Nothing was done to address the common man. That is, the common man was just left without help. Is it not the responsibility of the Government to take care of its citizens? Is it not the responsibility of democracy? What did the Government do during the six months of lockdown? It had just left its citizens alone. There were sops given to corporate firms but what about the unorganized sector, what about the street vendor, what about the barber, what about the driver, what about the hotel, what about the residents, and what about the travel agencies. Who took care of them? For six months, there was no support from the Government as such.

Regarding the financial help, it was not rendered at all to the common man. Regarding the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, the ambulance drivers, the compounders, and the technicians, no help was given to them. The police personnel who were taking care of the country during the six months' lock down were also not given any help.

The Indian Medical Association had come without a proper data. The then Health Minister has also given the data stating the number of doctors who had expired. But there was a vast difference between the two. All this showed the failure of the Government.

In spite of repeated warnings during the last winter session by almost all the Members saying that the second wave was going to come, the Government

did not pay heed to anybody's request. During November, 2020, the Standing Committee on Health, of which I am also a Member, had given a stern warning to the Government that there was going to be shortage of oxygen cylinders and ventilators for which the Government had to gear up. But our voice was not heard. If the first wave had occurred because of shortage of masks, PPE kits and sanitisers, the second wave had come because of shortage of beds, oxygen cylinders and ventilators.

The second wave came vigorously causing a strong effect even on the young people. All families were affected. There was at least one person in the family affected by corona and among the relatives of the family, there was at least one death in all the families in India.

After DMK came to power, with the Dravidian principles and ideologies with Periyar's dream, with Anna's plan, Kalaignar Karunanidhi's execution and Chief Minister MK Stalin's delivery of schemes to the last village and the last man, the whole Government machinery in Tamil Nadu was focussed on controlling the second wave. All ration card holders were given a monetary benefit of rupees four thousand. As a result, the Government took the initiative to start an oxygen generator plant in each district. In Tamil Nadu, we have at least two oxygen plants in each district.

Regarding the beds, there are around 300 to 1000 beds with oxygen supply. Extra beds are also kept readily available by anticipating third wave.

Regarding the vaccination camps, we saw a big confusion of vaccination. First, the Government came up with a thought saying that only the frontline workers will be given free dose of vaccines. Then, upon insistence, it was then said that vaccines will be given free to all the people who are above 65 years of age. When the States had to go for procurement of vaccines, the Supreme Court

had to intervene and it was then decided that the vaccines should be given free to all.

Sir, taking the example in Tamil Nadu, we have held more than 5000 vaccination camps per week and we have been vigorously continuing them.

Sir, Tamil Nadu has been an example of giving free vaccines even in private hospitals under the CSR scheme. It is not necessary that you will have to take vaccine shot only from the Government hospital. You can have it free from the private hospital.

15.00 hrs

Sir, the Chengalpattu HBL vaccine centre has already been established, but it has not yet been made operational. Our hon. Chief Minister has been consistently asking the Central Government to open this vaccination centre and has even suggested that the Tamil Nadu Government will take over this complex and run. But till today the Centre has not heeded to this request and there is news that it is going to be given to a private organisation.

There are a number of schemes in Tamil Nadu, which have not even been heard of in developed nations, which have been implemented. The first of such schemes is reaching healthcare services to the doorsteps of the common man where medicines for diseases like Diabetes and Hypertension are delivered at the doorsteps of the common man. Such a scheme is not found even in developed nations of the world. We have been setting role models in healthcare throughout Tamil Nadu. If this is implemented throughout the country, then India will be able to outshine other nations in healthcare.

Sir, our hon. Chief Minister is setting the bar high day by day and is even exceeding the expectations of the people. The TN model should be implemented throughout India. In just 200 days of rule of DMK, the hon. Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu has been voted as the number one Chief Minister and Tamil Nadu has risen to the first rank in the country.

Sir, during COVID the farmers' agitation which had been going on then had taken away 700 lives. I sincerely urge upon the Government to provide compensation to the families of those 700 people who lost their lives during that time. I would like to accord special thanks to all the farmers and agriculturists, especially to the farmers of Punjab and the State Government of Tamil Nadu for passing a Resolution to repeal the farm laws.

The lesson learnt is that protest of the people is stronger and has more value than the autocratic ways of the Government, and Government will have to succumb to the voice and demands of the people. This is the spirit of Indian democracy.

Thank you.

***SHRI P. R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE):** I would like to lay my speech with regard to Discussion Under Rule 193 on Covid-19 Pandemic and Various Aspects on the Table of the House.

This unprecedented health and humanitarian crisis created by Covid-19, is turning into a tsunami. The situation has been aggravated by the approach and attitude of the Union Government. This is not the time to go into those details, as we mourn the deaths of thousands of our beloved fellow Indians. These deaths were very much preventable. The Government must ensure two things at utmost priority.

One, they should ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen to all hospitals and patients across the country by procuring it at any cost; and two, they should provide vaccines to all the State Governments for a free and universal vaccination programme, bringing production of Indian vaccines under emergency provisions and importing other vaccines from all available sources to prevent more deaths. The Government should procure vaccines centrally from all available sources - global and domestic, and immediately begin a free, universal mass vaccination campaign across the country.

The Government should invoke compulsory licensing to expand domestic vaccine production and spend an approximately budgetary allocation of Rs. 35,000 crores for the vaccines. They should stop Central Vista construction project and use the allocated money for procuring oxygen and vaccines.

Finally, we also demand the Government that families of COVID-19 victims should be given good compensation. Thank you.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

***SHRI S. R. PARTHIBAN (SALEM):** The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating and tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty.

Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Millions of Indian workforce are at the risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food.

The pandemic has been affecting the entire food system and has laid bare its fragility. Border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets. The pandemic has decimated jobs and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. As breadwinners lose jobs, fall ill and die, the food security and nutrition of millions of women and men is under threat, with those in low-income countries, particularly the most marginalized populations, which include small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples, being the hardest hit.

Millions of agricultural workers - waged and self-employed - while feeding the world, regularly face high levels of working poverty, malnutrition

*Speech was laid on the Table.

and poor health, and suffer from a lack of safety and labour protection as well as other types of abuse. With low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them are spurred to continue working, often in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks. Further, when experiencing income losses, they may resort to negative coping strategies, such as distress sale of assets, predatory loans or child labour. Migrant agricultural workers are particularly vulnerable because they face risks in their transport, working and living conditions and struggle to access support measures put in place by Governments. Guaranteeing the safety and health of all agri-food workers -- from primary producers to those involved in food processing, transport and retail, including street food vendors -- as well as better incomes and protection will be critical to saving lives and protecting public health as well as people's livelihoods and food security.

In the COVID-19 crisis, food security, public health, and employment and labour issues, in particular workers' health and safety, converge. Adhering to workplace safety and health practices and ensuring access to decent work and the protection of labour rights in all industries will be crucial in addressing the human dimension of the crisis. Immediate and purposeful action to save lives and livelihoods should include extending social protection towards universal health coverage and income support for the most affected. These include workers in the informal economy and in poorly protected and low-paid jobs, including youth, older workers, and migrants. Particular attention must be paid to the situation of women, who are over-represented in low-paid jobs and care roles. Different forms of support are key, including cash transfers, child allowances and healthy school meals, shelter and food relief initiatives, support for employment retention and recovery, and financial relief for businesses, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. In designing and

implementing such measures, it is essential that Governments work closely with employers and workers.

Now is the time for global solidarity and support, especially with the most vulnerable in our societies, particularly in the emerging and developing world. Only together can we overcome the inter-twined health and social and economic impacts of the pandemic and prevent its escalation into a protracted humanitarian and food security catastrophe, with the potential loss of already achieved development gains.

We must recognize this opportunity to build back better. We are committed to pooling our expertise and experience to support countries in their crisis response measures and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to develop long-term sustainable strategies to address the challenges facing the health and agri-food sectors. Priority should be given to addressing underlying food security and malnutrition challenges, tackling rural poverty, in particular through more and better jobs in the rural economy, extending social protection to all, facilitating safe migration pathways and promoting the formalization of the informal economy.

We must rethink the future of our environment and tackle climate change and environmental degradation with ambition and urgency. Only then can we protect the health, livelihoods, food security and nutrition of all people, and ensure that our 'new normal' is a better one.

Thank you.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you. I think it was high time that we discussed this very important issue which is plaguing the world. It is a privilege to mention here that during the all-Party meeting, the leader of our Party in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay ji raised the issue that this subject of COVID needs a serious and a detailed discussion in the House. When we are discussing it today, I would like to thank all the speakers who have already spoken.

But I would like to point out that when this disease struck us for the first time, nearly two years back, we were ridiculed. Towards the end of 2019, maybe it was August or December, this is yet to be decided, when the Chinese city of Wuhan saw the first case of this disease, we were banned from wearing masks in the House. Particularly, ... *That goes to prove how immature this Government is in its thinking and how unaware they are.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please do not quote the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha. It is against the Rules.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: We were not allowed to wear masks in the Parliament and the Government was unaware of the very serious condition of this disease. This is a disease that affects one of the respiratory apparatuses. I am not an Entomologist; I am not an Epidemiologist and I am not a Virologist. But as an ordinary doctor, I would like to remind this august House of the devastations caused some 100 years ago when Europe was devastated with Plague. After that Small Pox struck the United States of America, a lot of stories made the rounds regarding the advent of Small Pox in the USA. Some years down the line some stories are going to emerge regarding the advent of this particular virus as well. As we studied, virus is a self-limiting disease and

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

kills itself on the way as it goes on creating diseases. Here we see that this virus is not dying. This virus is mutating. Mutating means, it is changing its character so that it is becoming immune to therapy and it is killing more people.

So, is this mutating virus man-made? Then how was it created and let loose in the world is a big question which a lot of researchers are thinking about.

Now, due to the Coronavirus, since 2019, we have lost many lives. Usually, it takes about five to ten years to produce a vaccine and my salutation in this august House is to the researchers and doctors who have worked and devised a vaccine within eight to ten months of the advent of the disease. My salutation also goes out to the doctors who were working. They were the frontline fighters all over the world. We cannot keep on our mask for one or two hours. We cannot speak with the mask on because it suffocates us. But the doctors were putting on the Personal Protective Equipment in the sweltering heat of the month of May and looking after the patients, trying to revive and resuscitate them. They were going through so much of dehydration. More than 700 doctors died in 2020 and more than that died in 2021. Nurses have lost their lives. ASHA workers and police people have lost their lives. My salutation goes out to all of them who have been the frontline warriors. This is a war; this is not a disease; this is like a world war. We are facing the war. We are with the people and we have to be with the people.

This Government should have been more careful because the vaccines that were produced within a very short span of time have not been used properly. We advertised that we completed hundred billion vaccinations but what about the second dose? Why can we not complete the second dose which we were supposed to complete by December or January? Why have we not done it yet?

Also, there is a suggestion by the experts all over the world that people who are above the age of 65 and who have co-morbidities should be given the booster doses. What is the policy of the Government regarding booster doses? What is the policy of this Government regarding inoculating or vaccinating the children or young adults as they are our future?

When so many people have died, the doctors are sometimes blamed. I do not like to name the person but an honourable speaker was just now blaming the doctors. The doctors have fought this battle on their own here without ventilators, without oxygen supply and without oxygen concentrators.

I would rather suggest and request the hon. minister sitting here on one point. After Independence and before that, there was an Indian Medical Service like the Indian Administrative Service. Why not we bring back that Indian Medical Service in which there are medical administrators who will look after the administrative part of the medical calamities and also the delivery system? We might see more of what we are seeing today.

The World Health Organisation has brought out advisories on the 26th November because they are quite worried about the mutation. There are spike proteins on this virus and there are nearly 13 mutations on the spike proteins. What does the spike protein do? It attaches itself to us. This virus enters through the nose and mouth. It remains within the air spaces behind our nose for a day or two and then it travels downwards to the respiratory apparatus, that is, the lining of the lungs. It prevents us from breathing. The severe acute respiratory syndrome related to COVID-19 is because the lining of the air spaces is affected by this virus and that is why, the advisory is to cover the nose and mouth so that the virus does not enter it. That is why the advisory is to stay away from the next person at least one meter, that is, three feet, preferably six feet so that when he is speaking or when the person is breathing, we do not

transmit the disease. The advisory is to keep the windows and doors of the room open and have the fan on so that there is ventilation and the virus goes out. These are the advisories given out by the experts to prevent the virus from entering through our nose and affecting our lungs.

The World Health Organisation has now designated this variant as B.1.1.529 and a variant of concern.

They are very concerned. The World Health Organisation is very concerned with this particular variant, Omicron. It seems to be much more dangerous than the previous one, the Delta. WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution is suggesting that these mutations may have an impact on how this virus behaves; how it reacts to the vaccines; and how it kills a person.

So, we have to go through the WHO's warnings and make our people aware. Generally, it has been seen that this virus is causing fever and it is giving us severe respiratory disorder. Particularly, patients with comorbidities are prone to die. Now, it is not yet decided whether Omicron variant is transmitted more or not than the previous ones. But we have to be very careful.

The severity of the disease is also not yet decided because Omicron is pretty new in the field. Definitely, no information is still there to suggest that the symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those of the other variants.

The vaccine, if two doses are given, definitely prevents severe disease and death. But mild disease will still occur and with the mild disease, there will be morbidity in the society. There may be increased risk of reinfection with Omicron for people who have previously had COVID-19 with other variants. So, it is not that a person who has got COVID-19 before with other variant of

Delta or the other ones, will not be affected. They will also be affected by the disease. So, the vaccine remains critical to reduce the severe disease.

Now, it is said that India produces 60 per cent of world's requirement of vaccine and the particular CEO of a Pune-based firm is saying that he has got enough stock of the second dose for the whole country. Then, why our Government, instead of vaccinating the whole country's population with the second dose, had to export the vaccine? For whose benefit the vaccine was exported and not given to our own people? Why is not there any advisory regarding the booster doses? It is because the Government is trying to deprive the citizens of India and earn brownie points from outside countries.

I am not saying that you do not help other countries. If we have excess, we will definitely help other countries. But everybody should be self-sufficient. Why cannot we complete the second dose and why cannot we give the booster dose to our elderly people? It simply beats me; I do not understand.

As far as the new variant is concerned, the treatment is still to prevent the Cytokine Storm. That is related to the injection of the Corticosteroids and the Interleukin 6. We do not know whether the Remdesivir that has been useful for the previous variants will be effective here or not.

A particular company is claiming that the drugs have been brought out. We would like to know whether we are aware of it in the Government and we have enough stock of the drug. The House wants to know whether we have enough stock of the drug to help us. It is said that this drug will prevent this disease; this will cure the disease. The most effective step that we can take is maintaining the distance and also by wearing the mask. There are no two ways about that.

Omicron has about 15 mutations including more than 13 mutations on the spike proteins. The region of the virus that binds and allows the virus to enter the human cell is called spike protein. One reason why the scientists are raising early concerns about Omicron even before it has proven itself to be a true threat is because it contains several mutations that made earlier variants – Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta – more transmutable and better able to evade the immune response.

We, after vaccination, get an immune response. But this is evading the immune response. So, we have to be more careful. Even after vaccination, the body does not respond. The body will take some response; the body will respond to the virus. So, severe disease will be prevented; death will be prevented by only giving the vaccine. The only answer to the disease now is complete vaccination with two doses for the whole of the population. That is as far as the vaccination goes. As far as the scientific basis is concerned, the evidence is clear that the type of immune response from the heterologous approach of a particular brand of vaccine, that is, the Astra Zeneca or the Johnson and Johnson followed by an mRNA vaccine such as the Pfizer or Biotech induces superior neutralising and cell mediated immune response than two doses of a non-replicating vector vaccine. They are saying that we should mix up the vaccine which gives you the larger area of action for the virus to be trapped. So, I demand that immediately high-risk groups should be given the boosters.

Sir, the question remains whether the Government is prepared to let us know the status of the ventilators, the number of ventilators available in the country because we have seen the PMCARES Fund failed miserably. We have seen how labourers were affected adversely when the sudden lockdown was announced; there was a loss of GDP; there was a loss of earnings for the

labourers. So, what has the Government done to take care of them? There should not be any haphazard lockdown as far as the World Health Organisation data goes. They are saying there is no need of lockdown just right away. You can keep the airports open, travel open, but with a mask on. That is what the advisory says. So, the House wants to know as to what is the plan of the Government? How does the Government propose to protect the citizens of our country and how does the Government propose to stand by the doctors who have been working so hard? There were not any ventilators; there was lack of oxygen supply; there was lack of oxygen concentrators? How does the Government propose to stand by the different communities and different sectors of people who have lost their jobs? What was the growth in the last few years? How many total beds has the Government prepared? In West Bengal, our Chief Minister has kept even today 30,000 beds ready for any type of calamity or the third wave, if it comes along. So, what is the total number of COVID beds kept ready in the country? What is the total amount of oxygen supplied? What is the total oxygen production in the country? How many vaccines are still there that people are looking at? What is the stock of the medicine that is being said to cure the disease and what is the idea for compensating those who lost their lives due to COVID? What is the idea for the people who are suffering and not getting any jobs? They have lost their jobs due to COVID lockdown? What is the Government's proposal?

Sir, we want a complete status report. A decision has to be made as to how we are going to tackle if the third wave comes or if Omicron becomes bigger than what we have experienced in the past? Thank you.

[Translation]

***SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR (CHANDRAPUR):** I would like to make a few points on this important issue.

As far as coverage of percentage of population is concerned, vaccination rates in India are very low compared to other countries. It is 76% in Canada, 68% in UK, 58% in US, 75% in China, 62% in Israel and only 38% in India.

Our leader Rahul ji has repeatedly raised the demand to the Government to provide compensation of four lakh rupees to the families of those who died due to COVID. We have raised this issue with the Government but the Government refused to do so.

There has been less reporting of mass number of deaths due to corona. According to the report, there were 5722% additional deaths in Gujarat, 228% in UP, 196% in Bihar, 67% in Haryana, and 43% in Karnataka. The pictures of dead bodies floating in rivers like Ganga can never be forgotten.

At the time when Indians were struggling for oxygen and beds were not available in hospitals, where were our hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister then? They were busy in creating an electoral atmosphere, holding rallies and meetings in West Bengal. When the situation improved a bit after lakhs of people lost their loved ones, the Prime Minister started shedding false tears. But these things cannot be forgotten nor can Indians be misled. Modi ji is directly responsible for every death during the second wave. You left the people on their own during the time of national calamity.

Now the new variant of corona, Omicron, has emerged as a major potential threat. The threat of the horrific scenario of the third wave is again

* Speech was laid on the Table.

impending. The Government has not announced any effective steps for this. As the day passes, we should prepare accordingly. Therefore, I would request the Government to take appropriate steps in this regard at the earliest.

Last year, several experts and opposition leaders warned the Government for ignoring the fears of second wave. But at that time, Modi ji was claiming victory over Corona without completing the vaccination programme. Union Ministers were engaged in celebration. The disaster in the second wave was the result of their arrogance.

Now again we are facing the same threat in the form of Omicron. Ignoring this threat can lead to another disaster. Therefore, concrete steps should be taken in this regard in a timely manner. This is my demand to the Government. Thank you for allowing me to speak here.

[English]

KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI (ARAKU): Hon. Chairperson , Sir,
I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this debate.

Sir, on behalf of the YSR Congress Party, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the need for having a discussion on Omicron variant that is causing a concern around the world. On Friday, the World Health Organisation classified a new variant of SARS COV-2, currently circulating in South Africa, as a variant of concern. It has also named it Omicron. Early instances are that this variant is, possibly, even more transmissible than the highly infectious Delta variant and the current vaccines may be less effective against it. The new variant was reported to WHO from South Africa on 24th November, 2021.

This variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are concerning. Preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of the infection with this variant as compared to earlier Delta variant.

Sir, around 20 countries and territories around the world now, have suspected or confirmed cases belonging to the Omicron variant. The latest entrant to the growing list is Japan which confirmed its first case merely hours after it closed its borders for foreign travellers.

While India is yet to report any cases, the authorities remain on high alert. Both the Centre and the State Governments have announced a slew of precautionary measures to counter this variant.

Much remains unknown about the new variant. Rapid surge in cases has prompted many nations to enact strict measures to counter this variant. In this

regard, we should consider measures like banning of international flights from countries where such cases have been detected in large number.

As 'Omicron' has been designated as a variant of concern, there are several actions which the WHO has recommended to all the countries to undertake. They are:

1. To increase surveillance and sequencing efforts to better understand circulating SARS-COVID-2 variant;
2. To submit complete genome sequences and associated metadata to a publicly available database such as GISAID; and
3. To report initial cases/clusters associated with VOC infection to the WHO through the IHR mechanism.

Sir, in my State of Andhra Pradesh, our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has conducted a review meeting on Covid-19 situation on the new variant of concern -- 'Omicron'. Our State Government will take all necessary precautions to stop the entry of this new variant in the State. It will focus on arrival of international travellers to prevent its spread. In the review meeting, our Chief Minister asked the officials to send special medical teams to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai Airports to screen international passengers headed to Andhra Pradesh. He also asked the officials to conduct only RT-PCR test and avoid rapid testing.

If any traveller tests negative, he will be allowed to proceed to his destination but he will be put under observation for some time. If any passenger is tested positive, his/her sample would be sent for genome sequencing to identify the variant of the virus he/she was infected with. Our State Government is also planning to procure genome sequencing testing machines to detect the variant within the State quickly. Sir, with the Omicron variant, there have been concerns raised for administering of a third Booster Dose of Covid-

19 vaccines especially, among the frontline workers and immunocompromised people.

Sir, it is presumed that there is an unused stock of between five and 10 million doses in the private sector in India which are likely to be expired in January-February, 2022. In case, the Expert Committee of the Government decided that a Booster Dose was necessary, then this stock could be used as a Booster Dose for healthcare and frontline workers as also for those who are at higher risk despite having received two doses. Our objective should be to minimise wastage of this precious resource.

Sir, I would request the Central Government to ensure that the precious stockpiles of vaccines are not wasted, and are put to good use. In the light of the experience of having dealt with the pandemic situation before, there is a need to take adequate preventive measures so that the people do not suffer, and the precious lives are not lost.

Finally, I would say only one thing, which I just learned from the COVID. It is: 'Be fearless and be strong.' Then only, we will survive.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Now, Shri Kaushlendra Kumar-ji : Not present.

Now, Shri Achyutananda Samanta.

[Translation]

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA (KANDHAMAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue. At the outset, it is my duty to bow to all the corona warriors, namely ASHA workers, Safai Karamcharis, doctors, police personnel and journalists. Alongwith this, on behalf of Biju Janata Dal, I pay tribute to those people who have passed away during this crisis while serving.

Sir, I want to mention that no one knew anything about the pandemic that hit the world. Now it has been around two years since the outbreak of COVID-19. In my opinion, everyone deserves thanks, be it the Honorable Prime Minister, hon. Health Minister, hon. Chief Minister of every State, Central administration and the administration of all the States, everyone made combined effort during the pandemic, arranged everything and instilled hope and confidence in the common man and because of this, we have been able to handle such large scale outbreak of pandemic. For this, our huge Indian population deserves gratitude the most.

I remember when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world and India, entire media outside India was discussing that India has such a huge population, how would these people fight against the corona pandemic, but the entire world witnessed *[English]* because of the combined effort of the entire administration, Prime Minister, Chief Minister and the people of India with their decent and disciplined attitude, we have shown to the entire world *[Translation]* how we would be able to do this practically, in this connection I remember, as people always say, *[English]* "United we stand, divided we fall". *[Translation]* Whatever little I know, whenever a crisis hit the country, everyone unites. In this context,

as we all know that the world is going through two major crises. One is COVID-19 and the other is climate change. These two global crises have made the common man suffer. *[English]* This pandemic is awful but the climate change is worse. COVID-19 and climate change, both, are grave challenges that the humanity is grappling with today. As awful as this pandemic is, climate change could also be worse.

[Translation]

As far as the new variant, Omicron is concerned, we are witnessing the current scenario and everyone is scared of it. Today, I was watching TV when the Chief Scientist, WHO was saying that till now full research has not been done in this regard and nothing is clear. However, I believe that as we handled the situation well during the outbreak of Delta and Delta Plus variant, definitely, Indians and our administration will handle the Omicron well and we will overcome it. *[English]* The people of India will definitely be safe.

In this context, I would like to say something about my State, Odisha and also our leader hon. Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patnaik ji. Definitely, he turned all adversities into opportunity. He is a kind hearted Samaritan who walks the talks. He is a leader ahead of his time. We all know that Odisha ranked one in COVID-19 management as per the Mood of the Nation Survey conducted by India Today. As far as the vaccination is concerned, Odisha has achieved much more than the national average and 85.65 per cent population in Odisha has already been vaccinated with a single dose whereas 49 per cent population has been vaccinated with double dose. Our hon. Chief Minister has taken many steps in this respect and our State is much ahead of other States. In this context, I can say that our hon. Chief Minister has taken many steps like creation of COVID-19 hospitals and free treatment, COVID-19 care centres and quarantine centres, free education to the wards of COVID-19 deceased, financial assistance

package that covers almost all sections of the society, starting from COVID-19 warriors, journalists, farmers to even vendors.

The social security package has been increased. Disaster and pandemic management course in the curriculum has been included. *[Translation]* The most important work, when there was shortage of oxygen, as we all know , *[English]*our State supplied medical oxygen to the tune of 7,723 metric tonnes to 17 oxygen-deficient States, and also, we did many other things. *[Translation]* In June 2021, the Odisha Government announced the Aashirwad scheme. In Odisha, the number of children orphaned due to COVID-19 is 1773. Rs 2500 per month is deposited in the bank accounts of family members who have taken the responsibility of these orphaned children *[English]* and it will continue up to the age of 18.

Similarly, if we see, there are some steps taken by the Government of Odisha from the early stage to contain the spread of this virus and break the chain of infection. As soon as the first case was reported in Odisha on 16th March, our hon. Chief Minister has put the lockdown in advance of the Central Government which has done it on 24th March. Even in this case, I can say, additionally, the Odisha Government engaged the Women Self-Help Groups to assist with awareness generation, ensuring public health and hygiene, and providing food security in rural and urban areas, to poor and vulnerable groups, especially during the lockdown. *[Translation]* We all know that in any society, in the state, in the country, where mother, sister and women are involved, no problem exists there. If any problem arises, they find a solution. For this, we should thank the hon. Chief Minister. He has involved Self Help Groups and the entire Women Group very well during pandemic. *[English]* It is because of that only, in Odisha, women are in the forefront of the battle against this pandemic. Seven million women of Mission Shakti have taken the lead in crucial

initiatives responding to the pandemic, helping contain the spread of the virus providing various community services. In this regard, I will say that the SHGs helped implement the 'Mo Jeevan' pledge to all the people, and helped educate 15.3 million persons so as to break the chain of contact. Many of them have also helped spread awareness about social distancing and safety in rural areas.

These groups have been engaged in ensuring public health through 1,339 Mission Shakti SHGs which have experience in stitching garments and producing jute items. They own commercial tailoring equipment. *[Translation]* You will be glad to hear that they produced 6.5 million reusable masks, *[English]* to distribute among the frontline workers, and the SHGs have distributed 0.3 million masks free of cost among the poor and the vulnerable as a precautionary measure to contain the pandemic. This not only helped protect public health but also it promoted the livelihoods of the rural women.

Similarly, in this context, I would also like to add that to ensure the food security of the poor, vulnerable and adversely affected households, the collective strength and commitment of these Mission Shakti SHGs have enabled impoverished households to avail of hot cooked meals free of cost twice a day during the lockdown. To do so, 7,312 SHGs have been engaged in free kitchen management providing 19.1 million meals in urban and rural areas of the State under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik Ji. *[Translation]* He has done a very good job. *[English]* During the lockdown, rations and vegetables were not available. So, the SHGs took the initiative with the help of the local administration, and 598 SHGs took the initiative to deliver rations and vegetables to more than 0.4 million households in this crisis time. This novel initiative of Mission Shakti has helped citizens at this time of crisis, with livelihood support to SHGs.

Sir, during the COVID-19 lockdown, the supply of perishable vegetables got halted due to restrictions in movement. It was a huge loss to the farmers. You will feel glad to know that about 500 Self-Help Groups took the initiatives and procured 171 tons of surplus vegetables from 1500 farmers for onward trading in local markets and supplied it to the free kitchens managed by other Self-Help Groups. Thus, they saved many farmers from distress sale of their produce.

In this regard, I want to cite another example with respect to children. *[Translation]* We know that the people who have suffered the most during the Corona period are the children and students whether it is mentally, financially or psychologically. In this direction, the Government of Odisha has taken a good initiative. *[English]* The Government of Odisha launched Mo Pratibha, an online competition in different categories such as art, painting, slogan writing, poster making, short stories and poeties, which helped engaged children to imbibe creativity as well as awareness about the pandemic thereby helping the community to contain the spread of virus.

Similarly, during the nationwide lockdown, to facilitate the movement of people, medical camps were organized at major locations along with the provisions of food and accommodation, etc. to ensure the containment of virus and ensure the well-being of distressed workers. An online grievance redressal portal, exclusively for immigrant workers was also set up to ensure quick redressal of their grievances.

Lastly, I would say that involvement of women in awareness generation, public health and ensuring food security not only promoted the livelihood of woman SHGs but it also helped in challenging gender stereotype. It has set an inspiring example of new possibilities enabling livelihood of diversified SHGs

during this pandemic situation. Odisha Government also has associated gram panchayats and empowered them.(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : You are talking about only Odisha.

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: Hon'ble Chairman Sir, it has been told by hon'ble Speaker Sir. He has told it here and also in the Business Advisory Committee where I was also present to cite all the good work undertaken in the States and if any hon'ble M.P. has done any good work, that is also to be cited and highlighted which will inspire everybody(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All of us appreciate it, but speak something about the nation also

.... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: It is my duty to speak about Odisha after speaking about the nation. Odisha is somewhat poor state where natural calamities keep striking. You will not believe that two cyclones have struck there during Corona. One more severe cyclone name 'Javad' is coming tomorrow till 05th December. [*English*] Despite this, the Odisha Government administration under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik ji has been able to handle the COVID-19 pandemic very well. [*Translation*] You will be happy to know that not even a single developmental work has been stopped there. [*English*] The State of Odisha is also surplus in terms of finance and other things.

[*Translation*]

I will conclude after citing about two good works undertaken by our hon'ble Chief Minister. [*English*] One of them is revamping of the school education. [*Translation*] All the High Schools have been converted into smart

schools [*English*] All these Mo Schools have been converted under the guidelines of vision 5T scheme. [*Translation*] The biggest task is to provide Smart Cards to 3.5 crore people under the Biju Health Welfare Scheme (Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana)(*Interruptions*) This is the biggest task I will take only one minute(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please come back to COVID issue.

....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: Sir, I would like to mention that our hon. Speaker Sir is a very nice person. I have felt it that he is hard from outside to maintain the things, but he is very soft at heart(*Interruptions*)

Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, he has observed my work closely himself. I will take only one minute and will not speak at length otherwise it will be an injustice.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, hon. Speaker Sir had repeatedly advised in today's Business Advisory Committee that the Members of Parliament who have rendered good work during Corona period should be cited as it will inspire other members also. I would never have spoken about myself, if he had not said that. I am working in the field of education, health, social service for 30 years on mega scale. My team and I have worked day and night during Corona period. Instead of full details, I would share a little for your information that we have a very big medical hospital. This is the first hospital which became 500 bed dedicated COVID hospital in March under supervision of State Government. The State Government made three more hospitals. We are operating four hospitals with 2000 COVID beds. Now, the number of beds has been reduced as COVID has waned. Three lakh people have been provided food.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: Secondly, we provided free education to the children of the deceased. Out of these, 50 children are studying in two of my universities. There is an organization where 60 thousand poor children are being cared for. 30 thousand children have passed out and 30 thousand children are still there. We are delivering 10 kg of wheat and dry food to the homes of 30 thousand children every month and providing facility of online education.(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We appreciate him for the work he has done. I have already appreciated.

[Translation]

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: We have adopted around 120 orphans and they are being taught by way of providing financial assistance. I have two institutions, where there are 10 thousand staff members. These are the only two institutions in the world where on demise of a person, one of the family members shall get employment as soon as possible, five lakh rupees grant will be provided and the children will get free education. 12 people have already expired. We have implemented these three benefits for the staff. Today, I am working as a good social worker during times of COVID and shall continue the same in future also.

I thank you, Sir, for being given opportunity to speak.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We all appreciate your efforts in combating COVID and for the work rendered by you as a Member of Parliament.

***SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON (KALLAKURICHI):** I would like to draw the attention of Government and express my views on COVID-19 pandemic.

When India identified the first COVID-19 case, the Opposition had raised serious concerns regarding SARS-CoV-2 virus and its implications, which were not received properly by the Government. It resulted in loss of lives of lakhs of Indians, and the economic crisis was faced by crores and crores of common people. The Prime Minister came on Television and announced lockdown without making any proper arrangements for migrant workers, which resulted in chaos.

There was a huge shortage of masks, gloves, and PPE kits in the first wave which resulted in loss of valuable life of frontline workers. In the second wave, there was a huge shortage of oxygen, beds, and medicines because of the insufficient preparation of the Union Government.

Regarding vaccines, this Government is never transparent about procurement and supply. Even now, not even 40 per cent people are vaccinated. Instead of vaccinating its own people, India is exporting the vaccines. Health is a State subject. The Union Government should leave the decision to contain the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

new variant to the State Governments. The Union Government should give only the financial support.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, many thanks for the opportunity given to me to participate in the discussion on the situation arisen due to COVID-19. Many colleagues took part in the discussion and they were talking in favour of or against the Government also. I would merely say that we had also participated in the discussion held around 21 months earlier in the Parliament. Since then everyone extends felicitations and congratulations to the hon. Prime Minister that he put up maximum efforts as to how people become aware of COVID and how they would be protected. I belong to Bihar. Majority of people from Bihar live in other parts of the country. We were in Delhi at that time. We also took help from several Members of Parliament and also tried how to extend help to those people from our state Bihar who were hungry and in trouble. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar made efforts to find ways to bring back people of Bihar and then he talked to the hon'ble Prime Minister and completed the task of bringing those people to Bihar by train. When all the people of Bihar started arriving by special trains, hon'ble Chief Minister fulfilled the task of quarantining those people in Primary, Middle and High Schools of all villages. I congratulate him for this. All the officers in those quarantine centers were instructed to stay there only and it was ensured that no one remained without food and medicines. They were permitted

to go home after 15 days of quarantine after arranging clothes, utensils and other arrangements for them.

Not only that, he himself used to monitor afterwards through video conferencing to see if our people were facing any difficulties. I will not speak only about Bihar, but I will speak about country also. Now-a-days the Omicron variant of the third wave have arrived and 23 countries have been affected by it till now. The hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Health Minister of our country have also stated that people are careful and we will also make preparations to tackle it. We will make all necessary arrangements to save people of the country from it.

Sir, I also thank the Health Minister for the fact that he has made all the arrangements so that Omicron does not become threat to India. The first and second wave of Covid-19 has so far affected about 3 crore 46 lakh people. About 4 lakh 69 thousand people have died. We have seen that in Bihar, arrangements have been made to give Rs 4 lakh 50 thousand to the family members of each of the deceased. For this I thank the Prime Minister of our country and the Chief Minister of Bihar. The Government of India has given 4 lakh rupees and the State Government has given 50 thousand rupees. Almost all the affected families in Bihar have received the said amount.

Sir, the State Governments, with the full cooperation of their respective institutions and the Central Government, are making continuous efforts in the rescue work. Honorable Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar was himself monitoring the cases of Covid. As a result, Bihar has been successful in controlling Covid-19 to a large extent as compared to other states. Every day 2

to 3 lakh people are being screened. Oxygen installation is in full swing. People coming from outside are being closely monitored. This is the reason that Bihar has been very successful in preventing Covid infection as compared to other states.

Sir, during Covid-19, I had recommended 4 oxygen plants in my parliamentary constituency from MP fund and all four oxygen plants, have been constructed with the joint effort of the Central Government and the State Government. I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister of our country and the Chief Minister of Bihar for this. Not only this, oxygen plants have been installed at all four places in Sadar Hospital, Bihar Sharif, Mandal Hospital, Hilsa, Rajgir, Pawapuri Medical College. Apart from masks, sanitizers, I have also done the work of distributing life care ambulances, and oximeters, oxygen cylinders etc. to set up a best oxygen bank from the MP fund. We have given a lot of convenience to the patients by running free ambulances. During Covid-19, arranged ration for the laborers trapped in different States and tried to provide all possible help. We also made everyone aware, NCC cadets, who were here with us, also arranged ration for the people at the intersections.

Sir, I would like to say one thing to the Government that in the Covid-19 epidemic, black marketing of medicines is being done at many places, for which complaints have been received at many places. This also needs to be avoided. I have a suggestion, about six or six and a half lakh factories are closed today, many people have become unemployed, this also needs the attention of the Government. There is also a need to make some arrangements for the factories which are closed, those who are unemployed. The doctors say that now we must be ready to live with it. The simple way to prevent this is to protect ourselves from it and at the same time ask the people around us to be alert. That is the best

solution. Both the doses of the vaccine are very important, for this public awareness is also required.

For this also there is a need to run public awareness campaign among the people. The tragedy of the second wave has been closely watched by all of us. Most of the people have lost their loved ones during this period. Therefore, I request the Government to cooperate fully with the State Government, so that such situation should not be repeated again. Hospitals and other health centers need to be alert and ready at all times. We should also be prepared for this also.

I have got the information that even in private hospitals , the amount of Government incentives is not being given to the Corona Warriors. This should also be arranged. Those who have died of Corona in the private sector should also get money. The 80 crore people are being given free foodgrains from the Garib Kalyan Yojana run by the Honorable Prime Minister, this scheme needs to be extended further for a year, so that people can get relief. In such a situation, I have another request that the MP fund should also be increased. If MPs did not have MP fund they could not have given 5 crore rupees, if our MP fund would have been Rs 10 crore, we could have given Rs 10-10 crore. In such a situation, I request that the MP fund should be increased, so that people in the village also get employment. That is my hope and my belief. I congratulate and thank all the people engaged in Covid, whether he is the Prime Minister of the country, or the Chief Ministers of the States, I especially thank the ASHA workers, health workers, police personnel, all the officers of the State Governments who worked during the crises. Congratulations and thank you to all those people.

Thank you very much Sir.

[English]

***SHRI G. SELVAM (KANCHEEPURAM):** The country is facing the risk of new corona variant. This new variant, according to WHO is more severe than the Delta variant. The Government was not prepared to handle the first corona. There was a sudden 21-day lockdown without any prior notice. All that the citizens were asked to do by the Prime Minister was banging of vessels and lighting of lamps. This clearly shows that the Union Government had no concrete plan to handle this emergency.

No financial benefit has been extended to the common man during the six-month lockdown. Initially, there was confusion with regard to supply of vaccines.

In my constituency, Chengalpattu, HBL vaccine complex with all infrastructure and capacity to produce vaccines has not been operational till date from its commencement. I have referred it many times to the Minister of Health to commence the production of vaccines. But till date there is no positive response from the Minister.

The DMK Government under the able leadership of Chief Minister, Thiru M.K. Stalin has set an example to control the emergency by setting up of oxygen plants, extra beds with oxygen supply and given financial aid of Rs. 4,000 for all family ration-card holders. Thanking you.

***DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN):** At the very beginning, let me take this moment to thank the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, whose relentless efforts have brought us this far in the fight

*Speech was laid on the Table.

against Covid. As Covid evolved, the world looked at India with rather suspicion, everyone expected that India - given its high population, population density and lesser scope for social distancing - would be a catastrophe in the face of Covid. However, by using the available medical machinery and resources in the most optimal manner, this Government, under the able leadership of the Prime Minister, has been able to avert the crisis and help bring life back to normalcy. Not only that, India has been able to achieve the milestone of administering more than a 100 crore doses to the citizens in less than 6 months. What is even more delightful, is the news that it is only a matter of days, when we will have achieved the landmark of 125 crore doses.

It is this tremendous progress and the positive response from the people of India that makes me confident that we are prepared, even for a third wave.

I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that Omicron, the latest variant, has been declared as a variant of concern by WHO. Though it is very early on and we have very little full proof knowledge regarding Omicron, the initial evidence from South Africa suggests that Omicron targets the younger population more. Hence it is important that we focus on boosting immunity for the younger group more. It is great news that vaccines have been cleared for the 12-18 age group in India. I request that the Government come up with an arrangement wherein we can administer maximum doses to make the age group 12-18 ready in our fight against Covid. One of the ways in which this can be done is by prioritising the group, as had been done for frontline workers in the beginning of the year.

Further, with the right kind of set-up and encouragement from the Government, India now has an abundance of indigenously produced Covishield vaccines in the country. I feel it will be in the public interest that the gap

between two doses be reduced from 12 weeks to eight weeks. This will help us prepare for an upcoming third wave, and might even help stop it.

Since Omicron is a new variant, there is very little known about it. In the area of detection, RTPCR can successfully detect all infections, including the one caused by the Omicron variant. However, to confirm whether it is Omicron, genome sequencing needs to be done, which is only possible at the National Institute of Virology, Pune. However, latest research has shown that the S gene is not present in the Omicron variant. This is the result of multiple mutations that the variant has undergone and is a marker to identify the variant. The Government should ask RT-PCR laboratories in all the cities to use S gene drop detecting kits for early detection of Omicron. This way, Omicron can be detected even before genome sequencing. This is known as a proxy test and can help in saving time, effort and money, and can help us confirm the variant at the earliest. Thank you.

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA (SHRAVASTI): Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on COVID-19.

Sir, not only my country but all over the world many lives have been lost due to Covid-19 and many people got affected by it are suffering from various diseases now. I would like to inform this House through you that our Bahujan Samaj Party's national president Behen Kumari Mayawati ji had instructed not only the MPS, MLAs of her party but all the competent workers also to work in their respective areas and around them to help the needy people living nearby by following the guidelines of Covid-19 as much as possible, the result of which has been very appreciable. Even now, all of us are helping the needy people in every possible way. I would like to request the Government that there has been a severe lack of health facilities, mainly Covid related facilities. in the district Shravasti, Balrampur, which comes under my parliamentary constituency Shravasti. Due to this there has been a huge increase in the death toll. Again, this type of epidemic may be dealt with in time, there is a need to increase the necessary health facilities.

Sir, in our country more than one lakh children have become orphans due to corona pandemic. The future of these youngsters, who are called the future of the country, is in danger today. Children who have lost their mother or father or both during the severe crisis of Corona pandemic are going through terrible stress today. Their future is in danger. A study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute of Health states that 25,500 children in India have lost their mothers due to COVID-19, while 90,751 children have lost their fathers and many children have lost their parents. While lakhs of children have lost their parents, who looked after them. This is a very serious and worrisome

issue. If the government takes appropriate steps on time towards these children and takes care of their social requirements of education, food, health, well being and economic condition then the situation can be prevented from getting worse.

In addition to it, I want to bring the notice of the government towards the condition of children of all backward, most backward, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, poor farmers and labourers whose studies have stopped due to Corona epidemic, closure of school and lack of resources. What has the government thought about their future?

Sir, the children of well-to-do families are able to do study online to some extent due to access to resources, but what will happen to all those poor students who do not have proper infrastructure for the online studies? They do not have facilities of mobile or internet. What is being done by the government for these children, so that their future can be improved. Even today, the private schools are taking arbitrary fees in the name of online education. They are putting pressure on the parents to deposit the fees. The workers working in organized and unorganized sectors, labourers and staff working in companies, factories, industries, malls or shops etc. have lost their jobs due to Corona pandemic and lockdown. They are left with no source of earning due to which they are unable to mobilize appropriate infrastructure for online education and give good education to their children. Today the parents do not have necessary infrastructure, so in this condition their children may take some untoward steps due to lack of education and may take a wrong direction, therefore the government needs to pay attention in this regard. During the second wave of Corona pandemic, the people of Delhi and our country were running from pillar to post for oxygen cylinder. People lost their lives in midway and outside hospitals due to lack of oxygen. It is unfortunate that the Union Government says in Parliament that not a single person died due to lack of oxygen, whereas

truth is that hundreds of patients have lost their lives during second wave due to it. Even the hon'ble High Court and the Supreme Court have cautioned the Government many times by taking suo-moto cognizance of the matter.

15.57 hrs

(Shrimati Rama Devi *in the Chair*)

On one side many states' Chief Ministers and Ministers have admitted to the deaths from lack of oxygen in media and they have even issued data on it. On the other hand, the court also raised this matter by taking suo-moto cognizance of the same. Whereas in reply to a question in Rajya Sabha it is told that not a single death has occurred due to lack of Oxygen. This is very sad and worrisome. I demand from government that it should be thoroughly investigated at higher level and the government should apologize to the suffering families and they should be given financial assistance.

Madam, for example, in the year 2007, Bahujan Samaj Party's National President Bahan Kumari Mayavati ji got a new medical college built in Ambedkar Nagar district and the medical college started functioning. Today, that medical college is in a very bad shape. Serious patients are immediately referred to the Lucknow Medical College and on arrival there, the patients are told that no bed is vacant. Same situation was existing during the Covid period. Facilities should be increased in Ambedkar Nagar Medical College and number of beds should also be increased in Lucknow Medical College, so that the patients don't have to hear regarding no vacancy of beds. In such a situation, even we distributed things like ration kit, mask etc. in our respective constituencies.

Madam, through you, I demand from government that during forthcoming Corona's third wave the government should provide smart phones and laptops etc to such poor children and their fees should be waived off. They should be given economic help so that the studies of these poor students could

run smoothly and their future is taken care of. Besides, the government should at the earliest arrange for providing re-employment to all the persons who have become unemployed and staff workers and labourers working in organized and unorganized sector.

16.00 hrs

My suggestion is that sensing danger of spreading of third wave and Omicron, international flights should be stopped, so that we can protect ourselves from forthcoming COVID-19 third wave.

Madam Chairperson, furthermore there is one more request that earlier when we used to come, we were provided masks at the gate, but today there is no arrangement of mask. We are provided kit, sometimes, we may forget but we are not given masks. Therefore, mask should also be arranged. Thank you very much for giving me the time.

DR. S.T. HASAN (MORADABAD): Thank you, Madam, today, we are having a very important discussion on the issue due to which the whole world is suffering and it is tragic. We have fought this war and it has not finished yet. We are feeling that this war is going to start again. When our country fights the war, we all come together and face it. There should not be any politics on it. Madam, according to an estimate in the last wave, we are telling that 4.45 lakh people died. But an American report has mentioned that around 50 lakh people have died in India. during that period, there was not a single village, from where 2-3 dead bodies were not coming. We do not know about these unnoticed deaths. We should have this record also. On behalf of my party and myself, I want to particularly congratulate our scientists who have achieved a milestone. When the world was fighting with this disease and searching for the vaccine, at that time our scientists developed the vaccine and our maximum population was vaccinated and saved due to it. So far as assistance is concerned, we all stood along with government and helped people. I think that there is no M.P. in House who did not give money from MPLAD fund for ventilators, masks and sanitizers. In addition, we gave poor people eatables and we gave medicine to approximately thousands of people.

Madam, the biggest problem in this disease was that people took it as common cough and cold and when they felt breathlessness and approached hospitals, it was too late. If these medicines would have been given at the predromal stage, the disease would not have progressed further. We distributed these medicines in our constituency in huge quantity. Administration fully cooperated with us. But I regret and feel sorry to say that in twenty first century, people in India suffered and died due to lack of oxygen. The shortage of oxygen was so high that there was a scuffle for cylinders in the hospitals of Delhi. When someone used to bring a cylinder, the other would snatch it saying that your patient does not need it much, we need more. There were no beds,

Remdisivir injections were not available. There were no ICU beds. We have to take care of this in future because we also saw when the beds were not found, people lost their lives in the ambulance. Ambulances remained parked outside hospitals and people died. We have to take lesson from it.

Madam, I regret to say one thing that when a human being dies, everyone respects the dead body. Unfortunate deaths took place here. An old father who takes his daughter's body to the cremation ground does not get wood to burn her dead body and is forced to shed it in the Ganges. We should have realized what he had gone through when animals ate it. Why were there no wood at the cremation ground? I am saying this because I know that our Prime Minister has a heart full of compassion. We have seen him getting emotional many times. Why did he not get emotional at such scenes? Why was wood not provided in the cremation grounds in emergency situations? What help we are providing to those households whose corpses have been washed away and no one is left to offer a glass of water today or open the door? Madam, it is necessary to help them.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to help such people and tell us the total figures of deaths as to how many deaths have taken place in Covid. They should be given compensation.

I would like to point out that a large number of journalists also died. Journalists should also get compensation.

Madam, I would like to tell you that now the Omicron is coming. Our safety devices are not very good. So far, we have not stopped flights from South Africa and other countries. Yesterday also, we have six patients who tested positive. It is possible that someone among them is affected by Omicron. I would like to ask the Government and the Hon. Minister as to when a person arrived at the airport, you took his sample and till the time the report comes,

whether you quarantined the person or not or you sent him home ? If he goes home, he will spread it out and we need to be very cautious.

Madam, now scientists think and it has been published in medical journals that this virus is air-borne and its life is four hours, which can stay in the air. It has been published in 'Lancet'. I would also like to say to the House that it is good that we wear masks and follow social distancing, but the air comes from the side of the masks also and also from the side of the nose. When it is air-borne for four hours and if the air is blowing at a speed of ten kilometers per hour, it can go up to 40 kilometers. It's only cure is vaccination. I would also like to congratulate the Government for the fact that the vaccination campaign was carried out very successfully. More than one crore people have been vaccinated. Let us concentrate more on vaccination. Second dose should be administered and wherever needed a booster dose should be administered, only then, we can redress this problem. Through you, I request the Government to help the poor people in particular.

***SHRI DEVAJI PATEL (JALORE):** The havoc of the second wave of Corona in the country is gradually waning, although all precautions are being taken due to the fear of the third wave. According to the Union Health Ministry data, 9,765 new cases of Corona have been reported in India in the last 24 hours. At the same time, 477 people have died of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours. In the last 24 hours, 8,548 people have recovered from Corona in the country. The number of active cases in the country is 99,763. The total number of deaths due to Corona is 4,69,724 whereas the total recovery is 3,40,37,054. In the last 24 hours, 80, 35, 261 vaccine doses have been administered in the country. At the same time, the total vaccination figure is 1,24,96,19,515 but it is not the time to relax with satisfaction because the second wave of Corona is not yet over in India. The weekly Covid infection rate is still over 10 per cent in 35 districts, while in 30 districts, the rate is between 5 to 10 per cent in the country.

With the outbreak of a new variant, Omicron of the Coronavirus in South Africa, there has been turbulence all over the world. The World Health Organization has expressed its concern over the new variant and described it as a 'variant of concern' (VoC) in technical terms. WHO has warned that this mutation could increase the risk of infection. It is a variant mutating very fast and in a very large number. WHO has called for increased vigilance and strengthening of public health services and has advised to take all precautionary measures at weddings or other ceremonies, festivals and crowded events.

The spread of a new variant of the Coronavirus, the Omicron (B.1.1.529), is on the rise in South Africa. Scientists suspect that this variant can spread the Covid pandemic once again. More than 100 cases of the Omicron variant have been reported in South Africa. Apart from this, this variant has also been

* Speech was laid on the Table.

identified in Belgium, Botswana, Hong Kong and Israel. Thankfully, no case of this new variant has been reported in India so far.

I support the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign being run on a large scale by our Government because through this campaign only, we can increase the pace of administering the second dose of vaccine in the States. As the Prime Minister has said that we need to be more vigilant in view of the new variants. There is a need to make the public aware constantly that there is no need to be lax in social distancing, wearing masks, etc., because if we take the slightest laxity in this matter, there is a strong possibility of a large-scale spread of this disease again. At the same time, there is a need to keep a close watch on passengers coming by international flights and, all the guidelines in this regard should be strictly followed so that, as far as possible, no person infected with the new variant of Covid may enter the country.

There is no need to be negligent even after getting the vaccine and the people have to understand that the ability of the antibodies produced by the vaccine to fight the virus is different and the level of effectiveness of a particular vaccine towards Omicron may vary. The details in this regard will be known exactly only after some time. As far as the imposition of sanctions etc. is concerned, I believe that it is better that the sanctions that cause economic loss should be imposed only for the time till there is infection and it is a period of about two to three weeks. At present we should talk about how we can co-exist with the virus. We have to find out those steps, which are to be taken in view of Omicron.

I would like to tell here about current situation of Corona infection in my Jalore-Sirohi districts. Due to co-operation of Central Government and awareness of the citizens, the condition of Corona epidemic is under control now in both the districts. During the corona period, we along with our party

member served the people round the clock. Most of the people above the age of 54 years of this area have been vaccinated and youth aged above 18 years are taking maximum benefit of registration cent percent target will be achieved under this category. With the help of young members in Sanchoe, Bhinmal and Abu Road blood were made available to the needy persons through blood donation. A WhatsApp group was made of youth desirous of blood donation as and when required, blood was donated for the needy. 148 medical oxygen cylinders were supplied in view of the shortage of Oxygen in the region. Serious patients were admitted in various hospitals like AIIMS, Jodhpur, Pali, Barmer and Gujarat. Covid Care Centers were started in the region by motivating the donors of the area.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested, there is a need to increase vigilance, strengthen the public health services and take all preventive steps in the functions, celebrations and crowd gathering events, we cannot be careless at any cost. In addition to stop the spread of Corona infection, we have to focus on comprehensive and need based public health services and social measures because as the more Covid will spread, the more virus will get the chance to mutate which means it will change its forms, and this epidemic will continue for more days. Thank you.

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE (SHIRUR): Hon.Chairperson Madam, first of all, I pay my homage to the lakhs of countrymen, who lost their lives due to Covid. I express my sympathy to the crores of countrymen, who have to run from pillar to post for hospital beds, oxygen or treatment. I also express my gratitude to all the doctors, para-medical staffs, sanitation workers and 'ASHA' workers, who faced this problem courageously. We all know that the danger of Omicron variant is hovering over the whole world including our country and therefore, it is necessary to test impartially our Covid response irrespective of any politics. We have called it the war against Covid since its inception and I will try to examine it from the same viewpoint.

Madam, it is necessary to follow some rules for winning any war. The first rule of the war is – to make your strategy. What is our strategy? Do we want to control infections or we want to control deaths or we want to control both, because it is difficult to control infection in any pandemic. On all the initial steps which are taken, depends everything. Therefore, with ban on international flights, screening of passengers coming from abroad, it is necessary to do the genome sequencing of those who are found Covid positive. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are necessary to control the deaths, for which it is necessary to have RTPCR lab facility and tertiary care system at the block or tehsil level. The second rule of the war is – Leader to stand his ground firmly. We are fighting this war under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister ji, so I hope that despite some coming elections our leader should be seen standing firmly in war against the Corona, not in the election rallies. The third rule of the war is – a leader should lead by his own example. When on 17th April, hon'ble Prime Minister ji was addressing an election rally in West Bengal, 2,61,000 cases were detected on that day. Whole country was seeing through the television, how in the presence of hon'ble Prime Minister ji, social distancing and Covid appropriate behavior norms were flouted openly. We

should have to take precaution that this thing is not repeated. The fourth rule of the war is – setting the responsibility of every stake holder. The Central Government cannot wash its hand by saying that ‘Health is a State subject’ because Central Government is much more competent than the State Governments in the matter of human resources and technical expertise. Therefore, with mutual understanding, responsibilities may be fixed. Along with all the Central Government agencies be it AIIMS, NCDS or ICMR role and responsibilities of each should be fixed. The fifth rule of the war is – preparation and availability of necessary ammunition. Only masks, ventilators, oxygen plants or PPE Kits are not sufficient to make our tertiary health care system competent, skilled manpower is most essential there for. We should pay attention on it.

Also, doctors training and awareness is also necessary so that we can prevent indiscriminate use of medicines, post-covid or post treatment complications like mucormycosis and avascular necrosis of femur head. Now we have also understood the importance of vaccine. As much the more vaccination will get delayed, the more chance will virus get to mutate.

Chairperson Madam, I would like to say that the company (Serum Institute of India) which produces Covishield, is in my constituency. The highest percentage of vaccination is only seen in Hadapsar Legislative Assembly, which is in my constituency. In addition to the government vaccine, we are doing vaccination of five lakh citizens through Jagdamba Pratishtan with the help of CSR in my constituency.

Madam, I would like to ask some questions from hon. Minister. Sir through you. I still have some questions in my mind about vaccination. First question is that Serum Institute has said that several countries in the world have recommended the booster dose, so what is our opinion? Second point is that

there is 84 days gap between the two doses of Covishield. Can we increase the scope of vaccination by reducing this gap. My third question is that what is the status of child vaccination.

Madam, the sixth rule of the war is that the one who shows courage, is appreciated. I appreciate hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Health Minister. In addition, we know that Maharashtra was very badly affected, but the work done by Maharashtra's hon. Chief Minister Uddhav ji Thackeray, hon'ble Deputy CM Ajit Pawar ji and the hon. Health Minister Rajesh Tope ji is commendable. In addition, there are some administrative officers, such as our Aurangabad and Shambhaji Nagar Municipal Commissioner Aastik Kumar Pandey who took such steps in several areas like smart ambulance, which were followed country wide. Considering Mumbai Population density and case load, our Mumbai Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal ensured that oxygen should not be short. He demonstrated an example of an efficient public health system. Saurav Rao, our Pune Divisional Commissioner by taking proactive measures ensured the drugs and oxygen availability. By doing this, he controlled the sky rocketing death rate in a very efficient manner. I would like to appreciate all such administrative officers.

Madam, the seventh and last principle of war is to anticipate the unexpected outcomes of war. As we saw, several companies wound up their business during Corona. Recently, figures have revealed that 20 thousand traders lost their lives. Many companies have retrenched their employees. We will have to think about their future. The banks didn't extend any concession to the common people in EMI during this crisis. We will have to think about all aspects, if we face such a crisis again. A situation of panic has occurred today regarding Omicron. I would suggest hon'ble Minister the panic being created in

the business sector in country and the panic spreading in general public shall be relieved if the country can get a clear information about this panic.

I would like to share an instance of pride that a campaign is being organized in Maharashtra under the leadership of our hon'ble floor leader Supriya Sule ji. the 'Rashtrawadi Jivlag' campaign is being organized for those children who lost their both parents during Corona pandemic. I would request the Central Government to launch this campaign for orphans throughout the country.

Hon. Chairperson , I would conclude with these lines-

Jang ke padaaw par kshati pahunchi to kya huua,
ham bachenge aur, aur bhee ladenge,
lekin kadam milaakar chalana hoga,
nae josh se praarambh karana hoga,
varana kahenge deshavaasee,
agar jeet ka sehara sir bandhavaana hai to
paraajay ka bojh bhee sveekaarana hoga,
agar vaccination certificate par photo chhapavaanee hai to
death certificate ka bhee jimma lena hoga.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYA GANJ): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this august House of democracy today. The whole House is worried on the spread of new variant Omicron amid the global challenge of COVID not in front of our country only, but the whole world. The House is giving suggestions thereupon and you have given opportunity to me also. I would like to express my gratitude to the House since there were apprehensions as there was disruption during the first two days of the Session, whether the proceedings of the House will go on smoothly or not. This was expressed in front of the hon'ble Speaker Sir in the Business Advisory Committee by the ruling party as well as opposition that the House should discuss on global challenge of Omicron or COVID as it is undoubtedly commitment of all of us. Today, the whole House is not only concerned about it but is also discussing it. This is a step towards strengthening parliamentary democracy of India and a step towards conveying a message to the whole world. I would express my gratitude to our Government that Omicron has not arrived in India and till date no case has been detected, today when we are holding a discussion on Omicron, it has arrived in the U.S. Earlier, there were 12 countries of the world and now there are 20-22 countries where symptoms of Omicron have been detected. It started in South Africa first. Despite this, when there is not even a single case of Omicron, it is seriousness of the Government that all the nations of the world are holding discussion on this variant and might be trying to finalise their health protocols of Medical and here, the hon. Health Minister has already held discussion with the Health Ministers of all states even before its onset, detailed information on which will be given by the hon. Minister. I would like to inform the opposition if we had intended to take credit of it, the hon. Minister would not have held this discussion, instead the government must have taken the initiative. If he is discussing this challenge with all the Health Ministers of the country, it is

agreed by all that the Central Government wishes to combat this challenge by making proper efforts and taking State Governments in confidence. I understand this. You are talking of taking credit. People were not stepping out of their houses, when we were under lockdown due to COVID. At that time, our scientists in all laboratories of the country were toiling hard to find a vaccine to challenge the COVID. Even hon. Prime Minister himself visited there. Perhaps it was the first time in the history of this country that we did not have even PPE kits during this challenge. We were procuring PPE Kits from China. The lot that arrived was found to be of substandard quality by the Council of Medical Research. That Chinese company was black listed. We were dependent on China or other countries, be it ventilators, PPE Kits or N-95 masks. The hon'ble Prime Minister of India decided in even such circumstances that India will not remain dependent on other countries in future. India will have to be self-reliant. He decided it and turned it into reality. Today we are self reliant in the field of PPE Kits. Today, the world's largest vaccination campaign is going on for the people of the country. You are not appreciating it in the House. Be it World Health Organization or Hopkins University or all the countries of the world; all consider this vaccination campaign of India not only the biggest campaign in the world but also concede that 125 crore people have been vaccinated in a South East Asian Country like India. Our Government has completed vaccination of a population greater than the population of all European countries taken together. Today, we have given 125 crore first doses, and 45 crore second doses at the same time. Total population of 24 crore in USA will be approximately equal to population of Uttar Pradesh. We saved lives of people of our country and have also provided vaccines to all countries of the world. I feel that you should take pride in it. The countries, we have provided vaccines [*English*] and those who have survived only because of our vaccine, I

think, are very thankful. *[Translation]* You are saying that we have distributed to other countries of the world.

We used to procure PPE Kits from other countries. Today, we can save countries of world from COVID, we can provide them vaccines under the leadership of hon'ble Modiji. In these circumstances, it is being asked continuously as to what have we done. Units have shut down, poor people have become unemployed. You noticed Prime Minister Swanidhi Scheme. You must recollect 25th October. All countries were struggling with the challenge of COVID. Amid that challenge, hon'ble Prime Minister launched 'Prime Minister Ayushman Health Infrastructure Mission' in Kashi. On one hand, we are providing vaccines, on the other providing facility to 80 crore people under Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan Anna Scheme and at the same time making efforts to save life by providing medicines and vaccines amid challenges of COVID. He has resolved that no one will be doomed to die due to scarcity of medicines. The country has a population of 135 crores. We remained in lockdown during COVID, the work of daily wagers stopped, but this resolution that nobody out of 135 crore will die of starvation was fulfilled by our Government.

Madam, due to the efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Railway Minister, the work of supplying food to the people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir continued uninterrupted even when planes all over the world were grounded, the trains came to a grinding halt and the day-to-day activities got stopped. We are providing food grains to 80 crore people out of 135 crores of total population of the country at the rate of 5kg per unit.

We started work on Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission at a cost of Rs. 64,180 crores under these circumstances. Can you imagine it? Will you please say something? You were saying that there

was no oxygen plant. Oxygen plants were not set up in every district in the past 40-50 years, but the challenge that arrived was such that today oxygen plants have been set up in all district hospitals of India from PM CARE Fund. All Members of Parliament made efforts, be it through CSR, MP's MPLAD, PSC or CSC, oxygen plants got set up. A scheme of Rupees 64180 crore was launched in Varanasi on 25th October. I think you can't even think upto that level. You are talking about vaccines, you are talking about oxygen. Today, there are many countries where the fourth and fifth wave have come. Whatever challenge is there, an omicron or a third wave, India is ready to face any medical challenge under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister. The Health Minister will definitely respond to this.

Where do we stand since 1947 after independence, for the first time the Prime Minister thought why there is no laboratory on the block level today. If a poor man has to get tested for a virus or a disease in pathology, he has to go to the district hospital and to a medical college. Why can't tests be conducted at the block level or at the tehsil level? Why can only a few tests be conducted at the district level? Why the tests should be referred to medical college. When the Covid challenge emerged, only the National Institute of Virology, Pune was there and all the tests were being referred to there. Thereafter, they were sent to Lucknow. Hon. Prime Minister gave a call. Now, labs have been set up for RT-PCR test in 60 districts of Uttar Pradesh. There are 15 more districts where it is being done. Be it diagnosis, surveillance or research, these works used to be carried out only in referral hospitals, medical colleges, research centres and AIIMS. Now it is clear that under the Rupees 64180 crore Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, it is the Hon'ble Prime Minister's idea to not only confine it to the Medical College or AIIMS but take it to the regional level and the district level so that the poor man can get his tests

conducted at his door, in his block. Let him not go far away for pathological test spending money.

Today, 730 public health labs are being built under this scheme to plug the existing critical gaps. Public health care is being set up in 3382 blocks. We are also going to build 12 critical care Government hospitals in blocks, which will function like a mentor hospital. I would like to congratulate my Government that for the first time, India is the first country in Asia where, if there is a major emergency like an earthquake or a cyclone in the world, there will be container base mobile hospitals which will immediately reach there and provide facility equivalent to a medical college. Won't you even talk about that? In my opinion, at least think about the steps that have been taken today. This will have happened for the first time in 64,000 crores. Perhaps the Health Minister will definitely state in his reply because there was a presentation in which I was also present. This is happening for the first time. There is no bias. You said that we have adopted partisan approach with the state which has the BJP Government and the state which does not have the BJP Government. In this, the Government of India is going to give Rs.100 crore each to all the districts of India for infrastructure under 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Health Infrastructure'. I would definitely like to congratulate the hon. Modi ji and the Health Minister on behalf of the people of the entire country. The country got independence in the year 1947. Today we are in the year 2021 since 1947. There was only one National Virology and Virus Research Centre in Pune. Today, our government has unanimously decided to set up four new Regional Virology Institutes. In the same way, we have formulated the New National Institution for One Health Scheme. Thus, there will be a regional research platform, which will be digital. We will connect it with WHO and South East Asia. There has been no favouritism in 602 districts. The Prime Minister's basic mantra, his idea of good governance to run administration, which is 'Sabka

Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas', has definitely led to the launch of the scheme in 602 districts with a population of over five lakhs. Till now, there were critical care blocks in only referral hospitals, medical colleges or AIIMS, but for the first time, the Government of hon. Modi ji is going to set up critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts of India. Naturally, the challenge of the future, the challenge of pandemic or any other kind of challenge, whether it is also the challenge of Omicron, of course, we can face these challenges at the district level. Today we have given referral linkages, which are in many remote areas. We are also going to give them tele-consultation through tele-communication. Whether it is Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland or Manipur, any state in the North-East or remote areas of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, how can we give consultation through tele-communication and how we can manage communication with them, we are also going to do that work through referral linkages. Our Government is constantly taking steps keeping in view the challenges of the future. We have decided to set up 17788 new Rural Health and Wellness Centers. Similarly, we did not have any health and wellness centres in urban areas, so our Government this time has also set up 1124 centres in urban areas. In the same way, there will be 15 important health emergency operational centres at the State level, which will work 24x7.

Today, there was a mention of Uttar Pradesh. At the time when the challenge of Covid emerged in Uttar Pradesh, believe me, the criticism was made by our colleagues of Samajwadi and BSP parties.

I can say that when their leaders were confined in their homes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath ji was constantly visiting every district in the Covid situation to set up the Level One hospital to save the Covid patients. He had got Corona, but in spite of that as soon as he recovered from Corona, he again started roaming around in one district to

another. Today, it is the result of the same that whichever challenge comes, today Yogi Adityanath ji's Government of Uttar Pradesh has set up 1,51,000 additional beds there to counter this challenge.

There were no ventilators in all the districts. Only medical colleges had ventilators. Today, 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh have got ventilators. TrueNat machines have been installed in every district of Uttar Pradesh. You won't believe what was the situation there. I want to tell you that the country became independent in 1947. From 1947 to 2016, which is a long period, the Bharatiya Janata Party Government has been formed in Uttar Pradesh in 2017 only. What our BJP Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Modi ji has done in respect of health infrastructure in these four and a half years, I would like to tell the entire country through this House.

Madam Chairperson, from 1947 to 2016, there were only 12 medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. But since 2016, in four-and-a-half years, our Government has set up 60 medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. It is certain that we will give one medical college to each district. Prime Minister had said in the last Lok Sabha that we will do the work of giving one medical college each in the middle of the three Parliamentary Constituencies, but today we are going even further than that, because we did not even imagine these challenges, rather the whole world did not imagine it.

Madam, I don't want to go into the death data. Today, the population of America is equal to the population of the whole of Uttar Pradesh, but more casualty has happened in America than what has happened here. The U.S. was considered far ahead in terms of research. The US was believed to be the leading country in the world in medical science, research and technology. Despite that, America today was helpless, Brazil was helpless or all the countries of the world and Europe were helpless. There people were fighting in

the streets for bread and butter. At that time the Honorable Prime Minister of India was not only working to save the people of India, but he was also working to give direction and medicine to the whole world. He was also working to provide free foodgrains to 80 crore citizens of India.

Is there criticism in such situations? You may criticize all the Bills. There are many such occasions, but at least today it is not an issue of criticism nor is it a subject of allegation and counter allegations. The seriousness with which we are discussing, the people from all over the world are watching the proceedings of the Parliament of India. If Omicron is knocking all over the world, cases are being detected in the US also, cases are being detected in all countries, but how is India preparing...(Interruptions) Madam, my time is still left. Just give me five more minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has been 19 minutes since you spoke.

SHRI JAGADAMBIKA PAL: All right, I will conclude very soon.

I appreciate the way 22 AIIMS has been established today, after all, AIIMS was a dream earlier, not all the States had AIIMS. When Honorable Modi ji became the Prime Minister, then he said that we will establish one AIIMS in every state for the health of all, education for all. We have established AIIMS in every state in these five years. Uttar Pradesh is a very big State. I would like to congratulate the Central Government that they have established three AIIMS there. We have not done politics. We have also given AIIMS to Rae Bareli. While there is an AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Lucknow, we have also set up an AIIMS in Rae Bareli.

Today we have provided insurance cover to 42,19,000 people under 'Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana'. We have set up a Medical Education University in Lucknow in the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. We have

established 6 new super specialty medical blocks. Similarly, 4,470 ambulances are operational. How much can I say? But I want to tell this to you....*(Interruptions)* Madam, just give me two more minutes....*(Interruptions)*

Today Siddharthnagar is an aspirational district. We could not even imagine that. There was a shortage of oxygen, I think no one had imagined, maybe all the private hospitals in Delhi would have installed oxygen plants. But how did our Government arrange oxygen during that time. We involved. I have got an oxygen plant installed by NHPC in my district for Rs 41,89,000. Then got a plant worth Rs 93,00,000 from NBCC. After that, more work has been done through PFC's Rs 11 crore. Work has been carried out through Hinduja Foundation. Today in an aspirational district like Siddharthnagar, we have in every PHC and CHC wherever there is a need that if there is any challenge due to covid in future, we will face it.

I just want to say two things. What happened financially, due to which the country got into trouble, then you remember that as soon as the Covid epidemic came, on the instructions of the Prime Minister, for the first time Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji announced an amount of Rs.1.70 lakh crore under the Garib Kalyan Yojana. It is the result of that and you must have seen that Rs 500/- was deposited in each Jan Dhan account of 20 crore women. In MNREGA wages were increased to 202. One thousand rupees each was given to 3 crore people including the elderly, widows and women. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, each of the 8.7 crore people were given Rs. 6 thousand. Similarly, when the second wave of Covid came, you talked about MSP. You would know that an emergency working capital facility of Rs 3 lakh crore was given, which led to financial inclusion and the world experienced a recession. The circumstances from which India has emerged are the achievements of Modi ji's Government. We did a financial inclusion of 50

thousand crores only on MSP. due to which we have done the work of reviving the MSP which had become sick today.

Hon'ble Chairperson, after the second wave, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji had provided Rs 6 lakh 28 thousand 993 crore, so that the economy of our country could remain good condition which was facing the challenge of Covid. Today we can stand up and say that at this time industries are shifting their base to India from China. We are number one in Ease of Doing Business. Our country is the most favourite destination. Highest investment is coming here in the world, and so I can say that if anyone has the fastest growing economy today, then it is of India. I certainly appreciate the leadership of the Prime Minister. Thank you .

[English]

***SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM):** I would like to submit my following views to the hon. Health Minister on the vital discussion on COVID-19 pandemic under rule 193.

India's vaccination rate as a percentage of population is much lower compared to other countries. Only 30 per cent Indians have been fully vaccinated in comparison to 76 per cent in Canada, 68 per cent in the UK, 58 per cent in the US, 75 per cent in China, and 62 per cent in Israel.

The Government has denied compensation to the families of the deceased family members. Even though the Opposition has repeatedly claimed for a compensation of Rs 4 lakhs for the victims, the Government has refused to do that.

There has been a massive underreporting of deaths due to Covid. As per reports, Gujarat had 5722 per cent excess deaths, U.P. had 228 per cent, Bihar had 196 per cent, Haryana had 67 per cent, and Karnataka had 43 per cent. This was obvious from the terrible images of bodies floating in our rivers and being buried in river beds.

While Indians were struggling for oxygen, running here and there for a single hospital bed, where was our hon. PM? Where was our hon. Home Minister? They were busy addressing rallies and gatherings in West Bengal for their electoral benefits. And when the calamity got over and lakhs of Indians lost their loved ones, the hon. PM shed false tears!

But Indians will not be fooled. Every death caused during the second wave is directly Modi Ji's fault. The hon. Prime Minister abandoned Indians when the nation was facing a national disaster.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The new variant Omicron has emerged as a new and potential threat and has reignited the fears and horrors of the second wave. The Government has so far not announced any preventive steps. The time is running out, we must act now. I urge the Government to take steps in this regard.

Last year, numerous experts and Opposition leaders had warned the Government repeatedly about the dangers of ignoring the seriousness of a possible second wave. Back then, Modi Ji boldly claimed victory over Covid without use of vaccines. What his arrogance resulted in is the disaster of the second wave. We are at a similar situation now, with experts warning about Omicron. Will Modi Ji ignore the threat again and cause another disaster?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you Chairperson Madam for allowing me this opportunity to speak on this most significant issue of the COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects associated with it.

From the very beginning of the pandemic, back in 2020, the Central Government was unable to contain, incapable to restrain, and careless in controlling every aspect in governing a crisis as dangerous as the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the nation in its public health frontiers, socio-economic sectors, and aspects of welfare of Indians affected by the pandemic and the poor policies of the Government.

Ever since India's first COVID-19 patient was reported on January 30, 2020, we can see a Government that panicked and went from one state of confusion to another as it was found unable to handle a global pandemic. The Government's decision to enforce a random and misinformed lockdown saw the devastating sight of an exodus of migrant labourers embarking on a long and perilous journey on foot.

The migrant workers walked thousands of kilometres, often without food, due to the absence of any mode of transportation and many succumbed to their fate as there was zero Government in the empty highways, where life had been brought to a halt without notice and the migrant labourers left on their own.

This situation changed after the impassionate appeals and interventions made by the Congress President Sonia Gandhi Ji, and former President Rahul Gandhi Ji and Priyanka Gandhi Ji, whose continued intervention forced the Government to finally provide for alternative modes of transport.

The devastation left by the pandemic in the first wave itself destroyed economies as every sector, from micro to small to medium and large industries

suffered losses and many small-scale industries and traditional sectors vanished overnight.

In the period of the first wave of the pandemic, from April to June 2020, India's GDP dropped by a massive 24.4 per cent and in the second quarter of the 2020-21 financial year (July-September, 2020), the economy contracted by a further 7.4 per cent.

It is also important to note that in the post-Independence period, India's national income has declined only four times before 2020 – in 1958, 1966, 1973, and 1980 and 2020-21 is the worst year in terms of economic contraction in the country's history.

Furthermore, the Government's decision to implement a Rs. 20-lakh crore *Atmanirbhar* package claiming to be 10 per cent of the GDP was an eye-wash and a statistical circus, as in reality the Government would not be spending more than Rs. 2 lakh crore of the package and moreover there was no provision for direct cash transfer to the distressed, the poor or the labourers.

If the first wave of COVID-19 was disastrous, the second wave witnessed massive loss of life and absolute destruction of livelihood and sectors of economy. According to the analysis of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, over 10 million Indians lost their jobs because of the second wave of COVID-19, and around 97 per cent of households have faced income loss since the beginning of the pandemic last year. The unemployment rate in the country touched a four-month high as locally implemented lockdowns in many States had impacted over 70 lakh jobs.

Madam, if this was the situation in the economic sector, the loss of lives in second wave of COVID-19 was horrifying. India's official COVID-19 death count by the end of June, 2021 was 4,00,000 and a report authored by India's

former Chief Economic Advisor, Shri Arvind Subramanian stated that “true deaths are likely to be in several millions and not in hundreds of thousands, making it India’s worst human tragedy since partition and Independence”. So, the deaths were under-reported during the second wave and even when such things happened, the frightening sight of dead bodies floating in the rivers Ganga and Yamuna and bodies getting dumped into rivers shook the conscience of the nation but not of this Government that was unmoved by death and destruction.

The failure to vaccinate on time, the confusion created by denying States the right to take up vaccination effort and the Government finally reverting the right of vaccination process created confusion and chaos in administering vaccine at a critical time. The decision to play the saviour of the world was at the cost of the nation and her citizens as they were left without vaccination and the Government instead of listening to the Opposition decided to complicate things further.

The shortage of oxygen was the horrible incident that exposed the Central Government and its stubborn refusal to take adequate precautions in helping States with necessary equipment and oxygen concentrators. The nation saw deaths in large numbers as people begged for oxygen and nowhere in the country, medical oxygen was available.

This situation could have been avoided if the Government had listened even to the voice of the Standing Committee on Health that flagged the shortage of oxygen concentrators and oxygen plants in the country after the first wave.

The spread of COVID-19 has still not been controlled in the State of Kerala because of the Government’s failure to control the pandemic. The Government is engaging in public relations exercises which is adding thousands of cases to the total number of cases per day in the State. The only of activity

that the Government of Kerala is engaging in is to cover up the death rate and present a false picture of resilience and create a fake narrative with the help of which it won the Assembly elections in the State. The Government of Kerala was adding to the number of deaths that were caused due to COVID-19 infection and yet kept concealing it which is an admission of its wrong doing in manipulating the numbers.

In matters concerning *pravasis* who were severely affected by the pandemic, I urge the Government to engage in the following.

A package for the rehabilitation of *pravasi* returnees who lost their employment and are under crisis, with the funding of Government of India, must be created. The *pravasis* should be supported in their hour of crisis.

The salaries, benefits and wages of *pravasis* who returned to India in between or passed away due to COVID-19 are yet to be disbursed their rightful emoluments and their benefits are pending with their host nations. Their families and beneficiaries must be helped to recover such arrears by effective bilateral engagements between authorities especially that of Gulf countries.

The loans availed by those who passed away due to COVID-19 must be either written off or a moratorium on interest payment should be announced.

The *pravasis* including nurses, executives, professionals, among others, want to return to their employers. Bilateral efforts should be taken to help the host companies who are trying to ease out of the pandemic and steps must be taken to ensure full support for them.

I would also invite our attention to one more point. It is a fact that since the pandemic has receded, there is a rush to renew and reissue passports, especially in Kerala, and since the Passport Offices are unable to meet the surge in demand for reissue, renewal, and fresh applications by *pravasis*, the

Government must deploy more employees or add man power in various Passport Offices in Kerala to help in meeting the demands.

The volunteers who worked as the COVID-19 brigade should be absorbed in the Health Department so as to act as a reserve and experienced workforce at our disposal in the eventuality of COVID-19 pandemic and other such situations. ASHA workers who were the frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic must be absorbed in the Health Department and their services should be utilised in the country to meet any public health crisis.

The local Government institutions have spent a lot of funds from their own pool to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and now they are in a difficult situation to even meet their day-to-day needs. The Central and State Governments must reimburse and compensate their resource deficits by way of special allocations by the Union Government.

There must be a permanent solution to the online education method used during the COVID-19 period. The infrastructure including smart phones, tablets, smart televisions, and telecom infrastructure including mobile towers, boosters, and cellular towers must be made permanent keeping in view the possibility of increasing access to digital education especially for the tribals, dalits, and students from remote areas so that they will no longer suffer the way they did during the COVID-19 period in accessing education online.

In the health sector, taking note of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kerala, an AIIMS for Kerala must be sanctioned immediately and orders should be passed in this regard. Thank you, Madam.

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (MALAPPURAM):

Madam, I would like to thank you for permitting me to participate in this very important discussion on COVID-19 and its after effects and also for permitting me to make my maiden speech in this august House.

Madam, it is a very serious occasion. We are discussing a very important subject. We were especially feeling some relief in the endemic stage when the pandemic was coming under control. But there is a serious alerting report on Omicron. Though the intensity of the variant is told to be less, the power to spread is more, as is reported.

Naturally, we all have to take great care and the Government has to rise to the occasion. The Government is saying so many things as to what was done in the past to control the situation. But it is the time for a review to know whether it was able to actually control the situation. The situation throughout the world and in our country also was that there was health crisis, economic crisis and psychological crisis totally amounting to a human crisis. It was a very serious human crisis.

The World Health Organisation asked every nation to take necessary steps for suppressing the spread of the pandemic. As we all know, there is no specific medicine for this. But the wrong policies taken by the Government, as we all understand, became responsible for increasing the gravity of the tragedy. There were no beds; there was no oxygen. So many problems were faced by our countrymen.

I am here, Madam, to pay respect to our countrymen who passed away in this pandemic situation and also for the suffering people to whom we have to give the healing touch even now. The Government has to do many, many things. *[Translation]* Madam, the condition of those people, we know, is very difficult. As the poet said-

Jinda lashon kee ek bheed hai charon taraf,
 maut se bhi bada hadsa zindagi.

[English]

The condition has become more serious. Life is becoming more serious than death. People are remembering that '*yaadei maazi azzab hai ya rab*'.

[English]

Madam, there is a famous saying. When people are remembering those occasions, they will be feeling the same emotions. As we all know,

Kitani mushkil hai zindagi
 kis kadar aasan hai, maut.

The kind of situation has been created in the continuation of the after effect of this pandemic.

Madam, we also have to appreciate and thank those good-minded persons who helped the society to steer to safer shores for saving the society with their compassion, with their duty-bound works.

[Translation]

as we say ek meharbaan ne aake, meri zindagi saza di.

[English]

We cannot forget our health workers, our doctors and our nurses and their sacrifices. The Government had a duty to inform the people about the real situation. But that was not done. There was no transparency which was highly needed at that occasion. At least now, the Government should be prepared to inform the people and to inform the nation about the real situation.

This pandemic can be fought with herd immunity and also vaccinations. What the Government did was that it exchanged its duty with the bureaucrats. The Governments of many countries utilised the service of the epidemiologists. Our Government was not turning to that side.

The Government has, even now, to address the serious problems faced by our traders, merchants and industrialists, especially the small-scale industrialists. I would like to stress or emphasise the problems faced by our expatriates. They need our help, especially those who returned from the Gulf countries. Instead of helping them, instead of giving some helping hand to them, even now, their exploitation is going on. I can understand the need for the RT-PCR test.

For this test, high rate is being charged by the Government. I would like to request the Government, through you, to intervene in this matter and coordinate with the foreign countries concerned, especially countries like UAE, which is particular about this test, to put an end to this practice. The children of our expatriates have now returned from abroad. During this period, hike in fees in schools was also introduced and this has brought more sufferings and difficulties for the marginalized people.

Madam, I feel that India could have handled the situation better in controlling the situation. We have good resources for producing medicines and we have good health workers. But our system was very weak. The system had to be strengthened and the Government could not do that. Our system was a leafless tree and a leafless tree cannot provide shade for the people.

[Translation]

kat chuke jin darakhton ke patte
fir kahaan unake saaye hue hai.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have been given eight minutes' time.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Advocate A.M. Arif Ji.

.. (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Madam, this is my maiden speech. Please give me one more minute.

Finally, I would like to make another request to the Government. There are many psychological problems faced by the students due to this pandemic. For example, the children are suffering from various problems. They are more exposed to this pandemic and so, they have to be helped.

The compensation for the orphans is a very big problem. The Government has put unnecessary and impractical conditions for paying compensation to them. Many parents and guardians of children have died during this pandemic and as a result, these children have become orphans. The Government has to withdraw these impractical conditions and help the orphaned children. There are 8,000 children who are orphaned in the country and in Kerala alone, we have more than 2,000 children who are orphaned in this pandemic. So, I would request the Government to help these children and also withdraw these conditions.

***DR. RAJDEEP ROY (SILCHAR):** This pandemic has hit humanity like a thunderstorm giving very less time to understand what struck and from where.

Almost two years back when the virus was identified and isolated, we were grappling with issues like PPE kits, isolation beds, medicine supplies and oxygen supplies. For a country with 130 crore population, these issues could easily unnerve those who were calling the shots. Our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji saw an opportunity in the midst of adversity. He took the bull by the horn. Overnight decisions were taken and executed; advisories were issued and implemented. Rules and regulations regarding increasing the supplies to meet the demand were appropriated.

Our PM is a master communicator. His multiple addresses to the nation to calm down the nerves were of immense importance. The State Governments were put into action and were given adequate independence to take appropriate steps. Lockdown was announced, Covid care centres were opened up, supplies were spruced up, market stabilized, and above all, the healthcare workers were given the adequate boost to take up once in a lifetime challenge. Only a strong leader can instil this amongst us. From doctors to nurses, paramedics to cleaners, policemen to drivers and all other service providers got into action. Situation started looking up slowly.

From providing ration to the needy to giving cash benefits to farmers and others, Modi Government kept a close watch on each minor issue. The Vande Bharat scheme to bring back the stranded Indians from around the world amidst various travel restrictions has been widely appreciated. Our nation was beginning to be looked at now from a different prism.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

When shortage of paracetamol, HCQs and Azithromycin hit USA and Europe, Modi Government stood tall in supplying it to major developed nations. In between this, our Government supplied life saving drugs free of cost to many SAARC and African nations.

During the second wave when the requirement of O2 supplies was a challenge, the Government needed to show its spine and take decision so that lives could be saved, and the Government did not falter. Within a span of few weeks, capacity building was prioritized and under PM-Cares Fund, O2 plants were set up all across the country and millions were benefited.

Today, as we cross 115 crore vaccinations, my thoughts go back to the days when vaccines were available after 15-20 years or even later during previous regimes. Within a year now we have vaccines and within a year we crossed the 100 crore barrier. Definitely the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji and all foot soldiers needs to be credited.

Today we stand at the cusp of history as we probably turn around towards a COVID free times. We need to spare our thoughts for all families shattered through untimely deaths and pray for them too. Our Government has taken cognizance of their loss and initiating all measures to give them relief and livelihood.

As for my home State Assam, it has done splendidly well under the leadership of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was the Health Minister during the first lockdown and Chief Minister during the second lockdown. The recovery rate at 99.5 per cent is amongst the highest in the country and death rate at 0.5 per cent is amongst the lowest in the country. Today, we have administered 100 per cent of first dose and 55 per cent of second dose of vaccinations.

The schools and colleges are beginning to open up and life is coming back to normalcy.

At the end, I would like to thank Modi Ji, our dynamic Prime Minister for leading from the front, not just in the Indian context, but has shown to the world how to rise above parochial issues and help everybody in times of need.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it.

Madam, though the Members of the Ruling Party are having a competition amongst themselves to praise the Central Government for its intervention in curbing the pandemic, I would like to request them to open their eyes to see the reality. It is unfortunate that again and again we are forced to remind the Government that it has been a total failure in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic even after almost two years of detecting the deadly disease in our country. All through this period, at each stage, we have seen the common people of this country paying the price for the overconfidence that this Government has shown.

First, the Government made all of us to stay wherever we were at that time, by announcing a nationwide lockdown for three weeks starting at 8.00 p.m. on 24th March, 2020 without any consultation or preparations. We saw thousands of migrant labourers and poor people, denied even food and water, fleeing their place of work with families on bare foot to reach their destinations miles away in their home States. Ironically, this Government could easily wash their hands by announcing in this House that they have not collected such a data on how many lives were lost during the fleeing of these poor people. Similar is their stand on the number of farmers who lost their lives during the last one year of protests against the farm laws as the Government said, 'we have no data'. Do the Ministers not feel ashamed while giving such a reply to the people of this country? We cannot blame the common people if they ask a counter question, 'Do we need a Government at all in this country to say this?'

17.00 hrs

Sir, then came the ‘Vaccine ‘Maitri’ to showcase India’s generosity to provide vaccine to the world. Even nations with low test positivity rates and active COVID-19 cases were supplied vaccine hailing it as the success of the ‘Made in India’ campaign.

What was the end result? Lakhs of people had to give their lives as the price of the ‘Vaccine ‘Maitri’ in the second wave of the pandemic.

Sir, its effects were not restricted to our own people. We saw our neighbours like Bhutan running from pillar to post to get their second dose of the vaccine within the stipulated timeframe as our Government was forced to abruptly stop the supply with the mounting pressure from common people.

Sir, we boast of our Constitution which has provisions to ensure the dignity of life of its citizens. But we were forced by this Government to see countless number of dead bodies floating in River Ganga, and a huge number of mortal remains were queued up in all crematoriums waiting for their turns to have a decent burial.

What this Government has offered to the people of this country for the past two years is merely five kilograms of rice every month and one kilogram of pulse, which is continuing even now. But if the Government would not have given these rice and pulses to the people, they would have rotten and got spoiled in the godowns of the FCI like we have seen in the previous years.

In addition to rice, the Kerala Government has been giving 13 essential commodities to 85 lakh families in Kerala irrespective of APL and BPL.

We have started community kitchen for the migrant labours. The Central Government and other agencies appreciated the Kerala Model. How can a

family sustain only with rice? What about vegetables, oils and cooking gas? Will it come from vacuum or by magic?

Not only that, on the one hand, the Government was hesitant to put liquid cash in the hands of the people and on the other hand, it remained a mute spectator while the prices of all petroleum products -- petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene – have been skyrocketing squeezing the common people from all sides.

Even now, this Government has not completely withdrawn the hike in Central taxes in various names brought out last year, and is denying the benefit of fall of crude oil prices internationally, to the people of this country.

Instead, this Government is asking the States like Kerala to reduce their share of tax, which has not been increased even once for the past several years.

Sir, the Government issued COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate to all with the smiling photograph of our hon. Prime Minister. But actually, it should have the picture of our hon. Supreme Court, without the intervention of which, this Government would have allowed the pharma companies to loot the State Governments and people below the age of 45 years, by charging exorbitantly high and differential price for the vaccines.

Sir, this Government betrayed the families of the victims of COVID-19 by withdrawing the notification making them eligible for an ex-gratia of Rs. 4 lakh, on the same day. Now, as a pittance, it boasts of giving just Rs. 50,000 to all such families.

But it is now the responsibility of the State Governments to give this amount from the SDRFs, and the Union Government is not offering a single

paisa for this. There was a grievous ...* during the COVID-19 done by this Government in the form of PM CARES Fund. What about the PM CARES Fund? No one knows how much amount was collected as a donation and how much was spent under this Fund. It is functioning in a most opaque manner with no audit of accounts by the C&AG. What prevents the Government from disclosing the details of it if they have nothing to hide from the people?

Sir, I am not elaborating on the shortfall of this Government any more. The people of this country are well aware that this Government has been a total failure in each and every aspect of combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish, at least now, better sense prevails upon this Government to help the common people of the country in every possible manner.

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

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you, Madam. Let me first start by thanking all the doctors, nurses and other healthcare and frontline workers in India and, in fact, all over the world for their continuing service to humanity.

It has been two years since the start of the pandemic and we have learnt much about this virus, its prevention and its treatment. We have also learnt about the impact of actions taken and actions not taken by the Government institutions and by people at large. Each variant is teaching us new lessons. The first wave fuelled by the Alpha variant exposed our weaknesses in health infrastructure, the shortage of beds, ventilators and PPE kits. The second wave fuelled by the Delta variant showed us that we have a weakness in medical grade oxygen supply. Even though we had oxygen available in steel plants, we could not put them into cylinders and get them to where the people needed

* Not recorded.

them. The first wave also taught us to take people into confidence and give them time to prepare for extreme measures like lockdowns in order to avoid humanitarian crisis. We have also seen the economic impact of the lockdowns and travel bans. The percentage of people below the poverty line in India has gone up for the first time in the last 40 years.

Now, we are facing the threat of a new variant of concern as designated by the WHO, the Omicron variant. I believe, we need to take, both, a cautious and a considered approach in dealing with this variant. We can neither take it lightly, nor we can use blunt instruments like lockdowns and travel bans which have huge economic consequences and may even lead to more humanitarian crisis. With vaccination levels improving, we are better equipped in dealing with new variants than we were during the first two waves. If there is indeed a third wave, I believe, we can deal with it without imposing lockdowns or travel bans on vaccinated people especially. Quite a few countries are planning to or have already stopped international flights. The WHO has already advised against implementing such blanket travel bans as it may not prevent the international spread. In addition, it warned that such steps can adversely impact global health efforts during the pandemic as the countries may be hesitant to report new cases and to share medical data.

As per initial research of health experts, it is seen that this variant has 50 mutations overall, including more than 30 on the spike protein alone. Another research in a medical journal indicated that the number of antibodies reduced by approximately 57 per cent after six months of inoculation of the COVID-19 vaccine. Keeping in mind the new mutant variant as well as the reduction in the amount of antibodies after inoculation, what is the strategy of the Government to protect the people is what we want to hear from the Minister. Is the Ministry considering and formulating a strategy for administering booster doses to those

who have been fully vaccinated? If not, what is the Ministry's plan? It may kindly be explained. I think, the Government of India has started vaccine exports again from last month and I am given to understand that about 25 million vaccine doses have been exported to various countries. So, I request the hon. Minister to immediately stop the vaccine exports and let the days of giving 2.5 crore vaccines in a single day come back and let us continue to ramp up administering the vaccine since it is the only protective gear we have right now.

Madam, the hon. Minister talked about preparedness and said that the country is well-prepared for any eventuality but I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. The Government of India has proposed to set up medical oxygen plants in various states of the country including one at Guntur Medical College in Andhra Pradesh. What is the status of the oxygen plants in the country, particularly, in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana? Also, at this point of time, instead of jumping the gun and creating panic among the public, a strong message needs to go to the public that we strictly need to adhere to COVID-19 protocols, of wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing and sanitising our hands regularly. Efforts should also be made to ramp up vaccination and addressing the problem of vaccine hesitancy as following COVID-19 protocols and vaccination are time-tested ways of containing the spread of this infection. The Government also needs to be diligent in the 3Ts – tracking, testing and treating. I would also like to reiterate that we need to take a quick decision on booster doses for the fully vaccinated and starting the vaccination for those below age of 18 years to ensure that the country is protected.

These are some of the issues I thought I should raise before the Minister. I request him to kindly let the House know what the Ministry has planned.

Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): Madam, I express my heartfelt thanks to you for giving me the opportunity to Speak and participate in the discussion in this House which is about the Covid pandemic and the post Covid situation under Rule 193.

Madam, *[English]* I was a Professor of Surgery. *[Translation]* I am a doctor by profession and my entire medical career has been of almost five decades, that is, 50 years. I have seen and treated many epidemics during my career, but Covid-19, the pandemic of this time around, I think was very unexpected, it was an unusual situation and I have never seen such an epidemic in my life time. During the pandemic, the charioteer of any country, the good works of the country, the country is mostly dependent on them and I have no hesitation to say here that the way the Covid-19 pandemic has been addressed under the leadership of our illustrious Prime Minister, our hardworking leader, the world's most popular leader Shri Narendra Bhai Modi ji, I understand that We are all very grateful to him. All of us and the people of 135 crores of the whole of India are very fortunate that leadership was in the hands of Narendra Modi ji for this epidemic and what he has done, I understand that the whole country appreciates him very much in one voice. Feels proud of him too. Whatever the situation came in the middle of the Corona epidemic, whether it was a lockdown, imposing a lockdown in the country of 135 crores and giving many more information, I understand that Narendra Bhai Modi's Government has taken a very bold decision.

Today our illustrious Health Minister Dr. Mansukhbhai Mandaviya ji, ever since he has accepted the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, the work that has been done, I think it is a matter of great fortune for the country.

Now I come to the point of vaccination. When we were in the profession of doctor, whenever any epidemic came, we used to import vaccine. We were

dependent on the other country. We used to look towards other countries. I understand that first vaccine of smallpox was made in foreign country and it took almost four decades i.e. more than 40 years. Being a doctor, I feel proud that our hon'ble Prime Minister ji assured our scientists, health workers and doctors and not only one but two vaccines were developed in our country. I think this step has given a new recognition to India in the whole world. India has made its mark because this vaccine has been in our country. So far as the question of vaccination is concerned, it is very unfortunate that some of our own people are misguiding the people by telling non-sense things about vaccine. They were saying that vaccine will have side effect, something will happen from vaccine, this type of things were being spoken by them. Hon. Prime Minister ji choose one target and he launched the world's biggest vaccination programme in the whole country. I feel proud in stating that today, upto 30 November, 123.35 crore people have been vaccinated in whole country. I think that this is not an insignificant number. This is a huge number and whole country will be thankful to the hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi ji for this. This was the biggest vaccination programme. This vaccination programme was the world's fastest running programme. We made Covishield and Covaxin. At that time, our hon'ble Prime Minister said that we want to make our country self-dependent. I want to tell you that the vaccine made by our country has been supplied to many countries. If there is any biggest evidence of self-dependence of India, it is both the vaccines made in India. where as there is question of recovery rate, the highest recovery rate of approximately 98.35 has been since March 2020. This is very big achievement for our country. The total recoveries are around 3 crore 40 lakhs. In the last 24 hours, 6990 cases have been reported, which is lowest during the last 547 days. If we talk about number of active cases it is less than 1% of the total cases. If we put it inot percentage, it is around 0.29 per cent. *[English]*This is lowest

since March, 2020.*[Translation]* Whatever the tests have been conducted here, our hon. Prime Minister ji has made the testing, tracking and treatment the basis. Whatever the tests have been conducted in our country, many people used to say that very few tests have been conducted in our country. But I want to say with absolute correct figure that till now approximately 64.13 crore tests have been conducted. This is a huge figure. Our whole country will be very grateful to our health ministry and hon'ble Modi ji's government. On 21 October, 100 crore vaccination has been completed. It was a very big milestone. After achieving this milestone, our country is progressing further in the matter of vaccination. Today, world's 96 countries have approved the vaccine certificate and India's certificate has also been approved under it. It is huge relief for the international tourists.

'Har Ghar Dastak', - Some people are left out of vaccination, some have not taken at all, some have not taken the second dose. Our hon. Prime Minister ji started the 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme. Madam, I want to tell through you that the programme, hon . Prime Minister ji has started, hon. Prime Minister ji does not believe in Government's working in isolation, hon. Prime Minister ji always emphasize public participation in it. I have full confidence that our countrymen will knock on the every door and the programme of knocking has been started. I am Member of Parliament from Bhartiya Janta Party and I am proud of this fact that our party's programme are encouraging the people in different villages and cities by visiting and knocking on every house. I feel that it is a very big programme of public participation. Hon'ble Narendra Bhai Modi ji launched this programme. Recently, a new variant has been detected. Hon'ble Prime Minister ji at times calls the Corona virus an impersonator. Due to new variations, today Omicron variant has come, due to which 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme has been started. The programme of vaccination by Government is free of cost. WHO has declared COVID-19's Omicron variant as a new variant

...(Interruptions) I am concluding in two minutes. Our government has issued a list in this connection. This variant was found in South Africa. This variant has been found in approximately 10 countries surrounding South Africa. Our Government has put a ban on the people arriving from those countries. Appropriate behavior is necessary to break the covid transmission chain such as wearing mask, to keep social distancing, to keep a good ventilation and use of sanitization and washing hand. All passengers coming to India have to undergo RT-PCR test. The Government has issued many guidelines in this regard. I will conclude after making two points.

Our hon'ble Prime Minister ji and Health Minister ji have extended the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme by launching 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission'. I think it is a very big decision, be it increasing the bed capacity in hospital, increasing the number of ventilators, increasing of beds in ICU. I thank from my heart to the hon'ble Minister for it. One such programme, 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' has been launched by hon'ble Prime Minister ji and hon. Minister. It will help in controlling the Corona. We need to be cautious from this new variant. But I feel that the way vaccination is being done in our country, the intensity of this variant will remain mild in our country.

I conclude by adding one more point-

“Virasat se tay nahin honge siyasat ke faisle.

Mehnat tay karegee ki yah aasman kiska hai.”

Thank you very much, Madam.

*SHRI OM PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR (OSMANABAD): I am thankful for getting an opportunity to put forward my view in the House in ongoing discussion on the fatal disease like COVID-19 under Rule 193.

All of us know that COVID-19 has badly affected every section of society be it students, employed people, traders, small and medium industries or a self employed person doing petty jobs. Households of people have been devastated during this Corona period and numerous children have been orphaned.

The health services in my parliamentary constituency of district Osmanabad have been severely affected due to Corona pandemic. Till date, 67,619 people have been tested positive with COVID-19 in my district out of which 1501 people have died. As on date, a total of 26 active patients are getting treatment in Civil Hospital, Osmanabad. The number of Covid positive patients is declining due to the vaccination campaign going on in full swing in the districts. The number of people having taken one dose of vaccination recently is more. They need to be given the second dose. Citizens above 18 years of age have been given dose of vaccination as per the instructions of the Central Government and the State Governments. The citizens below the age of 18 years have not been given any vaccination yet.

The parents as well as the family members of the students who are between 5 to 18 years of age and of those children who are between one to five yeras of age are frightened first due to Corona virus and now due to the recently detected new Omicron virus. What arrangements have been made by the Government for their protection? The board examinations are going on and the schools have been opened. The children are the future of this country and they

* Speech was laid on the Table.

need to be protected. The government needs to take immediate steps in this regard and vaccination of all children should be done at the earliest.

It is necessary to augment the number of ventilators in the hospitals in rural areas along with fulfilling the need of essential equipments, vaccines and medicines to combat this new virus. It is very important to install oxygen plants in these hospitals. There was a huge shortage of doctors in hospitals during Corona period due to the large number of posts of doctors remaining vacant. It has become extremely necessary to fill up these posts.

There is no Government (MBBS) Medical College in Osmanabad. An MBBS Government Medical College is much needed in Osmanabad to tackle fatal disease like Corona and any other fore fatal disease in future. The State Government of Maharashtra has conveyed its consent and has released its share of funds to start MBBS Government Medical College in Osmanabad. The assistance from the Central Government is required. The Government of Maharashtra has forwarded the proposal for permission of Medical Council of India to start this college in this academic year. So, the Medical Council of India may accord its approval to the proposal.

The world has learnt a lot during the Corona pandemic. Common people had to suffer a lot due to lack of proper management in government and private hospitals all over the country. A lot of people died due to lack of oxygen and beds in hospitals.

A lot of funds were donated in PM-CARES fund during Corona infection period. Half of the ventilators supplied through PM-CARES fund were found defective and could not be put to any use. The companies which supplied these ventilators are under probe. Strictest possible action should be taken against guilty persons after completing the probe.

During this time of crisis, it is essential to receive assistance from the Union Government without any discrimination irrespective of the State Government belonging to any party in the State. Maharashtra has been the worst affected due to Corona. Maximum assistance was expected from the Union Government, but the State didn't receive as much assistance from the Center as required. Despite this, the Government of Maharashtra has done well. I would like to congratulate the entire State Government as well as the hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Uddhav ji Thakre and the Health Minister for the same.

The management of Government hospitals is not proper today and hence private hospitals take advantage of it. There is a need to modernize the Government hospitals and equip them with all the facilities. The Private hospitals all over the country have earned crores of rupees during this pandemic. Will the government conduct an audit of these hospitals? Will the Government probe the looting of the common people by these hospitals? Along side, the medical stores and the pharmaceutical companies have openly done black marketing of Corona doses. What action has been taken against these by the Government? I would like to know this from the Government.

Masks and sanitizers were quite cheap earlier in the market. Their prices jumped four fold due to Corona. Such information like the Remedisivir injection having been sold to the needy in lakhs have also come to light. What action has been taken by the Government in this regard? Has the government taken proper steps to prevent such recurrence. I would like to know this.

No one knows about the measures taken by the Union Government to provide employment to those who were affected and rendered unemployed and ensure bright future of the children orphaned during Corona period. Several doctors, nurses, ASHA workers and ambulance drivers worked during Corona period without caring for their lives but they were fired from their jobs after

their requirement was over, which is wrong. There is a need to encourage them, which the government didn't do. The Government sent COVID medicines to other countries, whereas a lot of people could have been saved had they got this medicine in time. The fear has not vanished from people's mind even today.

Proper speedy and effective decisions will have to be taken for easy availability of essential medicines along with ultramodern health facility to combat this pandemic. I hope that the government will pay attention in this regard and take appropriate and effective steps. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Respected Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

During last 21 months the fight which has been fought against COVID-19, that fight has been fought by every one of this country and no one, not a single individual, should claim or seek credit for that.

Almost two years after the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the world is coming to terms with the disruptions caused by the virus. Governments' actions to counter infections and contain the spread of the virus led to global supply shocks, especially in manufacturing, while lockdowns and other containment measures caused widespread business disruptions. It is now clear that the pandemic has brought the world to the second grave economic and financial crisis of the 21st century and is likely to have long-term structural repercussions. What is more is that it has led to the exposure of fragilities of the global economic and geopolitical order.

As on 1st December, 2021, COVID has taken lives of 4,69,724 Indians as recorded by the Government. Over 30 million people have been infected by the coronavirus in India. COVID-19 can infect people of all genders and ages. The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the existing inequalities and its impact on vulnerable groups who are mainly employed in the informal sector.

Going forward, India will have to prioritise economic expansion and substantially maintain its trajectory of growth and influence. The country must continue to embrace transformational rather than incremental change to shape an economic policy that supports rapid growth. Wage inequality and the burden of unpaid cases has pushed more people out of employment into poverty.

The Indian economy has really fallen behind by several years, if one looks at the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) numbers, the sectoral value added in manufacturing and construction or the actual off-take of items like electricity, steel, cement, vehicles and so on. India will also need to continue making strides to increase competitiveness and the ease of doing business.

Madam, the country will also have to ramp up its efforts to develop infrastructure, not just for roads and bridges but for health and education too. Amid the ongoing volatility and change, India has a rare opportunity to undertake several policy changes to not only address the short-term public health challenges but also to become an important axis of power and influence in the post-COVID world.

From its devastating economic impact and its migrant crisis to the startling death toll, the COVID-19 pandemic in India unfurled one crisis after the other. As on 28th November, 2021, a total of 70.19 crore beneficiaries have received vaccines. It means that 83.3 per cent of the estimated adult population aged 18 years and above have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Madam, I am astonished to hear someone saying 110 crore vaccinations have been done; some other person is saying 115 crore vaccinations have been done; and mobile caller tune is saying more than 100 crore vaccinations have been done. In our country, 135 crore people are there. How many people are there above the age of 18 years? The number comes to 95 crore only. Then, how can it be more than 100 crore? Up to 18 years of age, no vaccination has been done. How is it possible? There should not be any jugglery of numbers. It is plain and simple. Have you administered vaccination to the people up to the age of 18 years? The answer is no. If no, then how can it be more than 100 crore? It is simple mathematics.

Out of total 2,90,00,000 number of disabled persons in the country, only 8,390 people with disabilities received first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 4,018 have received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The slow pace of vaccination is likely to be a burden on India's economic recovery.

The second wave of COVID-19 in India brought unprecedented losses. The poorest and the most marginalised, including women and girls faced more risk without the means to absorb the economic shocks and mitigate the health crisis. In India, women make up a significant proportion of all healthcare workers and more than 80 per cent of nurses and midwives. Yet, when it comes to decision making roles in the health sector, they are largely absent and they get paid much less than their male counterparts. However, some women and girls may be at higher risk because they are poor and lack information and resources or because they are at the frontline as caregivers and workers in the health and service sector.

Right now, there is also a concern that less women are getting vaccinated than men in India. According to national data, 17 per cent more men than women have been partially or fully vaccinated. Every crisis impacts women and girls differently than men because of existing gender norms and inequalities. In order to build back better and equal women and girls after the COVID-19 crisis, policy investment and action must be same for women and girls, and should deliberately be targeted to benefit them.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization has also approved ZyCoV-D vaccine of Cadila Healthcare for restricted use in emergency situation in the age group of 12 years and above. The Government has not yet cleared final recommendation therein. Across the country, lack of access to resources, high levels of digital illiteracy, and the deepening digital divide exacerbated by the pandemic acted as major roadblock during COVID-19 in India. Even as the

Government announced relief packages, food grains, and cash payments, the mechanism of delivery to beneficiaries at the last mile was unclear.

Madam, I will not take much time. There are so many things to say. Other speakers are also here. I have a few points only. When India was hit by the pandemic in April 2020, about 126 million jobs were lost. That is really a lot. About 90 million of those jobs were daily wage jobs. May I put this question to this House sitting here that we all cried for the migrant labourers, but why? In our country, no mechanism has been set up for registration of migrant labourers in any State nationwide. Why is it not there? Whose fault is it? Why has it not been thought of?

CMI has been pointing out for a long time that there is a steady fall in salaried jobs and that is not abating. We had 403.5 million jobs before we were hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, worst case scenario in January 2021. On December 2020, we reached 400 million jobs. So, we were still 3.5 million jobs short. Today, we are at 390 million. Enterprises are unwilling to do anything because they have got only 66 per cent capacity utilization.

The public health sector includes national, State and district level governance systems across the country [Translation]..... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, Speaker Sir had said that you can speak as much as you want.

Whatever people want to speak let them speak. Speaker sir had said this thing, you can ask.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

It enables a coordinated response across the system. The private sector, on the other hand, is highly fragmented and has no such governance system to mount a coordinated response.

I am coming to a very sensitive issue. Who are the worst sufferers of COVID-19 today? They are children. They are the worst affected. They are not able to lead a normal life. They are not in a position to meet their friends. Their mental growth is destroyed.

Through you, I would request the hon. Minister to introduce vaccination for the children immediately. Let them enjoy their normal life. If you have a child or if you have a grandchild, then you will understand the pain that they are going through each and every day.

The other day, the hon. Minister has categorically stated that no cases of Omicron variant have been reported in India. What steps have you taken to prevent Omicron variant from entering into India? Thank you.

***SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM (TIRUNELVELI):** Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my view on the bill of New Strain of Covid — Omicron. New Covid variant, 'Omicron' which has been declared as a variant of concern by the World Health Organisation has raised concerns across the globe. The variant was first detected in South Africa earlier this month. Since then, the new strain has already been detected in several European countries. 'Omicron' is said to be much more infectious than the Delta variant. The government to review Covid testing and surveillance measures at international airports. India yesterday enforced strict rules for foreign arrivals, particularly from nations with Omicron cases.

International passengers arriving at the Delhi airport shared mixed experiences as the fresh guidelines for fliers, particularly for those from 'at risk' nations, entered the second day today. Airport officials, however, said that adequate arrangements, including setting up of multiple counters for Covid tests, have been made.

Even confirmed case of the Covid-19 Omicron variant had been detected in fully vaccinated traveller who had recently returned from South Africa and was recovering from mild symptoms. Though vaccination, boosters and masking in indoor public settings remained the best way to stay protected.

According to a statement by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the person returned from South Africa on November 22, and their close contacts have all tested negative.

Some early press reports regarding the Omicron variant have suggested it might confer more mild illness, but take cautioned reading too much into these until more hard data was available.

While the person involved was fully vaccinated, stressed a Covid booster remained a good idea because it raises the number of overall antibodies in a person's immune system, some of which will remain effective at stopping new variants.

The variants such as the Delta variant, is that even though the vaccine isn't specifically targeted to the Delta variant, when you get a high enough level of an immune response, you get spillover protection.

The Government should prepare for Omicron, is planning tougher testing and weighing quarantine requirements for international travellers arriving in the country, including taking a Covid-19 test one day prior to departure.

A deadly second wave of coronavirus infections is devastating India, leaving millions of people infected and putting stress on the country's already overtaxed health care system.

Still, the virus is likely spreading through the rest of the country, and only a tiny portion of the population has been fully vaccinated.

But after the early restrictions were lifted, many Indians stopped taking precautions. Large gatherings, including political rallies and religious festivals, resumed and drew millions of people.

Beginning this spring, the country recorded an exponential jump in cases and deaths. The government Covid-19 task force did not meet for months. His health minister assured the public in March that India had reached the pandemic's "endgame." As infections rose, the Government allowed large gatherings to help his governing and burnish its nationalist credentials. The Government approved a festival with millions of worshipers. He campaigned in state elections without a mask at rallies of thousands of maskless supporters.

Overwhelmed by new cases, Indian hospitals cannot cope with the demand, and patients in many cities have been abandoned to die. Clinics across the country have reported an acute shortage of hospital beds, medicines, protective equipment and oxygen.

The Indian government says that it has enough liquid oxygen to meet medical needs and that it is rapidly expanding its supply. But production facilities are concentrated in eastern India, far from the worst outbreaks in Delhi and in the western state of Maharashtra, and it can take several days for supplies to reach there by road.

Families of the sick are filling social media with pleas for oxygen as supplies run low at hospitals or because they are trying to administer care at home. Fraudsters and black marketeers have emerged.

Still, dire needs remain in other parts of the country. India is one of the world's leading vaccine manufacturers, but it has struggled to inoculate its citizens. New inoculations have fallen as supplies have tightened, leading to temporary closures of vaccination centres in Delhi and some other places in India.

***SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM):** I would like to submit a few points in my opinion about the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

On 22 March, 2020, the Prime Minister of India mentioned to the people of India regarding the dangerous COVID-19 situation and also announced lockdown in the nation. Shops, schools, colleges, Government offices and business centres in the whole nation were shutdown. The people of India faced critical situation as day-by-day the number of infected kept growing in the country as people were getting affected and infected. There was long queue in front of hospitals; there were no beds; and there was no oxygen availability during this critical situation. The doctors, nurses, medical staff and grassroot-level workers were in the forefront providing service with dedication and without fear. The nation salutes and thanks the personnel of the Health Department.

On the other hand, the private hospitals were providing service commercially as they were charging more money from the patients for doing the RTPCR test, which was very painful to note. There was no control from the Government side to control the private hospitals.

People living in the rural areas lost their livelihood as there was no work and money during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The Union Government also did not help these people. I contributed for providing power supply, rice, vegetables and other materials to these people during that period.

In my Constituency, Nagapattinam, people are mostly residing in the rural areas. Therefore, I am requesting the Union Government to kindly provide an oxygen plant in the Government Hospital at Thiruthuraipoondi, which is very much needed by the people over there. Thank you.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU

(NARASARAOPET): Thanks for allowing me to speak on this important subject. This House has been asking for this to be brought for the last two Sessions. But unfortunately, it could not be brought because of various reasons. But finally, we are able to speak on this today.

Let me start off by thanking all the health care workers, frontline workers who have participated in this huge task. I offer my condolences for the people who have lost their lives.

The second wave was very devastating. We have seen or we have heard or we have read about the wars. But in most of the wars, the devastation used to be in border areas or in a few zones. But the COVID second wave literally visited every household resulting in death and destruction across the country.

This was due to non-functioning of various pillars that our democracy was built on. We have to talk about this because for the last two Sessions we have been demanding this. The four pillars which we thought would help us have failed us completely. The first one was the judiciary. We thought that the judiciary will take it forward and will make sure that whoever is suffering will be provided relief. Take, for example, the migrant workers, who were making the huge trek of thousands of kilometres. So many cases were filed. But the judiciary never bothered about them. According to the media reports, they said that they cannot act on the basis of the media reports. Some cases were not even heard.

The second pillar of the democracy that has failed us was the media. They thought that they have done the work. But they did not do enough work. Till the crisis reached Delhi, the whole media was looking somewhere else. They were

not reporting even the cases that were reported in the Television channels which caused destruction in villages across the country. But they were not given enough coverage till it reached Delhi.

The third pillar that has failed us was the Election Commission of India, which conducted the elections without any sort of control in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and even in Andhra Pradesh.

Even when we told them there is a coronavirus wave across the States, still they went ahead and conducted the elections. There were thousands of deaths. In UP, somewhere around 1600 teachers lost their lives. Even in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, around 1500 teachers lost their lives because of this. ... (*Interruptions*). These are all the pillars of democracy.

On top of it, while this whole thing was happening, there was IPL that was happening in the country. Watching IPL was like watching the band that was being played on the Titanic when the Titanic was sinking. It was so sad. This is all because of over-confidence that was exhibited, and also the premature celebration that we have done during the time of the second wave. Let us not forget all that has happened.

We are in the same situation right now. We are again trying to celebrate because 125 crore doses of vaccines have been administered, but still only 48 per cent of the population has been covered above 18 years of age, and still children are not being covered.

On top of that, reports are coming in that Omicron, a new variant of virus has been detected in almost 23 countries. There is no proof that this variant has not arrived in India. So, we have to be very careful about that. More than being careful, we should not demoralize the public. We should not demoralize the public and we should take these six or seven steps. First thing is to secure the

lives through proper healthcare system. With regards to that, we have tried lockdown, we have tried travel bans etc.,. We have created panic. All of them have failed. Let us not re-visit them. Let us review the availability of beds, oxygen and medicines. Let us concentrating on testing, and concentrating on testing does not mean just do the testing and leave it there. ... (*Interruptions*). The Government should make sure that wherever... (*Interruptions*). Just last two minutes. ... (*Interruptions*). Testing should be done not only at the airports, but in the districts and blocks where the virus is prevalent.

I also expect the Ministry to actually re-look at the universal health coverage right now. Take the example of Andhra Pradesh where Arogyasri which was brought in by our late Y.S. R. Reddy was a huge success during this crisis. Also, I request the Ministry to do door to door vaccination. We have been successful in doing that while eradicating the Polio, and maybe we should again try the same. We should also make sure that children also get vaccinated because a lot of other countries are doing it. Maybe we should also have a protocol as soon as possible, so that children also get vaccinated.

There were numerous numbers that were there with regard to the number of dead people across the country during this crisis. ... (*Interruptions*). I am concluding. I request the Ministry to compensate the people who died because of this crisis as soon as possible.

At the end, I conclude by saying that BJP has a good strength. The ruling party has a good strength ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Shri K. Subbarayan Ji.

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU: I am concluding. ... *(Interruptions)*. We have an ear to the ground. You can manoeuvre this way or that way because you get the unfiltered feedback from the ground. So, I requested you to look and get the feedback from the ground and make sure that poor people are taken care of. As Gandhi Ji said, think about the poor people when you are in doubt. So, I request the Government to look into poor people's lives. Make sure that at least this time we will not repeat what has happened in the second wave.

***SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR):** Hon. Chairperson, Vanakkam. We come to know how a government should not function through the way this Government managed the affairs during the Covid pandemic. India has never seen a Government which has managed the affairs so worse since the period of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru other than the present Government. It is not that I am saying this with hatred as I am a Member of Parliament from the opposition. We are saying this opinion on the basis of the practical experiences we acquired so far. WHO and the Medical Experts of the world have cautioned very well about the ill effects of pandemic way back in January 2020. I blame the Government for its inaction in taking preventive or precautionary measures based on the alert expressed by the WHO, and that inaction or late reaction has resulted in lots of crises. Once informed about the spread of virus, this Government must have acted swiftly prevented its spread. Rather they invited the then US President Mr. Trump and organised a 'Namaste' function for him. As a result, those who came from USA, have not undergone any medical check-up. There was no medical check-up organised in any of the airports at that point of time. I wish to say that this activity of the Government became a reason for the spread of Covid-19 virus throughout the country. Moreover, this Government has not undertaken any preventive measures appropriately. They could have manufactured lakhs of doses of the vaccine through the Public Sector undertakings. Rather this Union Government gave its nod to two private companies for manufacturing covid vaccines resulting in profit generation for these two companies. If they could have manufactured vaccines through the PSUs, this crisis would have been averted. I say this Government has committed a crime by not allowing PSUs in vaccine manufacturing. Therefore this Government has committed crime against the people during the pandemic. I can

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

cite an example. What is the reason that led to the death of so many thousands of people? Like a Tughlak Durbar, they announced immediate lockdown all of a sudden. Lakhs of people walked for miles to reach their native places. Several children died. Who is responsible for this? They announced lockdown without taking any preventive measure. This is the reason for such a crisis. This announcement led to the lockdown of MSMEs as well. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had requested the Union Government directly for making the Integrated Vaccine manufacturing complex in Chengalpattu functional. This was created during the UPA Government with a cost of Rs 900 Crore. This was not made functional by the present Government even after the State Government's request. If this manufacturing unit was made functional, vaccines could have been exported besides meeting the domestic needs. Hon. Prime Minister is not inclined towards PSUs. The interest shown on private sector is not shown on public sector. Income generated through the public sector will reach the Government treasury. Only corporate companies earn profit if such projects are given to private sector. It is therefore pretty clear that this Government was helping the corporate and private companies for making profit and earning revenue during the Covid pandemic as well. Similarly, if you see there is no statistics about the persons died due to corona. Who is responsible for the death of thousands of people? The elected Government failed to take preventive measures timely resulting in loss of thousands of lives. I urge upon the Government that it should give compensation to all the people who died due to Covid. Similarly the ASHA workers. They are the frontline warriors. During the corona pandemic, these ASHA workers went from door to door for creating awareness and containing the spread of virus. What is the salary given to these ASHA workers? They are not given any salary. They are given a meagre amount of Rs 3500 per month. Can the family of ASHA worker survive with that Rs.3500 p.m. I make challenge to the Union Ministers. Let them show

how to lead a comfortable life with a paltry sum of Rs. 3500 pm. You can then give Rs. 3500 pm to these ASHA workers. The work of these ASHA workers are of permanent nature and they work from morning to evening. I therefore urge that they should be appointed on a permanent basis and a justifiable salary be fixed for them. I will take only a minute to conclude. As a concluding remark, I would say that this Union Government has committed a crime by not taking preventive measures to protect the people of this country during the Covid pandemic. Through that act, this Cabinet has once proved its inefficiency to rule this country. With this remark, I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR):** For last two years, not only India but the whole world is battling the Covid-19 pandemic and gradually due to this epidemic, the strongly interconnected systems of the globalized world have changed completely. In an effort to control the outbreak of this virus, the governments of different countries imposed restrictions on movement and social interaction, due to which more than one third of the world's population of 780 crore had to face this serious problem.

The global health crisis was deepening due to the corona virus epidemic and a new 'rule' of lockdown had come before the world.

For the last two years, the whole world has been battling the immediate threat of Covid-19 in some way or the other and even after that the reconstruction and its lasting effects will undoubtedly continue to be felt for years. Borders are closed in many parts of the world and airports, hotels, businesses and educational institutions are closed.

The increasing intensity of this outbreak in India called for timely response, proactive approach, graded response, full governance, society-based approach and a comprehensive strategy to prevent infection, save lives and reduce the impact of the pandemic.

The Government of India has challenged Covid-19 with the highest level of political commitment. The nationwide lockdown was a bold decision taken by the Government, beginning with the self-imposed Janata Curfew by a huge mass of people at the call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This proves that India has collectively stood up to manage Covid-19 and the country has successfully contained the intensity of Covid-19.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Union Government has provided financial help to the poor by paying cash to women, elderly and farmers along with free food grains under the Garib Kalyan Package. Apart from this, the workers returning home have also started getting employment Under MNREGA. Jan Dhan Bank account has become helpful for the poor in the crisis of Corona infection under which the poor did not face financial trouble in running their house during the lockdown. For this, the Modi Government at the centre started sending an installment of Rs 500-500 in the Jan Dhan accounts of women under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package. Apart from this, financial assistance of Rs. 1,405 crore was made available to 2.82 crore senior citizens, widows and disabled persons under the National Social Assistance Program.

During this time, a massive campaign to administer Corona vaccine was launched in the country and so far about 125 crore people has been vaccinated in the country, which is the highest in the whole world. India itself has made a record of making 3 Corona vaccines and is playing an important role in ridding the whole world of this pandemic.

In addition to wheat and rice, pulses are being given to 81 crore beneficiaries in the country by spending a total of Rs 46 thousand crores. A total of 67.65 lakh tones of food grains have been available in 36 States and Union Territories. 71 thousand crore rupees have been given to 9 crore 34 lakh farmers under PM Kisan Yojna. In the lockdown period, the Union Government gave a package of 4.82 crores under the Ujjwala scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package. The Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned an amount of Rs 33,300 crore under MNREGA.

India, despite being the most populous country in the world, is dealing with this epidemic very effectively, in which the Union government and the Health department have an important role.

***SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (GANGANAGAR):** For the almost last two years, not only India but the whole world is battling the Covid-19 pandemic and gradually due to this epidemic, the strongly interconnected systems of the globalized world have changed completely. In an effort to control the outbreak of this virus, the governments of different countries imposed restrictions on movement and social interaction, due to which more than one third of the world's population of 780 crore had to face this serious problem.

The global health crisis was deepening, due to the corona virus epidemic and a new 'rule' of lockdown had come before the world.

For the last two years, the whole world has been battling the immediate threat of COVID-19 in some way or the other and even after that the reconstruction and its lasting effects will undoubtedly continued to be felt for years. Borders are closed in many parts of the world and airports, hotels, businesses and educational institutions are closed.

The increasing, intensity of this outbreak in India called for timely response, proactive approach, graded response, full governance, society based approach and a comprehensive strategy to prevent infection, save lives and reduce the impact of the pandemic.

The Government of India has challenged Covid-19 with the highest level of political commitment. The nationwide lockdown was a bold decision taken by the government, beginning with the self-imposed Janata Curfew by a huge mass of people at the call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This proves that India has collectively stood up to manage Covid-19 and the country has successfully contained the intensity of Covid-19.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The Union Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister has provided financial assistance to the poor by making cash payments to women, elderly and farmers along with free foodgrains under the Garib Kalyan Package. Apart from this, the workers returning home have also started getting employment under MGNREGA. Jan Dhan Bank accounts proved helpful for the poor during the crisis of corona pandemic, under which the poor did not face financial difficulties in running their homes during the lockdown, the Modi Government at the Centre started sending an instalment of Rs 500-500 to the Jan Dhan accounts of women under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package. In addition, financial assistance of Rupees 1,405 crore was provided to 2.82 crore senior citizens, widows and divyangs under the National Social Assistance Programme.

In the country, 81 crore beneficiaries are being provided pulses in addition to wheat and rice by spending a total amount of 46 thousand crore rupees. A total of 67.65 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been made available in 36 States and Union Territories. Under the PM Kisan Scheme, 71 thousand crore rupees have been paid to 9 crore 34 lakh farmers. During this time, a massive campaign of corona vaccine was carried out in the country and so far about 125 crore people have been vaccinated in the country, which is the highest in the whole world. India itself has set a record of making 3 corona vaccines and is playing an important role in bringing the whole world out of this epidemic.

India, despite being a country with excessive population in the world, is dealing with this epidemic very effectively, in which the Union Government and the Health Department have an important role to play. The threat of this epidemic is still not over, so we still need to take full precautions.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BEHRAMPUR):

Madam Chairperson, first of all, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that those who always teach lessons day and night about how democracy should run, how parliamentary system should run, you look at the scene of this House, where neither the hon. Minister is present nor other members are present. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not our responsibility. There are no Ministers, Ministers are not coming, the entire House is lying empty, you can see for yourself.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You look behind yourself also.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: I want to give advice to those who draw the line. After the House, our colleagues are staging a dharna. They want to come to the House, but, they are not allowed to come. ...*(Interruptions)* But, here look at the condition of those who give us the knowledge of democracy and the parliamentary system day and night.

Madam, yesterday, by chance, the Health Minister Mandaviya Saheb was present here, because yesterday an issue was being discussed. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I asked Mandaviya sahab a question "What is the covid situation"? Yesterday's Bill was on the subject of Assisted Reproductive Technology, what was the impact on it in our country due to Covid, because the infertility is rising alarmingly in our country. Is this thing has to do anything with covid or not? I tried to ask a variety of questions. But, at that time, the Hon'ble Speaker Sir had said that there will be a discussion on Covid tomorrow itself. First of all, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Speaker for taking this decision in view of the intention of all the Members of the House. Because of that, today we have got an opportunity to discuss this issue in this House.

Mandaviya ji, I want to tell you at the beginning, because the Speaker Sir had said that today we will discuss Omicron. We should be more alert given the

situation of Omicron. So, we need to discuss it. I'm telling you that because Omicron is becoming a threat today. *[English]* Next 15 days is crucial to understand the global impact. *[Translation]* You have to observe Omicron and its global impact at the same time. Because *[English]* the preliminary clinical data coming for the Omicron indicates that it has different sort of symptoms which is mainly intense fatigue. At a time, when most of the humanity was about to come out of the crisis of the Delta variant, the initial rapid expansion of the new Omicron variant of SARS COVID 2 in Africa has shaken the world with another possible wave. This was not because of the detection of a new variant, *[Translation]* because alpha, beta, gamma, all have gone. We have also got the information about delta in the country. Further, Omicron is a deadly word. *[English]* This was not because of the detection of a new variant. It was due to its high RO value and multiple mutations that it carries. The RO value indicates the ability of a virus to spread from one person to another and 2.0 is the highest infectivity value till now of any variant.

[Translation]

That means out of all the variants we have got information about till date, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, whatever it is, the name of the most dangerous variant is Omicron. Its infectivity is quite high. Its RO value is 2.0. *[English]* The previous variant, Delta, which created havoc in India has a 1.64 RO value. Hence, scientists advised for extreme caution against Omicron as they are uncertain about its impact. This is also notable that there was low impact of previous variants, including Delta, in Africa. *[Translation]* See, the Delta variant has not had that much impact in Africa, but right now the Omicron is starting in Africa. So whose RO value is at a dangerous level, you should be more aware of that. There's a saying that " *[English]* A stitch in time saves nine".*[Translation]* If we take the right steps on time, we can save a lot. When

it comes to infection, we should be more conscious of it, we should take more precautions in this regard. We made this mistake last time. You have to admit that we must have made this mistake last time, because if we had taken the right step at the right time then, so many people of India would not have died and they would not have lost their lives. It's not mine; it's the opinion of all the big experts. A British Prime Minister named Wilson had said, *[English]* "A week is a long time in politics." In the late hour, the infection could be more fatal and lethal. Therefore, we should remain *qui vive* in containing the impending Omicron variant. *[Translation]* I am not saying this to provoke anyone, because T. Jacob John, a well-known microbiologist of our country, *[English]* a retired senior professor and head of the Department of Virology, has been flagging multiple issues related to India's handling of the situation. He said that this variant was reported to WHO by South Africa on 24th November and on 26th November, WHO declared it as a 'Variant of Concern' and named it by the Greek word 'Omicron'. By then, countries like Hong Kong, Israel, UK and Belgium had detected it in the air travellers. Omicron has many mutations in the spike protein gene, thus, high transmission efficiency. It is air borne due to very high viral load in nasal mucosa and is known to spread among recipient of double dose of vaccine indicating antigenic drip. This was the justification to assign VOC level.

Now, Germany, Denmark, Holland have got it too. In Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa are affected. I am saying this because the Government of India decided to establish a system filtering air travellers from 1st December. *[Translation]* You found out on November 26, but according to government figures, you started filtering the air travellers on December 1. *[English]* That is unwise. *[Translation]* I'm not saying this, it's what virologists and microbiologists are saying. *[English]* We should have started filtering from 26th November, the day we came to know that it was a

variant of concern. *[Translation]* I am talking about the time because last time also we got the information of Wuhan long ago i.e. in the month of December. After that it spread globally. *[English]* On 11th March, 2020, WHO declared covid-19 to be a global pandemic . The first case in India was confirmed on 30th January, 2020. Since then, there has been a rise in the number of cases.

As of 1st December, 2021, there were 3.46 crore confirmed cases of which 99,023 were active. *[Translation]* I'm saying all this because time is very important in it. If we don't take proper action in time, we will have to suffer again. *[English]* There is a proverb which says, "Once bitten, twice shy". *[Translation]* It means that you become alert. *[English]* First prevent importation by careful management of international arrivals from countries known for potential wide spread, countries in southern Africa, countries now known to be infected. We have already lost precious time. There is need for good genotyping coverage to monitor if Omicron has entered and spreading in the country. Determining the role of a booster right at this time also is an urgent need.

Global watchers in India realise that India's contribution to science related to COVID is very small. Our investment in research is too small. As someone recently said, Indians are good traders but not good inventors.

Going by the information put out by the Ministry, public spending on health research and vaccine development in India has been low. In spite of so many COVID infections in the country, the budget for the Department of Health Research is 0.01 per cent of GDP. *[Translation]* So, I want to know from this Government the latest situation. You tell me the latest situation without any manipulation. There is a competition here that which leader will reach Modi ji first. Modi ji's trumpet is being blown here, but the situation does not warrant this thing. It's important to tell what the situation is today.

[English]

India still has a long way to go in terms of properly vaccinating its targeted population. Now, only about 30 per cent of the 94 crore adult population is vaccinated. According to Johns Hopkins University Vaccine Tracker, only about 27.3 per cent of the population in India is fully vaccinated and the country is lagging behind its neighbour Sri Lanka at 62.68 and Bhutan at 73.36. China has vaccinated 76.8 per cent of its population. The United Arab Emirates leads the list of countries with 87.26 per cent. Among those countries hit hard by COVID-19, the United States of America has vaccinated 59.54 per cent of its population, Mexico has vaccinated 49.69 per cent of its population, and the United Kingdom has vaccinated 68.86 per cent of its population.

[Translation] You please tell us to what steps you are taking to fully vaccinate the adult population of our country? Don't blow the trumpet, but tell the truth, because you will be caught by beating the drum. *[English]* I now quote the figures put out by the Ministry on numbers related to vaccination. From 13th February to 26th November, 2021, the daily average of second doses administered is 14,92,670, and projected time to vaccinate all adult citizens is 630 days, that is, one year and seven months.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. members, if there is consent of the House, then the House may be extended till 8 o'clock?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: From 19th June to 26th November, 2021, the daily average of second doses administered is 23,81,241 projected time to vaccinate all adult citizens is 395 days, that is, one year one month. *[Translation]*

Your government said that we will fully vaccinate all adult population of India by 20th December.

18.00 hrs.

Now tell me what you will say in today's situation? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The list is very long, take less time. Everyone has to speak.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Minister, it is unfortunate that the Allahabad High Court has levelled the charge against this Government that the Government has committed genocide. I am not saying this, this is what the Allahabad High Court has said. The Delhi High Court has said that they are following the Ostrich policy. Goyal sahab had said that every one should take less oxygen. Rajnath Singh Ji had said that everyone should read Ramcharit manas. BJP leaders say drink cow urine. * Ji says take coronil and Harshvardhan ji and Gadkari ji sit with him and advertise. This is our condition. Keeping this situation in mind, can you tell the road map? We don't want to know anything else, you tell the road map by when you will provide vaccine to the people of India? ... *(Interruptions)* What are you going to do and what will be the further situation? ... *(Interruptions)*

*** [English]**

***SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR (TENKASI):** During the COVID-19 Pandemic period , our area people were very much affected. Major employment in my area is through agriculture. There is no other source income in my area. Agriculture labourers were very much affected due to the Pandemic situation and they have not recovered till now. Again, a new virus is being spread all over the world. Hence, I would like to strongly urge the Government to take immediate action to save the lives of the people and also to ensure their livelihood. I would also like to kindly request the Central Government to provide more vaccines to my State, Tamil Nadu, and also introduce other employment opportunities for our people.

***SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** I join the nation in thanking the Central Government and our Frontline COVID workers. In Narendra Modi *ji*, our nation has a Visionary Prime Minister, a great leader who has led the war against COVID from the front, and brought our country to a very stable state. I applaud our doctors, nurses, scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and other frontline workers who have worked tirelessly.

When COVID struck the world, most of us had no idea about the severity of the disease. It was only because of the timely intervention by the Central Government that made us aware, and helped saved millions of lives. India has one of the lowest COVID related death rates. Polio Vaccine was first Developed in 1955. It was rolled out in India in only 1994-95. It took 40 years to roll out the vaccine which was available across the world. The first reported case of COVID in India was on Jan 30, 2020. The first vaccine rolled out in India from 16th January, 2021. It took less than one year for indigenous vaccine to be developed and released.

Our Government has been able to provide free ration to over 80 crore people ever since the 1st round of lockdowns. Our Central Government provided over 124 crore free vaccines till date. Thanks to various pro-people initiatives and timely Rs. 20 lakh-crore economic stimulus package, initiated by our Government. COVID brought with it many heartbreaks. But it has also inspired Indians to remain united and unleashed the latent potential of our nation. Today our economy is growing at a faster pace than the pre-COVID era. But most importantly, India has emerged stronger and more united, driven by our ancient philosophy of “*Vasudaiva Kutumbakam* - the whole world is one family”. Our nation has also emerged as the 'Epicentre of Vaccination Hope' for the entire world.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

I must thank the Central Government for helping people from my State West Bengal in our desperate times. When COVID struck, we did not even have a single testing lab in entire North Bengal. Following my request, within a few days, COVID testing Lab was set up at North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH). The Central Government provided our region with COVID Test Machines, PPE kits, gloves, masks and more. The Railway Ministry helped bring back hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, patients, students stuck elsewhere. The Ministry of External Affairs helped bring back thousands of our citizens stuck outside the country safely back home. Our Government provided free ration for all and sent PSA Oxygen Generation Plants to over 13 hospitals in North Bengal through PM Cares Fund. Thousands of Oxygen Concentrators were also provided. From April 2020 till date our Government has provided over Rs. 78,000 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer to West Bengal. Our government also provided Rs. 1000 crore for the welfare of tea garden workers in West Bengal and Assam.

While the Central Government was working hard to save lives, the West Bengal Government was working equally hard to hide COVID related statistics. In West Bengal, the Government actively worked to hide COVID related deaths. They deliberately slowed down the COVID testing. People who showed symptoms were told to stay at home, instead of getting tested. Many COVID patients died without even getting tested. TMC Government formed a COVID Task Force, but that Task Force did not even meet once. Thousands of lives were lost due to TMC's incompetence.

Even in the midst of COVID Pandemic, TMC found time to do *ghotala*. The Central Government sent ration for those in need. The West Bengal Government did Ration *ghotala*. Thousands of tea garden workers from Terai and Dooars region are yet to get the Dal and Chana sent by the Central

Government. While rest of country was busy working to ensure vaccination for all, TMC MPs were busy promoting Fake Vaccine. Like Chit Fund *ghotala*, TMC leaders, I fear are indulged in Vaccine *ghotala*. When rest of the nation was busy trying to save lives, TMC leaders were busy indulging in Coal *ghotala*. In midst of pandemic, West Bengal was struck by Hurricane Amphan. The Central Government sent Rs. 1000 crore as immediate relief. TMC Government did Amphan *ghotala*.

Even in such severe time, TMC Government indulged in politicization of the pandemic. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee labelled to Shramik Trains transporting migrant workers and others to their homes as ‘corona express’. Mamata *ji* always finds one reason or another to skip Centre’s COVID Meeting with All State CMs. Thousands of equipment sent by PM Cares are lying unused. Even vaccination drives are done on Communal Lines or only in areas won by TMC.

Under the Central Government, each frontline health worker was provided with Rs. 50 lakh COVID Insurance. The West Bengal Government has not done anything for them. There was forced House arrest of BJP MPs and MLA. Only TMC cadres are allowed to distribute ration and foods.

I must also take this opportunity to highlight the abysmal state of healthcare in North Bengal. We don’t have adequate hospitals. Entire North Bengal is suffering from acute shortage of doctors, nurses, and other medical staff. The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is herself the Health Minister. But I am sad to report that in my constituency we don’t have adequate medical infrastructure. We don’t have even have basic medical facilities. Such is the condition that when COVID struck, we did not even have a single hospital that could be used as designated COVID hospital. Hospitals in Darjeeling and Kalimpong don’t even have proper X-ray and CT Scan machines. The Central

Government is willing to fund Medical College in Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts, but West Bengal Government has refused to send proposals.

ICMR and NICED provided Rs. 5 crores for the establishment of Model Rural Health Centre in 2017 itself. But the West Bengal Government has not established it till date. The Central Government provided Rs. 150 crores for the establishment of Trauma Centre at NBMCH. It has not been built till date; the money has disappeared. In the past two months alone, hundreds of people including children have died due to dengue and other viral diseases in North Bengal. But West Bengal Government has turned a complete blind eye. In our region, the West Bengal Government is not allowing timely implementation of MPLAD projects. In an area local autonomous body GTA has been rendered non-functional since 2017. We don't have any Panchayats; even Municipalities are defunct. Sir, more lives could be saved, if only the West Bengal Government cooperated with the Central Government.

Darjeeling-Kalimpong-Siliguri region is a hub of tourism. Due to COVID Pandemic, the tourism industry in our region was the most effected. Thousands of our youths who were engaged in tourism sector - Hotel workers, Taxi Drivers, Guides, Restaurant Workers and other ancillary services were left unemployed. Home Stay, Hotels, Lodges and Restaurants got shut down. Thousands of taxi drivers were left jobless. Many of the taxi owners were left without the ability to pay their EMIs. Sir, despite the fact that West Bengal Government collects thousands of crores of rupees as revenue from the tourism sector, they did not even spare five paise towards helping those associated with Tourism and ancillary services.

I therefore request the Union Government to create a special one-time financial grant for providing assistance to those engaged in the tourism sector. Sir, similarly many tea garden workers did not get their wages for the COVID

lockdown period. I also request the Government to expedite the distribution of Rs. 1000 crore welfare fund announced for the tea garden workers in budget 2021-22.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Nishikant Dubey ji, you can start now.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Thank you, Chairperson Madam. I want to thank the Honorable Prime Minister, Speaker Sir and Honorable Health Minister, that they have started a discussion in the Parliament to draw the attention of the whole country to a serious topic like Corona.

Before I begin my speech, I would like to pay tribute and condolences to those who have lost their son, their daughter, their mother, their father, their wife, their brother, their grandfather, grandmother, maternal grandfather, maternal grandmother. I have deep sympathy for all of them. Today the whole country and especially the Parliament are standing with those in this hour of grief.

All the Doctors, Nurses, Asha workers, Assistants, frontline workers, all the Organizations, all the workers of all political parties, who, without caring about their lives, are saving people's lives in this hour, I want to congratulate all those people.

18.02 hrs. (Shri A. Raja *in the Chair*)

Hon.Chairperson Sir, I thought today this discussion would start with a condolence, because when it came to starting the discussion, the Speaker said that today the level of discussion should be higher and MPs should tell that in this Corona Crisis which is a kind of crisis the whole world has seen after about hundred and fifty years, what the MPs and political parties have done. It should have been told. We all kept hearing in the Vedas and Puranas:

“Ayam Nijah Paroveti Ganana Laghuchetsam, Udarcharitanaam tu vasudhaiva kutumbakam”

This is what we kept teaching our children, it is also seen written here in many places in the Parliament. This verse proved to be 'false' for the first time in the whole world after a hundred and fifty years. A father was not ready to take dead body of his own son, no one was ready to go to the ghat to cremate their friends. If there was a patient of Corona in the house, no one was ready to meet him. These were the circumstances. If this country is safe today in these circumstances, if we are safe, if 130 crore people are safe, then honorable Prime Minister, who led as a warrior on the front, should be congratulated. But instead people say that they rang Bell, *Gharial*, the Prime Minister clapped. The Prime Minister was the Chief Minister of a state for the last twenty-twenty two years and is the Prime Minister of this country for the last seven-eight years. Does the Prime Minister not know what the meaning of ringing the bell is, and what is the meaning of clapping? And corona will go only by medicine, corona will go by abstinence? But the purpose behind it, and the ruckus created by the opposition over it is a * act. Clapping means that the whole country, whether they belong to any party, whether they are Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian, they are all standing with the frontline workers and with as much sentiments as it is required to save the patients of Corona.

Did Uddhav Thackeray ji not clap? Didn't Sharad Pawar sahab clap? Didn't Ashok Gehlot sahab clap? (*Interruptions*) I am only taking the name, who did clap. Aren't they all educated people?

Chairperson Sir, what is being discussed here? ... (*Interruptions*) I am addressing you only. It is being discussed here that there is no quorum. It is that the people here in the House stand up to point fingers at each other. They say that his face is very bad, he is very bad, he is good and I am the best, but the condition is that their face is itself completely covered with dust, they

* Not Recorded

themselves remain dirty. They stand in front of the mirror and think that the mirror is dirty and their face is clean. It is the condition of Congress.

Let me tell you that there was the biggest Bill and co-incidentally Hon. Chairperson, you were supporting at that time. Supriya ji is also sitting here. Pension Regulation Fund, was a very big legislation of the country. Co-incidentally, Gurudas Gupta sahab is not here, he was an MP. When, as a minister, Pranab Mukherjee sahab introduced the legislation here, he asked for a division. When Pranab Mukherjee sahab looked back, there was the Leader of the House, hardly seven Congress MPs were sitting here. Sushma ji was our leader. My number used to be 545, now I have come from 545 to 32. Sushma ji sent me a message on 545 that go and tell Pranab Mukherjee Sahab that all our members are here, the pension fund Bill is a Bill of the country and it is a question of the country, so we stand with them, will not let their bill fall and we didn't let the bill fall. Today, in this corona discussion, you are demanding a debate that there is no quorum. Is this the discussion? Today, I was thinking that while discussing now twitter thing happens.

Hon.Chairperson Sir, let me tell you that their Congress leaders are very big astrologers and they are very big scientists. Rahul Gandhi sahab is an MP of this House. Sometimes he is* and sometimes he tweets. On 14th of April, 2020 (*Interruption*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): This may be deleted from the records (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seats. Hon. Member, please confine your speech to the subject.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I am saying, how angry we feel. Their leader is a leader and our Modi ji is not a worker, do he a* to these people.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please confine your speech to the subject.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, whenever they want, they do Modi, Modi, Modi. You talk once about Rahul Gandhi, all Congressmen are on fire. Such is the politics. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, we are discussing a sensitive subject. Do not politicize it. Please come to the point.

.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the entire nation is watching us. We are discussing a very sensitive subject. I would request the hon. Member to confine his speech to the subject.

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Chairman Sir, I am saying that Health is solely a State subject, the Central Government assists it. It has been discussed here as hon'ble leader of NCP Shri Amol ji said if photograph is imprinted, there should be knowledge about Death Certificate also. The whole world and the entire country knows about Death Certificate and Birth Certificate that it is

the job of State, of Municipal Corporation and of Panchayats. Whether the affairs of State and Panchayats will also be looked after by hon'ble Modi ji only? What kind of discussion is being done?(Interruptions) People did not die due to oxygen shortage, if such statements are being made, then my question is whether there is our Government in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana or in Kerala? You are not forthcoming in providing data of your Government to the Centre?

Earlier, you said as there is no death due to oxygen shortage and we will not give Death Certificate, nobody died of Corona and afterwards, you ask us why have we not given compensation ? There is no use of a debate for the sake of debate. I would like to say that as the fight against Corona started and under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister, the number of meetings he would have done with the hon'ble Chief Ministers, hon'ble Ministers and officials, I do not remember the same number of meetings being done by any hon'ble Prime Minister on any topic in the last 50-60 years.

When he conducts a meeting, hon'ble Chief Minister of our State Jharkhand says that he only outpoured his feelings and did not listen to us. Can there be such a relation between a Chief Minister and a Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): This is a discussion on Covid.(Interruptions) *[Translation]* Please deliver this speech outside.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seats. Nishikant Ji, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I am reiterating only what the hon'ble Speaker has said. Approximately, 70-80 thousand people of my parliamentary constituency were stranded all over the country. This is worth knowing for the country that we all have helped each other irrespective of our party, our line of thought, our caste, group or faith. That is why this country has been so successful in its fight against Corona. There is great contribution of our scientists who have given us vaccine like Covaxin due to which presently only eight thousand, 10 thousand or 11 thousand corona cases are being detected in the country with a population of 130 crores. Hon'ble Prime Minister who has led from the front and hon'ble Health Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya has contributed a lot as Chemical and Fertilizer Minister. Alongside, the State Governments, the hon'ble Members of Parliament and I would like to mention several names out of the 543 hon'ble Members of Parliament in this House, who have helped people of my constituency personally. Perhaps, I shall remain indebted to them forever. Hon'ble Supriya Sule ji, Hon'ble Kanimozhi ji of DMK, hon'ble Nageswara Rao ji or YSR Party, hon'ble Capt. Amrinder Singh ji who is no more the Chief Minister of Punjab, hon'ble Ashok Gehlot ji who is still the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, hon'ble Manohar Lal Khattar ji, hon'ble Shivraj Singh Chauhan ji, hon'ble Ms. Mamta Bannerjee ji, hon'ble Asaduddin Owaisi ji are here. People were starving to the extent as if they would die in an hour or a half. I only tweeted tagging hon'ble Owaisi ji. I did not make a phone call and within half-an-hour food reached them. That is the way the hon'ble Members of Parliament worked together. That was an hour to feel the pulse of

the nation and we all were together to save people's lives keeping aside politics and that type of debate required in this Parliament.

Secondly, the question is what is going to happen next and what is required to be done? We have not to blame each other. There is no shortage of vaccine today. And when there is no shortage of vaccine, we are blaming that first dose is not given or second dose is not given. Someone did not take this or it has reached 63 percent or 62 per cent. Is it not our responsibility as workers of a political party or as hon'ble Members of Parliament to activate our political party just as we activate our workers during elections. Is it not a job worth doing or worth discussing if in a similar manner each party worker takes up the task of going door to door and vaccinate one person each or spreads awareness. All our parties should take this resolution together that we are one, we all are one and entire nation is together when it comes to Corona. This task would have not been accomplished if the Central Government, State Governments and all the political parties had not been together. Giving compensation to those who died of Corona is another subject. Is it not our duty to take a resolution to do it together if their children who are poor, having difficulty in getting married, not having any arrangement for studies and do not have employment. Is it not worth doing?

The second question is, you are talking about employment. There is no employment left anywhere in the world.

I have been to America recently. I am saying it on-record that there is not even a single street or lane in city like New York, which is not for sale, which is not unoccupied. It is not us alone, who have lost employment, employment has been lost in the entire world. We are quite lucky that GDP here has been a minimum of 8-9 per cent, in some quarters, to 19 percent as was in the last quarter.

We do not find IT professionals today. Several people told me regarding IT jobs that IT candidate is not to be found. We have worked a lot in this direction. We should be thankful to hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman ji for this. There are schemes like MNREGA or schemes under Food Security Act, if we discuss it till March. Many hon'ble Members have discussed this and I don't want to go in it.

Under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister ji, the Central Government took the great decision task of combating Corona and decided we will not allow anybody to starve, what the expenditure may be. We should see the Roosevelt Theory regarding the question of migrant workers departure or of employment. There was a very good UCC conducted in the year 1933 on the 3 Cs theory of Roosevelt, when there came a great depression in America. The workers were not getting any employment after the depression.

Can we not utilize the money allocated by the Government of India for schemes like MNREGA to the tune of Rs. 70 thousand crore to Rs. 1 lakh crore for big infrastructure? Can we not make parks? Can we not plant trees? We got a lesson during this Corona period that it is most important to save the Nature. It is most important to develop our immunity. Can we not take a vow by coming together? All parties have to stand up unitedly as they know that all works under MNREGA have been completed in last 12-14 years. Everybody knows that there is large scale corruption in it. MNREGA works are being conducted at the same site four to five times. Is the time for change in it has not come? Should we not amend the MNREGA Act so that by bringing the complete change in it, we could provide the facilities to the migrant labourers, poor and the people in Gram Panchayats?

The way Roosevelt did the tree plantation , we should also start the plantation. The third subject is of MSME sector. Regarding the MSME sector,

States and Center should talk about the cooperation and relations. The share of States is more in sale of Petrol and Diesel and it does not come under GST, so has the time not come when we have to control the inflation? We have to give facilities to the people. All the political parties have the representation. Court is continuously giving their remarks, court is intervening in the matter, people are dying, Center is taking smaller share and State Governments are taking bigger share, so has the time not come, when we should bring Petrol and Diesel under the regime of GST, so that we could control inflation and provide relief to the public.

I would like to say that there is a need to learn all these lessons from Corona epidemic. I would like to say this much only that whatever work has been done under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister, it should be raised in this debate in Parliament. I would like to thank all the parties because we were all together in the war against Corona. Therefore, I would like to quote here Gita's 18th Chapter, in which Lord Shri Krishna preached Arjun:

Sarvadharmam paritjya Mamekam Sharanam Vraj.

Aham Tvaam Sarvapapebhyo Mokshyishyami Ma Shuchah.

The Parliament and the whole country should come together and give the support to our hon'ble Prime Minister in the fight against Corona.

With these words, I conclude, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Thank you very much Hon .Chairperson Sir.

Sir, I would like to know through you from the Government. The Government has big expertise as it imposes lockdown immediately, bans exports, travel, they ban everything. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister what are the steps they have taken about the genome sequencing of new variant Omicron. Only 0.2% samples have been sequenced till August, 2021 and today two people in Karnataka have been detected with the new variant. What is your strategy for the genome sequencing?

You have done only 0.2% genome sequencing and this unpreparedness is called in Urdu 'Khwab-a-ghaflat'. Due to this, second wave came and it was all your responsibility. If you would not have been careless and you would have been alert, the second wave would not have come. The second point is, on 28th May, the then Information and Broadcasting Minister, who is not in the House at present, said on Government's behalf that double vaccination of all adults will be completed by December, 2021 all over India. If you would see the Covin portal, 33% people are fully vaccinated and Health Economist Rijo John says that still 43% people below the age of 45 are still left for vaccination. What is your target? You said that by 31 March, 2021, double vaccination of people above the age of 45 years will be complete. Now please let us know as to how many people have been vaccinated.

My third question is that Modi Government had said that Government would manufacture 2.15 billion additional doses by August-December 2021. Later it was told that it was aspirational only. It was reduced to 1.35 billion. I would like to know from the Government that if 1.5 crores doses had to be produced in November and December and 40 crore doses were to be produced monthly, then why in October, 2021, only 16 crore doses have been

administered. This was also told incorrectly by you. Whatever you say, you do opposite to that. The Government should tell that upto when all people of India will be administered double doses. Is it not correct that you will administer these doses till June 2022? My next question is what planning have you done to protect the children? There is no vaccine for them. Please tell, what policy you have? All you have is silence only. It has been seven months since we gave second dose to our health workers and doctors. Will you give them booster dose? Please tell, how did you strengthen the pediatrics ward? Will the Government tell that the two persons of Karnataka who have been detected with new variant, have been administered both the doses? You are hiding the fact that they have been administered both the doses. When will you give booster shots to the whole country? The whole country was to be given double dose by June, the Government should answer will they give booster dose to the health workers and doctors. I am pointing out mistake of the Government. There is a reservation of 25% for the private sector. How many vaccines have been administered in the private sector. Only 9% vaccination has been done in the private sector. I would like to thank here hon. Supreme Court. With great pain, I am saying that I believe in separation of powers. This House is sovereign but if Hon. Supreme Court had not asked, you would have given 50%. You have to reduce it because of Hon. Supreme Court but still administration of vaccine is low in the private sector. A study has been done by Atul Thakur and Reema Nagrajan, in which it has been said: *[English]* About a fifth of the cost of vaccine which amounts to Rs. 5,000 crore has been borne by the people out of their own pockets, or by the employees. What about the free vaccines? This is a study by Shri Atul Thakur and Rima Nagarajan. There is another point where the court intervened and what would have happened if the court had not intervened and asked about the vaccines. You are giving credit to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Modi. When did you order the vaccines? Did you order

the vaccines in July and August, 2020? You ordered for vaccines in January 2021. You are the cause of more than 40 lakh people dying in India(Interruptions) That is the real reason. You can make claims and shower praises on the hon. Prime Minister. But this is a fact. When did you order the Covaxin and Covishield vaccines?(Interruptions) You can respond to it.

[Translation]

Sir, much has been said about Ayushman Bharat. In a RTI reply, it is found out only 1419 people have benefitted in whole Jharkhand under Ayushman Bharat Scheme and 8.15% people have benefitted in Madhya Pradesh. It is found out, whoever enrolls in Ayushman Bharat gets the money for diagnosis and medicines. This is EPWD's study in Jharkhand. Uttar Pradesh's population is 21 crore. How many people have been benefitted under Ayushman Bharat Scheme and PMJAY there? Only 875 people have benefited from it. Congratulations to you. It is found out from RTI that only 19 people have benefitted in Bihar. It is a fact. In 2021-22, Central Government allocated 6,400 crore rupees for PMJAY and in the Revised Estimate it was reduced to 3,200 crore rupees. Is this the state of preparedness of Government?

Is this your state of preparedness? You have reduced it, you are beating the drum and praising yourself. It is not known, what else will you do. You should see your mistakes in syringe manufacturing. In syringe manufacturing, they asked you as to what kind of syringes to be manufactured, conventional syringe or anti-auto disposable syringe? Manufacturers came to you in January 2021 and you placed order in July. After that you had to put a ban on them. Is this not your mistake? Was Government not aware?

Sir, now I come to API. Can you tell how much data of API you can give to the country? API worth about 29 thousand crores comes from China. Please tell what is your preparation about the API. You don't have any data. In our

country, 20 thousand people died of TB because only Covid testing was being done. What preparation have you made for this? Apart from this, you don't have answer regarding the treatment of cancer patients. What is the Government policy for surgical equipments? ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, what is the plan of the Government for surgical equipments? Industries still do not get the *[English]* availability of free sale certificate. *[Translation]* What are you doing for Indigenous Manufacturers? I would like to thank the court for one thing as when Hon . MP Shri Imtiaz Jaleel ji filed a PIL in Aurangabad. That PIL was concerned about the vacancies of Doctors, Nurses, Class III and Class IV employees in Maharashtra. He also appeared personally and the court issued an order in this regard for the Maharashtra State. The entire work was done by the court, and then what work did the Government do? If you had acted sincerely, then 40 lakh people would not have died in India. The National Executive Committee has congratulated Narendra Modi ji for the fact that we defeated Australia in the test match and also defeated Covid.

Sir, I want to say that it is the responsibility of the Government. Last thing I want to say that the whole world has seen many scenes in Uttar Pradesh that dead bodies are floating in water, dogs are gnawing on the banks of river and you are congratulating him. This is the failure of the Government. Second wave would have not hit India, had Narendra Modi's Government kept its eyes open and remained alert. It is my request that you give booster dose to the children as well as doctors and the whole country. Thanks *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rudy, your name is there in the list. You are entitled to refute the charges made by the other Member. After the discussion, the hon. Minister is going to give his reply. Why are you interrupting now?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

بو فور الاکڈاؤن کر دینگے، ایکسپورٹ بینکر دینگے، ٹریول بینکر دینگے، سب بینکر دینگے۔ مینمنٹر جیسے پو
محترم مین صاحب، مین آپ کے ذریعہ سے حکومت سے جاننا چاہوں گا کہ حکومت مینٹر یا ایکسپورٹرز کے
چھنا چاہ رہا ہو نہ کہ جو نیا ویرینٹاؤ میکرو نہ ہے، اس کی جینام سیکورٹس کے لئے انہوں نے ابھی تک کیا کیا ہے؟ اگ
ست، 2021 تک صرف 0.2 سیمپلس سیکورٹس ہوئے ہیں اور آج کرنا تک مینڈو لوگوں کو یہ نیو ویرینٹاؤ ہے جینام
سیکورٹس کے لئے آپ کے پاس کیا حکمت عملی ہے؟

آپ نے ابھی تک 0.2 کئے ہیں اور یہ ہینٹر پیپر ڈنٹیس، یہ بے غفلت ہے، جسے اردو مینڈو بے غفلت۔ اسو جہ سے سید
کنڈو یو آئی، اور یہ سارے آپ کی ذمہ دار ہیں۔ اگر آپ غافل نہ ہوتے اور اگر آپ جاگتے رہتے تو سیکنڈو یو نہ بناتے۔ دو
سر بیات یہ ہے کہ 28 مئی کو اس وقت کے وزیر اطلاعات ونشریات جو ابھی سائو ان مینڈو ہیں، انہوں نے سرکار کی طرف
سے کہا تھا کہ پورے ملک میں ایڈٹس کو دسمبر 2021 تک ڈبلو ایکسٹینشن لگ جائے گی۔ آج آپ کو وینور ٹلپر دیکھا لچ
ئے، 33 فیصد لوگ کم طور پر ویکسین ڈینٹاؤر بیلٹا ہیکو نو مسٹر جو جانکا ہا ہے کہ 43 فیصد 45 پلس یعنی
45 سال کی عمر سے کم کیا بادی کو ویکسینیشن ہو نا باقی ہے۔ آپ کاٹار گینٹ کیا ہے؟ آپ نے 31 مارچ 2021 کے لئے کہہ دیا
اتھا کہ 45 سال کی عمر کے انسانوں کو دو ہفتے میں ٹیکہ لگا دینگے۔ آپ بتائیں کہ کتنے لوگوں کو ویکسینیشن ہو ا ہے؟

میرا تیسرا سو الہ ہے کہ موڈیسر کار نے کہا تھا کہ ہیسر کار 2.15 بلین ایڈیشنل ڈوزز کا اگست۔ ستمبر 2021
تک مینو فیکچرنگ کرے گی۔ بعد میں کہا گیا کہ ہینڈ ہینڈ ہیسریشن ہے۔ اسے 1.35 بلین پر ریڈیوز کر دیا گیا۔ مینسر
کار سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر 1.5 کروڑ ڈوز روزانہ ہو میر، دسمبر اور 40 کروڑ ڈوز ہر مہینے پر ڈیوز کر نیتھ
ں، پھر آپ نے اب تک 16 کروڑ ڈوز اکتوبر، 2021 مین کیوں لگائیں ہیں؟ یہ بھی آپ نے سہینڈ ہا ہے۔ آج کو کہتے ہیں
ٹلاس کے خلاف کام کرتے ہیں۔ سرکار یہ بتادے کہ پورے بہار میں سبھی لوگوں کو دو ڈوزز کب تک لگینگی۔ کیا ہسچ
نہیں کہ سال 2022 کے جو نٹکا پڈوز لگائیں گے۔ اگلاسو الہ ہے کہ بچوں کو بچانے کے لئے آپ نے کیا تیار کیا ہے؟
نکے لئے کوئی ویکسین نہیں ہے۔ آپ بتائیں کہ آپ کے پاس کیا پالیسی ہے؟ آپ کے پاس صرف خاموشی ہے، سناتا ہے۔ ہمنڈ
رے اپنے بیلٹور کر سکو، ڈاکٹر ز کو جو سیکنڈ ڈوز دی ہے، اس کے ساتھ ہینڈ سے اوپر ہو گئے ہیں۔ آپ انہیں بو سٹر
ڈوز دینگے یا نہ دینگے؟ پیڈیٹر کس کاوار ڈاپنے کیسے اسٹریٹھین کیا، آپ بتائیں؟ کرناٹک کے جو دو لوگوں کو نہ
یا ویرینٹاؤ ہے، کیا سرکار بتائے گی کہ ہانڈو ڈوز لگ چکی ہیں۔ آپ اس بات کو چھپا رہے ہیں کہ ہانڈو ڈوز لگ چکی
ہیں۔ آپ پورے ملک میں بو سٹر شائٹس کب دینگے؟ جو مینپور یا بادی کو دو ویکسین لگنیتھی، لیکن کیا آپ ہمارے بیلٹھ
ور کر سکو اور ڈاکٹر ز کو بو سٹر ڈوز دینگے یا نہیں، اس کا سرکار جو ابدے۔ مینسر کار کی غلطی بتا رہا ہوں۔ 25 فیصد
دریزر ویشنپرائیویٹ سیکٹر کے لئے ہے۔ پرائیویٹ سیکٹر میں اب تک کتنی ویکسین لگ رہی ہے؟ وہ انصر ف 9 فیصد ویک
سین لگ رہی ہے۔ مین ہانسپرائیویٹ سیکٹر کا شکر یہ ادا کرنا۔ مین ہنڈتھ کلف کے ساتھ کہہ رہا ہوں کہ مین سپرائیویٹاؤر س

کو مانتا ہوں۔ یہاں ان سو رہے، لیکن سپریم کورٹ نے ہینچو چھتا تو آپ 50 فیصد دے دیتے۔ سپریم کورٹ کی وجہ سے آپ کو کم کرنا پڑا، لیکن اس کے باوجود بھی پیرانیوٹیسکٹر مینو ایکسینلگی۔ ایک اسٹڈیاں تلٹھا کر اور ریماناگر اجندے کی، جسمینکہا گیا

[English]

About a fifth of the cost of vaccine which amounts to Rs. 5,000 crore has been borne by the people out of their own pockets, or by the employees. What about the free vaccines? This is a study by Shri Atul Thakur and Rima Nagarajan. There is another point where the court intervened and asked about vaccines. You are giving credit to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Modi. When did you order the vaccines? Did you order the vaccines in July and August, 2020? You ordered for vaccines in January 2021. You are the cause of more than 40 lakh people dying in India (Interruptions). That is the real reason. You can make claims and shower praises on the Hon. Prime Minister. But this is a fact. When did you order the Covaxine and Covishield vaccines? (Interruptions) you can respond to it.

[Translation]

جناب، آیوشمانبھارت کی یہ تبتا کہہینگنی۔ آر۔ٹی۔آئی۔ مینپتہ چلا کہ آیوشمانبھارتیو جناکا پورے جہار کھنڈ مینصر ف1419 لوگوں نے فائدہ لیا ہے۔ مدھیہ پریشم میں 8.15 فیصد لوگوں نے فائدہ لیا ہے۔ فائنڈنگ سائیکہ جو آیوشمانبھارتیو جنامینا رولہوتا ہے، انہینڈانیگنوسس کے لئے میڈیسن کے لئے بیسے کالابھملتا ہے۔ یہاں پی۔ڈبلیو۔ڈی کی اسٹڈی جہار کھنڈ کے لئے ہے۔ اتر پردیش 21 کروڑ کی آبادیو الیریا ستہ ہے۔ وہاں کتنے لوگوں کو آیوشمانبھارتیو جن اور پی۔ایم۔جے۔وائی۔یو جناکا فائدہ ملا ہے۔ صرف 875 لوگوں کو فائدہ ملا ہے۔ اس کے لئے آپ کو مبارک ہو۔ ہار مینصر ف19 لوگوں کو، یہ آر۔ٹی۔آئی۔سے اطلاع حاصل ہوئی ہے۔ یہ سچا نہیں ہے۔ مرکز یسرکار نے پی۔ایم۔جے۔وائی۔یو کے لئے 6400 کروڑ روپے سال 2021-22 میں دئے اور ریوانز ایسٹیمینٹ یوڈیوز کر کے 3200 کروڑ روپے کر دئے۔ کیا یہ آپ کی تیار ہے۔

کیا یہ آپ کی تیار رہے؟ اپنے اسے ریڈیوز کر دیا، پھر آپ باجا جا رہے ہیں اور اپنی تعریف کر رہے ہیں۔ آپ اور کیا کیا کریں گے، یہ معلوم نہیں ہے۔ آپ سیرینجمنو فیکچرنگ مینکی گنیا پنی غلطیوں کو دیکھئے۔ سیرینجمنو فیکچر مینانہونے ان سے پوچھا کہ کیا ممکنویشن سیرینجمنو انیٹیاٹو ڈسپوزیبل سیرینجمنو ہیں۔ آپ کے پاس جنوری، 2021 مینجمنو فیکچر سائے تھے اور اپنے آرڈر سجو لانی مینڈیے۔ اس کے بعد اکتوبر مینا آپ کو ان پری بیٹنگ نا پڑا۔ کیا یہ آپ کی غلطی نہیں ہے؟ کیا سرکار سوربیتھی؟

سر، امینا اے پی۔ آئی۔ پرا تاہوں۔ آپ یہ بتائیے کہا اے پی۔ آئی۔ کاکتا ڈاٹا ایم لک کو دے سکتے ہیں؟ لگبھگ 29 ہزار کروڑ روپیے کا اے پی۔ آئی۔ چین سے آتا ہے۔ اپنے اے پی۔ آئی۔ کے بارے میں کیا تیار کیجیے، ذرا بتا دیجیے۔ آپ کے پاس کوئی ڈاٹا نہیں ہے۔ ہمارے ملک میں 20 ہزار لوگ بی۔ بی۔ سے مرگئے، کیونکہ ہر فکرو ڈیسٹنگ کی جارہی تھی۔ اس کے لئے اپنے کیا تیار کیجیے؟ اس کے علاوہ کینسر کے مریضوں کے متعلق آپ کے پاس کوئی جو اب نہیں ہے۔ سر جیک لایکو پمینٹس کے لئے سرکار کے پاس کیا پالیسی ہے؟ (مداخلت)۔

[English] سر سر جیک لایکو پمینٹس کے لئے سرکار کیا کرنے والی ہے؟ انڈسٹریز کو آج بھی

availability of free sale

[Translation] نہی ملتا ہے۔ انڈیجینس مینو فیکچر سکے لئے آپ کیا کر رہے ہیں؟ مینکو رٹ کو کبات کے لئے شکر یہاں کرنا چاہو نگا۔ ہمارے ایم پی۔ جناب امتیاز جلیل صاحب نے اور نگا بادی مینی۔ آئی۔ ایل۔ فائل کی۔ اسپے۔ آئی۔ ایل۔ مینڈا کٹرز، نرسز، کلاس۔ 3 اور کلاس۔ 4 کیو یکنسیز کے بارے میں کہا گیا تھا۔ وہ پیر سنلیا پیر بھی ہوئے اور کورٹ نے اس سمبند ہمیں پورے مہاراشٹر کے لئے آرڈر جاری کر دیا۔ پورا اکاپور اکام کورٹ نے کیا، تو پھر سرکار نے کیا کام کیا؟ اگر آچر کت مینر بتے، تو یقیناً جانیے، بہار میں 40 لاکھ لوگوں کی موتیں ہوئی۔ آپ کی نیشنل ایک زیکیٹیو کمیٹی نے نریندر مو دیجیکو اس بات کی مہار کباددے دیکھنے آسٹریلیا کو ٹیسٹ میچ مینر ادا اور کو وڈ کو بھیہر ادا۔

سر، مینیہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ سرکار کی ذمہ دار یہ ہے، آخر یہ بات مینا اور کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ پورے دنیا کے اتر پر دیش مینیہ نظر اے بہت دیکھے کہ پانی مینا لاشینتیر رہیں، ندی کے کنارے کتے لاشوں کو کھا رہے ہیں اور آپ مہار کباددے رہے ہیں۔ یہ سرکار کی ناکامی ہے۔ بہار میں سیکنڈ ویو نہیں آتی، اگر نریندر مو دیجیکو سرکار اپنی آتہ کھینکھولے رکھتیاور ہوشیار رہتی۔ میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ آپ جو نکو بو سٹر سدیجیے اور ساتھ ہیڈاکٹرز اور پورے دیش کو بو سٹر سدیجیے۔ شکر یہ

(ختم شد)

[English]

***DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM):** Hon. Chairman Sir. Vanakkam . One year ago, Tamil Nadu was not making much progress in providing vaccination to people. Six months ago, after the DMK led government came to power in Tamil Nadu, this State has become a frontrunner among the States in administering doses of vaccine to large number of people. It is my duty to register in this august House that the credit for such an efficient vaccination drive in the State should go to the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Even though we claim today that vaccination has been provided to more than 100 crore people, in comparison, the percentage of people who have been administered two doses, seems to be very less. The percentage of people who are not vaccinated in the age group between 45 to 59 years stands at 43. This is the data released two weeks ago. As much as 37% of the people are not vaccinated in the age group above 60 years. Among the frontline warriors, the health workers, 10% of them are non-vaccinated. I urge upon the Government to provide vaccination to these people on a priority basis so as to protect their lives.

The WHO accorded approval to Covaxin very recently. The basic material of this Covaxin was discovered by ICMR, which is an institution of the Union Government. Covaxin is manufactured as per the MoU signed with a private company named Bharat Biotech. After the recent approval of WHO, if the Union Government takes initiative in manufacturing Covaxin through PSUs, we can expedite the manufacturing of Covaxin, on a large scale, as we are yet to

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

provide another dose of vaccination to 100 crore people of our country. The Government permitted the private hospitals to procure vaccines and to administer them on payment basis. Approximately one crore such vaccine doses procured by the private hospitals are to expire by December 2021. There were reports in the Media quoting the hon. Minister that such doses were permitted by the Government to be exported to foreign countries before their expiry. Instead of exporting these doses of vaccine, if the Government orders for free administering of such doses of vaccines to general public by private hospitals, I wish to state that such vaccine doses will be benefitting our people before their expiry. The rural people suffered a lot due to corona because of the inadequate medical infrastructure in the rural areas. Even in the progressive States of the country such medical health facilities are inadequate. Primary Health Centres are providing health facilities in such areas. There is a need for increasing the number of PHCs. Even in such PHCs, there should be adequate infrastructure.

Today the Indian Government has set up oxygen manufacturing plants in several States of the country. But at the time of second wave of corona virus when there was shortage oxygen supply which led to deaths of lakhs of people, if these oxygen manufacturing plants were set up, it would have saved many lives. But, these oxygen manufacturing plants, having been set-up by the Government after the decline of spread of covid, are of no use now. In order to make available the medical facilities to the rural population, this Government should come forward to make health a fundamental right. Only then all the people can get medical facilities. Otherwise, only the rich will continue to avail medical facilities.

Vaccination was permitted for those above 18 years only after 21 June 2021. But many people are not administered vaccine in this age group. The Union Government has provided emergency use authorisation with regard to

vaccines for children. Before the results of the third phase of trial, emergency use authorisation was given to Covaxin, which had resulted in getting the approval of WHO. Similarly, it is learnt that before the results of the third phase trial, the Union Government has now accorded emergency use authorisation as regards vaccines for children. If such emergency use authorisation is given after the results of the third phase trial are obtained, I wish to state that there would not be difficulty in getting approval in foreign countries for such vaccines.

Our Government encouraged Ayurveda and Siddha during the COVID-19 pandemic as alternative medicines. We welcome the initiatives taken by our Government in encouraging our Indian systems of medicine. But whether such medicines are tested scientifically or not is a big question. Particularly 'Coronil' manufactured by Pathanjali is said to affect our liver in a big way. Science experts say that those who consume Coronil will get their liver affected very much. Although the Government supported this Coronil medicine, it has only led to liver damage rather than providing cure from corona. Therefore, the Government should consider whether such alternative medicines or medical systems which are not proven scientifically should be allowed or not. As regards the number of COVID-19 deaths, the figures of the Government stand at 4,70,000. But the Data Scientists claim this number to be more than the official figure. This may be in multiples of the figures given by the Government. They have stated on scientific basis the number of COVID-19 deaths to be more than 20 lakhs in India. There is a doubt in the minds of the public whether the actual number of deaths due to COVID-19 is provided by the Government or not. The hon. Supreme Court has ordered for release of compensation of Rs 50000 each to the families of persons died due to corona. Even though the persons who died due to COVID-19 are not given a death certificate by the hospitals stating the real reason. Many of them are termed as Covid negative as per the instructions of the Government. As a result, such

families of deceased are unable to get the compensation declared by the hon. Supreme Court. I therefore urge upon the Union Government that whatever be the case, such COVID-19 deaths should be identified and the bereaved families should get the compensation which is due to them. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, today is such a day, when all of us, including Shri Nishikant ji, pay our tributes to all those people who lost their lives and we have come through very tough time. I remember that at that time, be it the first wave of Covid or the second wave of Covid, we all received calls continuously. We tried to make efforts by calling hospital. There the doctors used to say that if the bed is empty, then the next patient will be admitted. Patients have to wait long to get admission in hospitals. I told my friend that day –*[English]* It is God's will or goodwill. *[Translation]* God's will because God saved whomever he wanted and on the same time the goodwill of their friends was tested. I also know such people who were capable enough to built a hospital worth Rs 500 crore but were begging for a bed for themselves.

Hon. Chairperson, this thing has to be always remembered whether it is the power of God or goodwill, which helps you in your life. I probably learned this one lesson from this situation. I would also like to draw attention towards its background. There were many effects due to Covid. There is fear among people about Covid is that the same situation may happen again. Our friends have said that confirm cases have been reported from South Africa and America also. Owaisi sahib was saying that such cases was reported in Karnataka, so far Government has confirmed...*(Interruptions)* If it is reported in Karnataka then it is definitely a matter of concern. My colleagues put forth their view point, Shri Kalyan Banerjee also said something, senior leader who sits in the opposition also made their point. Owaisi ji also made his point . The glass is half empty or full. It depends on view point of a person. We all have witnessed the work executed by the Prime Minister of the country. But unfortunately some people don't want to see it. But this cycle will continue. The last time when this

situation came up, it was a big problem. Worldwide 30 percent of jobs are lost, about 50 to 100 million people are left unemployed. Around the world 8-10 percent of children who worked in cruise liners became unemployed. The situation went on getting worse. In India too, due to big schemes, events and conferences were held, but then complete lockdown was imposed and trains services were suspended. It has affected the life of rickshaw pullers, street vendors, people who used to visit paan stalls and tea stalls, tourists visiting the places like Taj Mahal where the revenue was Rs 77 crores, be it Agra Fort, everywhere, all over the world and special in India.

There was damage all over the world. The damage was caused not only in India, but all over the world. The global tourism loss was around 2.7 trillion. The aviation sector suffered the loss of 314 Billion. India also suffered a loss of 11 to 12 billion, etc. This trend is being continued. *[English]* The advanced economies of the whole world shrunk by about seven per cent and economies of the emerging countries shrunk by 2.5 per cent. *[Translation]* All the countries of South Asia and South-East Asia, Europe etc. have been suffering losses.

Sir, but one thing we have to think that this was all new to us. It is wrong to level charges because it was unplanned and the first date was not even fixed that it was going to happen and no one knows when it is likely to end. We are all talking in such a way that its last date has also been fixed. The final date for this outbreak of Covid has not yet been determined. Who among all of us will become its victim, it is also not determined. That's why it is not right to show arrogance rather one should act wisely. It would be practical to discuss and give suggestion to the Government in this regard. So many people in our House departed. It's an issue that can affect us, you and everyone. Our Railway Minister departed. It is such a creature that keeps walking relentlessly, it does

not look back and we forget because of a style of our living. But it can affect anyone. I also got Covid, Nishikant ji also got it. We were in the Bihar elections. It caught everyone, but we moved on. It was god's mercy, the grace of friends, the grace of our ancestors, the blessings of our parents that we are still healthy today. Chairperson Sir, this can happen to anyone.

Sir, when the first case emerged in Kerala on 30th January, no one knew about it. There was only one lab in India that day. No one knew Covid. But when we look today, there are three thousand labs as on 31st July, 2021. In a year, someone put in place such a big arrangement. This has been done by the country's Government. In this regard, the Governments of the States also worked together, so it was a big preparation. If we accuse someone, it doesn't seem fair. On 17th September, 2020 for the first time, there were 97,000 cases at the peak. After that, it came down to the lowest, and again we started getting out of it. We thought everything was fine. In February 2021, it reached the lowest and then hit the second wave by 7th May and on 7th May, upto four cases started coming in a day. It was not possible for any system. Our friend Owaisi Sahib left saying that it was 40 lakhs. I don't know where it came from. Sir, I would like to bring on record that the figures given by the Government of India are four lakhs, not forty lakhs. Let us not create confusion through the House by giving wrong figures to the people of the country. ... (*Interruptions*) That is a question of mathematics, make four lakhs to forty lakhs. Well, that's how it goes in opposition politics. There is no problem in that. There's no problem in making four to forty. One of my colleague was saying here that there was no preparation in India. I want to say that America is the richest country. We all believe that America is very powerful. If America is powerful, there were 7 lakh 74 thousand cases there, so a complete system should be in place there. The experts and the scientists there should have been aware, when the number of deaths per lakh was 234. It was 289 in Brazil. The figure was 227 in Mexico. It

was 190 in the Russian Federation. At the same time, the death toll per lakh in India was 34 and you do not call it a success. Alright, if you want to say it as an opposition, do it, but the country is taking it as success. We all have been grappling with it since then. As Nishikant ji said that there is growth in our GDP, we are handling the economy well, it was our vision. You see that there has been damage in the regions and how India is alive today. Standing in front of the whole world in a dynamic manner, it is not crawling but running. Coal's production fell by 15 percent. Crude oil went down by 6.5 percent and cement went down by 38 percent. Sir, the production of commercial vehicles had gone down by -84 per cent. You can think as to what will be the situation in the country. *[English]* The cargo handling at airports went down to (-) 57 per cent; passengers handling at airports went down to (-) 94 per cent; and in railways passenger kilometres went down to (-) 99 per cent. Mining, manufacturing, electricity all had gone down.

[Translation]

This crisis was in front of the whole world and when it was there, about 200 million were rendered unemployed all over the world. There was also a challenge before India. You can see in India that this tragedy did not come because of any policy of the Government, this tragedy happened because of a natural disaster, which the world had never thought of, came and attacked and surrounded us. You can observe in any sector. You can see how this Government has come out of it. Travel and hospitality sector faced a loss to the tune of 50,000 crore rupees. There was a loss of about \$12 billion in aviation sector. In retail, in restaurants, in real estate, there was no sector in which not just the Government of India, but all the State Governments were affected.

Sir, the Prime Minister of the country first announced a package of Rs.1,70,000 crores. It involves a lot of schemes which have been mentioned

about by many of our hon. Members. Many announcements were made after that. In the end, a package of twenty lakh crore rupees was announced. No Government in the world had that much power. No one in the world has run such a big campaign to transfer money in the accounts of the poor and also to deliver rations for two years. It was done by the Prime Minister of our country. We should all admit that it was such a big campaign. There's a matter of sadness for me with so many things in it. The sad thing is that I was very much pained at that time.

Hon. Chairperson, I am from Bihar. I have a political career of 30 years. During that time we did an experiment. In that experiment, I saw that about ten to twelve crore people were migrants all over India. Out of those ten to twelve crore migrant people, four to five crore people are from Bihar. Now why it is so, I can't say but whether it is Leh, Ladakh, Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Trichy, Andaman and Nicobar Islands or Lakshadweep or Coimbatore or Chikmagalur, only Bihari people are found there. The poor people went away from there. Now let me tell you that I had set up a control room at my place which is still there today and it is the only control room in the country in Bihar on which the Government, the district magistrate and the SP, the collector depend upon. At that time I started it. In the first phase of Covid, 40,000 calls were received. Nishikant ji rightly stated. I am proud of my friends, whether it is Vinayak ji, whether it is Saugata ji. ... *(Interruptions)*

You are a king sir, you become the king of your heart. If the king becomes small, where will the country lead to? The king should have a big heart.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are other Members of your party who wants to speak, I have to accommodate them.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: You are a king. [*Ttranslation*] You are sitting on the king's chair. You should think big.

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude as quickly as possible.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Ttranslation*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I will quickly conclude my point. Are you not liking my point, the points of Members of Parliament ? If you ask me to shorten my words, I will do it because the Speaker sir asked us to speak as much as we can, but we should be precise. We are correctly speaking our mind but if you don't allow us to speak, what will we do?

Chairman Sir, I saw in Bihar. The calls that we received were about 8,000 calls. 6,000 calls were received from New Delhi, 4,000 calls from Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Punjab and calls also came from Tamil Nadu, Chennai and Andhra Pradesh. We received 2,000 calls from Tamil Nadu. What are the poor people of Bihar, who do not know Tamil at all, doing there? After all, the poor of our state, who were stuck in Covid were helped by you at that time. Chairman Sir, you and the people of Chennai who were there, all the people helped. I want to come to an issue. If Bihar and U.P. were countries in the world, these would have been the fifth and sixth largest countries in the world, but my pain is that people call Bihar backward. The people there are called backward due to their castes and there is categorization of castes. I come from the backward state.

I want to give a slogan of Bihar that I am also backward. If only backwardness can change the future of that state, then I am backward and will fight for backward state. You also take my definition in backwards because don't deprive me by saying backward that you don't have share in it.

Sanjay Jaiswal ji, if state is backward, then I am also from a backward state. I am also a backward, and I also make my face backward in the name of Bihar being backward that our poor laborers go all over the country. What will happen in Bihar?

If Covid had the most impact on the poor, then it impacted the poor of Bihar. There 70 thousand calls came from all over the country. Workers from all parts of the country came to Bihar shedding tears. Only our MPs, Government, friends, took care of them.

Sir, from today I declare myself as the backward of Bihar, so that in the coming days, in the name of this backward, we can take this backward Bihar forward. This is our punchline for today. We are troubled by the same thing that our state is considered poor all over India.

Chairperson Sir, I leave it here for now. During Covid, online sales increased by 26 percent all over the world. Somebody asked us about Bihar and India, what have you done. I would like to say that we are at the third place in the world in terms of PPE Kits. We made the most PPE kits here and sent them all over the world and you say what your preparedness was? We not only managed our own things, but also did business of 7 thousand crore rupees.

Sir, Also, there is just a small data. They say that the Government of the country did nothing. The Prime Minister of the country did not do anything, but definitely it was done that when the first wave of Covid came, we had 10 thousand isolation beds. Now it has been increased from 10 thousand to 18 lakhs. The ICU beds increased to one lakh 22 thousand. When Covid started, Liquid Medical Oxygen was 1292 MT. Now it has been increased to 10

thousand metric tonnes. Cylinder has been delivered to all the districts. Concentrates were delivered everywhere. Oxygen plant delivered.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON : You took 20 minutes. More than 50 Members are there from your Party to speak, please.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, this is my last point. This has an international ramification. This point is so important because this shows our leadership; this shows our world leadership; and this shows what the Prime Minister has done. India and South Africa made a presentation to give a relaxation on TRIPS under WTO. *[Translation]* We also need medicine. They are saying that here you are not bringing medicines and vaccines. 64 countries have asked for relaxation in the agreement of TRIPS, because they want medicine, they need equipment. This is how the preparation was done.

[English]

COVID-19 is an international phenomenon and we need international support.

[Translation]

We are delivering the COVID Vaccine around the world. If we have to give third dose, give refined dose, then the technology which has been developed in all over the world, in Europe and America including our country, will also have to be implemented here. There is a huge urge about the TRIPS. The country's Prime Minister wants to run such a big campaign.

Sir, thank you very much. I'll just tell you that many people are making small efforts. Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi ji and all the other members of the House have made efforts. To make arrangements for the children whose parents died, To deposit money in their accounts, every person is trying a little bit from his level. We also made efforts.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, God keep you healthy. It would have been better if you had given a little more time. The Speaker sir gave permission and the House listened to

me. But, the fight against Covid is the fight of the world. Let us all fight together; whether it is in the field of aviation or any other field, we have seen how much damage has been done.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Rudy Ji, please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Chairperson sir, thank you very much. I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this subject. But, India is at the forefront of this battle. We have succeeded and will continue to be successful. This is my submission.

[English]

***DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH):** I thank you for permitting me to put my views on the discussion under Rule 193 regarding debate on the COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it. This is all the more pertinent as the whole world is in the grip of fear of the emerging omicron variant.

It is relevant to reflect on the handling of the pandemic since news of its spread from Wuhan was reported in beginning of 2020. While several countries were locking themselves down, the Government of India was pondering over this decision. Whether this was due to the visit of the POTUS in February 24-25, 2020, I wonder. And finally, the hon. Prime Minister all of a sudden announced complete lockdown in his famous 9 p.m. nation addressing announcements like demonetisation etc. The nation was unprepared for a lockdown of such magnitude which was never visualised in our wildest dreams. The ensuing chaos led to starvation, rise of unemployment to unseen proportions, denial of healthcare due to travel restrictions, crash of several business especially in the MSME sector.

The failure to isolate international travellers led to gradual rise in the covid pandemic in our country. The directive of social distancing, masks and sanitizers advised all over the nation led to shortages of masks and sanitizers, which needed time to be made available leading to hoarding and blackmarketing of these products.

Despite several lockdowns, the country saw a rising number of covid cases. The health infrastructure was tested to its limits and several doctors, nurses and health care workers lost their lives. Their deaths were not duly

*Speech was laid on the Table.

recognised by the Union Government. Incidentally, the hon. Prime Minister was addressing the country to do unscientific practices like lighting up lamps and making noises clanging utensils, the whole sight of which was a mockery. Probably, it was better than some other people's advice to drink cow urine and chanting 'go corona go'.

In the intervening period, lakhs of migrant labourers marched thousands of kilometres to their hometowns with great uncertainty of their lives and wanting to be with their family fearing death away from their land and family. The nation witnessed the sad plight of women and children suffering during their arduous journey where several thousands lost their lives.

The situation gradually came under control and thanks to the efforts of the international scientific community covid vaccine was made available within few months. India started its vaccine programme in January, 2021. Despite inadequate doses of vaccine available for our citizens, the hon. Prime Minister decided to send crores of vaccines to other countries. The premature chest thumping of having defeated corona by him shows his lack of understanding of a pandemic. This is something you survive and not conquer.

The decisions of vaccinating the frontline workers first and senior citizens was a welcome move. However, when the Government announced vaccines for those above 18 without realizing the availability and shortages leaving the State Governments in a lurch laying the onus on them. It is pertinent to note that HBL-IVC complex an integrated vaccine complex with a capacity to produce 10 crore vaccines per month or more than 100 crore vaccines a year is left inoperative due to reasons unfathomable. Our hon. Chief Minister, Thiru. M.K. Stalin visited the facility and requested the hon. Prime Minister in person and to date, the facility is inoperative.

The financial package announced by the Finance Minister depressed the nation more than uplifting the severely depressed populace. The MSME which bore the brunt was sadly left in the lurch where several thousand MSMEs were forced to close down due to indifference of the Government.

The second wave after the chest thumping of the Union Government claiming that it had defeated COVID-19, made them eat humble pie and reiterates that you need to survive a pandemic and you can never conquer it. The second wave saw more youngsters dying and almost every household had someone near or dear succumbing to COVID-19.

The shortage of infrastructure in the form of hospital beds and oxygen was laid bare in the second wave as was lack of tocilizumab and Remdesivir during the first wave. The claim that no cases of Omicron are detected in India is difficult to believe as they had claimed that no deaths occurred due to oxygen shortage (when it was reported that doctors had died due to lack of oxygen).

To add to our woes, several States were hit by heavy rains and flooding which incapacitated them even as they were planning on an economic recovery. Tamil Nadu is one such State and we request that immediate relief of Rs. 2500 crore be released as interim relief to overcome this period of suffering.

I also request that the HBL-IVC complex be commissioned to roll out vaccines at the earliest.

I hope that we do not have a knee jerk reaction to the omicron variant news and plan things out better with lessons learnt from our experiences to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a topic like the COVID pandemic.

Sir, first of all I would like to speak about the lakhs of families, from whose house someone's brother, someone's son, someone's wife, someone's daughter were victims of the Covid pandemic. The earlier speaker told that about four lakh people died due to Covid. No one has the exact figure regarding this right now. As many poor people are not even admitted to Covid Hospital. They kept taking home made medicine in village and died of Corona. They could not even reach to the hospital. But, their number was beyond lakhs. There will be many flaws on the part of our Government as, at that time the whole country and the world was looking towards the Prime Minister.

Sir, in January 2021, the Prime Minister had said that we have conquered Corona. This was his statement for the month of January. After that people became fearless. People said that now no Corona will come. They stopped wearing the mask. The youth and farmers of the country have such great faith in our Prime Minister.

When you demonetized the currency, people suffered in the queues during demonetization, but they did not cease to support you. You brought GST, there was farmer's agitation. After 14 months, the Bill which you admired yourself, you came on back foot and withdrew it. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, the first variant that came to us has spread to Italy, Spain and other countries as well. It started with China. It first came to us in Kerala in 2020, and then gradually it spread throughout the country. We couldn't stop it. In the same Lok Sabha, leaders of your party used to boast that Corona will be defeated in India. Corona pandemic will be defeated here. Outbreak of epidemic will be controlled. You people used to give example of

plague and other diseases. But unfortunately, lakhs of people died due to it. I pay my homage to deceased persons and request the government that a report should be prepared on such families. The State Governments pass this matter to the Central Government and Central Government push this matter to the State Government. Those who have died due to Corona or whose family have been devastated, there is no one to look after them. There are such instances where five members of a family lost their lives. Arrangement should be made to provide employment (government or private sector) to the members of such families or an economic package should be announced. Hon'ble Prime Minister ji should announce the economic package by showing a big heart. The country has high expectations from hon'ble Prime Minister ji. It is your responsibility also because the opposition party people would have not lost had they performed well. You have been given mandate consecutively two times by people. NDA has secured 303 seats and the people of the country showered their love upon you. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir, now public have high expectations from you. The people of the country are looking at you with hope.

Hon. Chairperson, very few deaths of Corona warriors due to the new variant reported in April because they have been administered with both doses of vaccine, so they remained safe. Antibodies have developed in their bodies. They have performed their duties with utmost sincerity and saved the life of the people in the country. I express my gratitude to them also.

Sir, I feel sorry to inform the House that Rajasthan Government did not care about the people during the Corona epidemic. They were left at mercy of God. Neither there was arrangement of oxygen, nor Remdisiver nor ventilators. However, arrangements were made later. Even you people installed the oxygen plants after one year. Oxygen plants are being inaugurated there now. No one knows about the outbreak of third wave. The second wave has not yet over. People are living in a state of fear in the country. Reopening and closure of

schools is frequent. Parents are not sure to send their children to school or not. Even Lok Sabha proceedings were suspended at that time. Everyone is concerned. People are living under the state of fear and terror. The Government and the hon'ble Prime Minister should consider the situation. You have published various advertisements during the corona epidemic. Country's youth and old persons have lost their lives in the second wave due to lack of oxygen. In a reply to question raised by Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, it was stated that no death was reported in the country due to lack of oxygen. This is the height of indifferent attitude. You can deny it. COVID-19 epidemic was the biggest cause of death in India. According to data released on 26 April, 2021, due to COVID-19 approximately 4,800 deaths were reported daily. It means that 33,407 people died every week. Permission was granted to the super spreader events like religious festivals and election rallies. Lockdown was relaxed in States and fairs were organized. All these events were responsible for widespread outbreak of the variant. All these events were organized assuming that covid pandemic is over. Even the Government reacted late to contain the outbreak. As a result unprecedented situation arose. The month of April proved to be very cruel for India. According to World Health Organization, 66 lakhs cases of novel corona virus were reported in our country along with thousand deaths. India became the only country in the world to record more than four lakh cases in a single day.

If we talk about the rural India, COVID-19 epidemic has exposed the Indian health care system. The poor conditions of health care services in urban India remained in headlines for its preparedness to fight corona. At the same time, the scenario of health care system in rural India, were quite depressing. For the first time in the month of April, higher number of death reported from rural areas as compared to urban areas.

19.00 hrs.

However, the higher number of corona cases reported in rural areas as compared to urban areas and highest number of cases reported in urban areas in April, but the maximum number of deaths reported in the rural areas in those 17 days. In April 2021, out of total new cases of 3.1 million, the share of rural people was 45.4%, but its death rate was 50.8% due to COVID-19. There was shortage of 76% doctors, 56% radiographers and 35% lab technicians in community health centers in India.

It is a fact that health is a state subject. But the Central Government cannot escape from its responsibility citing the reason that health is a state subject. We have to fix the responsibility as to why despite the alert, testing of passengers coming from the foreign countries were not conducted effectively. It was important to bring back people from other countries to save their lives. It would be taught in history lessons as to what steps were taken by the elected Governments of States and Center to save the lives of people during Corona epidemic period.

Vaccine proved effective for corona warriors. Those who were vaccinated with double doses, were deployed in ICU wards of hospitals. They remained unaffected from virus. Had the whole country vaccinated and export of vaccine to other countries was stopped then more lives would have been saved.

Now it is being told about Kerala and Karnataka. We should concern about the arrival of new variant. Corona warriors should be administered booster dose. Whoever spoke before me, be it from ruling party or opposition, they have given their suggestions. Third wave is coming. We all want that it should be stopped.(*Interruptions*) Please let me complete my point. Everyone has spoke about half an hour. Let me speak for 5 to 7 minutes

....(*Interruptions*) All of them were allowed to speak for 45 minutes and we were listening their speeches(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken more than ten minutes. Please conclude now.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Sir, hon. Minister should must reply about the infection in children from new strain Omicron and that what steps are being taken by the Government to contain the outbreak of third wave. What progress is being made to protect the children from infection?

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, according to the Government report approximately 9,54,806 cases and 8955 deaths were reported in the country. At present, there are 99,673 active cases in the country and 9,45,648 people have recovered from it and almost 4 lakh people have died. As on date, 1,00,124.96 crore doses have been administered to people. The report of different States revealed that the number of people died from Corona was much higher than the government data. The actual data has been concealed by government(*Interruptions*) States are also guilty in this matter(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rahul Shewale.

....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Now, in the end I want to speak about Rajasthan. *...(Interruptions)**

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rahul Shewale, please start.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Kindly grant one more minute please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have already taken more than 15 minutes. Please finish it in half-a-minute.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: It is we who complete the quorum, when many a times quorum is not met. Kindly grant one more minute. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You must plan your speech. Time frame is very essential. A good speaker must maintain time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: The patients recovered from Corona are contracting many types of diseases. The Health Department should conduct a research on the matter as to what are the reasons of remaining ill due to different disease even after recovering from Corona. Hon'ble minister may

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

please intimate regarding the steps being taken by the Government in this direction.

Sir, people have stuck in financial crisis due to the sudden emergence of this disease and the Government of the country has set a target of spending 2.5 percent of GDP on Health Sector. The progress towards this goal is still dismal. The Government needs to pay attention on this.

The Supreme Court has directed to provide financial assistance to the family members of those who died of Corona in the country. The Government and the State Government seem indifferent on this matter also.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am thankful for giving me the opportunity to speak in the discussion of Covid-19 pandemic under Rule 193. I also express my thanks to my group leader Shri Vinayak Raut ji, as he has started this discussion today.

First of all, I express my heartfelt tributes to the people who lost their lives to Covid-19. I congratulate our frontline workers who have worked very well during the pandemic.

Sir, the Central Government and the State Governments have together made good efforts. There has been good work under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Uddhav Thakare ji. The Parliamentary constituency I come from has Dharavi assembly in it. All of you know that Dharavi is the biggest slum of Asia. The total area of Dharavi is 2.5 Sq Km. The total population of Dharavi is 2.27 Lakh per Sq Metre. Eight to ten people live in hutments measuring 10/10 in whole of Dharavi. Such is the situation in the whole of Dharavi. When the first positive case was found in Dharavi on 01 April, there was panic all over Dharavi, all over Mumbai and all over Maharashtra.

19.06 hrs

(Shri Kodikunnil Suresh in the Chair)

You must be knowing that it had become national news. There was a panic situation throughout the country. Everybody was concerned that it could be a risk for Mumbai, Maharashtra and the whole country if there was a Covid spread in Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra and the whole of the country was at risk. For this, we devised an Action Plan for Dharavi on the very first day. An

Action plan was devised under the leadership of Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Uddhav Thakare sahib. We made the formula of Testing and Treating under the Action Plan. The virus was chased through that formula. Municipal Corporation of Mumbai devised a scheme and under that scheme fever camps were set up in whole of Dharavi area consisting of 47,500 houses. We started door to door screening. We undertook screening of approximate 3.5 lakh people out of which 1.2 lakh were senior citizens. 1.4 lakh people were screened through mobile vans. Municipal Corporation of Mumbai faced hurdles at the time of screening. There was shortage of doctors. We had requested private doctors. Around 1200 private doctors were practicing in Dharavi. We sought their help in screening also. The positive patients were identified due to screening. We set up a hospital in Dharavi as the patients of Dharavi were not getting admitted anywhere in Mumbai. We established a Special hospital and a Quarantine system through Municipal Corporation of Mumbai. All the COVID guidelines were strictly followed there with the help of Assistant Municipal Commissioner and a senior Police Inspector of the area. The main reason of spread of COVID and the positive cases in Dharavi was the community toilet. The maximum spread was from there only. There are approximately 225 community toilets there. We conducted a major programme of sanitization there also. We used to sanitise three to four times a day there. With that, the spread was controlled. You know about the people inhabiting Dharavi. Poor people live there. We made full arrangements for ration for them. We provided rationing kits to all the people through private NGO under schemes of Central and State government. We set up a central kitchen there and distributed food in the form of Khichdi to people through it. You know that labourers live in Dharavi. There is small scale industry and leather industry also in Dharavi. People from Tamilnadu and Kerala also live there. We prepared an Action Plan to send 2 lakh migrant workers to their home State. We appointed a special

DCP there and implemented the prepared Action Plan to send 2 lakh people to their homes within 10 days through special train made available by the Railways through the Central Government. There are only 7167 cases as on date in whole of Dharavi. Out of this, six are active cases. We have discharged 6744 people. There have been total of 417 deaths. At the time of first wave, when vaccine was not available; the experts, the task force opined that the treatment undertaken through Plasma is successful.

The Municipal Corporation of Mumbai called for plasma also and people of Dharavi supported it the most. Approximately 2000 people from Dharavi offered to donate Plasma and later 500 people donated as well. The first Plasma Donation Camp of the country has been organized in Dharavi. The people of Dharavi have demonstrated and defeated Corona by combating the first wave. They have donated plasma in second wave also to save the lives of the people. This is the success story of Dharavi Model. You know that even WHO has appreciated that.

The State Government and particularly Hon'ble Uddhav Thakare sahib constituted a Special Team to resolve the problem of Remdesivir that occurred during the second wave. Special powers have been delegated to collectors working at district level. There was no black marketing and shortage of Remdesivir due to the delegation of full powers for distributing Remdesivir to the District Collectors whether it was private hospital or Government hospital. I am also thankful to Hon'ble Health Minister Mandaviya ji because there were only four suppliers of Remdesivir throughout the country when the shortage of Remdesivir occurred. But he issued a special circular and licensed the production of Remdesivir to 9 companies. Due to this, Remdesivir could be made available in sufficient quantity. The stock of Remdesivir could become available as the exporters of Remdesivir were banned and they were permitted for domestic supply. Sir, I am the second speaker from my party. ...

(Interruptions) We have arranged an online monitoring dashboard about beds, because Dharavi is the model, so I have the right to speak more. ...

(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please continue and conclude immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: Hon.Chairperson, Sir, a system of online monitoring dashboard was created, because of that, people could get information about where the beds are empty. Regarding oxygen, I would like to tell that RCF, BPCL and HPCL are located in my parliamentary constituency. I requested them to provide oxygen, then RCF provided oxygen at Shatabdi Hospital. Recently, BPCL has set up a large plant in Mumbai. The plant can supply 1,500 cylinders per day. A Bhabha Atomic Research Centre scientist has built a new oxygen plant on the submarine system there. The State Government has made all preparations for oxygen.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: Sir, as you know about oxygen that the oxygen model of Maharashtra has been appreciated by the Supreme Court and the Union Government also. At present, Maharashtra has 551 pressure swing adsorption oxygen generation plants. It generates 675 metric tons of oxygen. It has 303 liquid medical oxygen tanks and has a capacity of

about 4,800 metric tonnes. If the third wave comes, 3,838 metric tonnes is needed, but Maharashtra still has more oxygen capacity. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. You are representing Dharavi area. That is why the Chair has given you more time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: Sir, when the second wave came, everyone was worried about paediatrics. I am the first Member of Parliament in the country who wrote to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of our State that there should be a special ward and a special system for paediatrics. Under the same, Maharashtra had set up the first paediatric task force in the country. A complete system of paediatrics has been created there through the Pediatric Task Force.

Sir, I want to tell you about the vaccine. When the central government provided the vaccine, it changed the guidelines later. It said that 50 per cent of the purchase can be done by Union Government and 50 per cent of the purchase can be made by the State Government and private people. But at that time, the global tenders that were floated by all the State Governments had failed in all the places, because these could not get the support of the central government.

In my constituency and in Mumbai, we have carried out the entire vaccination work through CSR and NGOs. I want to tell you that the society in which the country's first door-to-door vaccination camp took place is located in my constituency. We first started it in Chembur. The drive in facility of vaccination which had started all over the country, first started in Kohinoor in my area. We had set up a digital awareness camp called Infodos for awareness, in which all the experts of the Task Force were there. ... (*Interruptions*) There

was Dr. Bakul Parekh, Dr. Rahul Pandit, all of them participated in it. Maharashtra has vaccinated 7.5 crore people so far.

Lastly, I want to inform and as you all are aware that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, respected Uddhav Saheb, has a good ranking all over the country and his performance is also good. Today, the Maharashtra Government has taken a decision that a provision of Rs 20 crore has been made for the children who have become orphaned due to Covid. The families whose members have died due to Covid have been given an amount of Rs 50,000-50,000 each from the CM Relief Fund, which is a fund of Rs 500 crore. We have built labs in all the districts. Through you, I want to tell you that the hard work of the people of Dharavi is behind the success of the Dharavi model and I would like to thank the people of Dharavi. Through you, I would also like to tell the State Government and the Union Government that Dharavi has defeated the first wave and second wave of Corona. The Union Government and the State Government should together complete the work of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, because there is a stain on Dharavi that it is the largest slum in Asia, so we have to remove that stain and project Dharavi by making it the largest development area in Asia. So, if you want to give something to the people of Dharavi, you must give it.

There is also confusion about the Omicron guidelines, because the guidelines of our State are different and the Union Government is objecting to it. Through you, I would like to request that the sentiment of our Chief Minister is that the Union Government should not interfere with the powers given to the State Governments under the Constitution. Lastly, I want to recite a couplet for both the National Parties. Both the parties are playing the blame game with each other and COVID is the invisible enemy between us. The visible enemies do

appear to us, but to face the invisible enemy we must unite and for that I want to say that:

“Na Jaane Is Jamaane Ko Kya Ho gaya hai,

Pyar Se Rahne Ki Bajay Inhe Dushmani Karne Ka Chaska Laga Hai.”

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, we are proud of you. We are very proud of the people of Dharavi.

[Translation]

***SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA):** Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts on the global pandemic COVID-19.

I want to tell this House that during this global pandemic, our Bahujan Samaj Party chief respected Behen ji had ordered all the MPs, MLAs and all the workers of the Bahujan Samaj Party to help the people in their respective areas by following the covid-19 guidelines as much as possible.

I want to know from the Government as to how many people died during this pandemic, how many families were provided assistance and when will the children below the age of 18 years start getting the vaccine, and what is the policy of the Government with regard to the booster dose or the third dose of the Covid vaccine?

With Rs 500 that every family got in the accounts of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, it was impossible for any average family to run the house for a

* Speech was laid on the Table.

month. If the third wave of COVID-19 i.e Omicron comes, then this amount should be increased to at least Rs 5,000.

The Government should provide necessary resources for the education and livelihood of the children who have been orphaned in the COVID-19 pandemic and those who have been rendered jobless should be provided employment at the earliest and the migrant labourers who have died of hunger, illness, excessive walking and road accidents should be given compensation. At the same time, I express my deepest gratitude to the doctors, nurses, ward boys, ASHA workers, sanitation workers, anganwadi workers and all the police staff and officers engaged in security arrangements on behalf of myself and my Bahujan Samaj Party and if the third wave of COVID-19 Omicron comes, they all will provide services in their respective areas with utmost sincerity.

The government should improve the condition of hospitals keeping in view the upcoming third wave of Omicron, so that patients do not die due to lack of facilities and the number of beds should be increased at every level of the lower, middle or upper class of cities. The number of doctors, nurses and health staff, including provision of medicines, beds, ventilators and oxygen should be increased at community health centres like Nagina, Najibabad, Dhampur, Kiratpur, Nehtaur, Noorpur, Syohra etc. in my Nagina parliamentary constituency.

Thank you.

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on COVID-19 pandemic. It is the worst happening in the country since the Spanish Flu hit the country in 1919. After 100 years, pandemic has come to this country. I am not here to blame anybody, but I do pay my tribute to the brave COVID warriors, the doctors, the nurses, the paramedical staff and to the hospitals. I pay particular tribute to two doctors, Dr. Balram Bharagava of ICMR and Dr. Randeep Guleria of AIIMS, who have done much to improve our knowledge of the virus. Very little was known about this virus. It is strange that an organism which cannot be seen except under an electron microscope could cause such a havoc among the people.

When I rise to speak here, I must say that we are caught unprepared like the Indian Army in 1962 when the Chinese attacked India. We did not have COVID hospital beds; we did not have ventilators, drugs like hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir; we did not have oxygen; we did not have oxygen plants. We are fighting a mighty enemy. For the COVID-19 virus, the country was not prepared. If I may humbly say that part of this unpreparedness was due to the complacency of the Prime Minister himself. With all responsibility, I must say that in this House when we were discussing the Budget, the Prime Minister was here. The day's session ended. Supriya and others like Kanimozhi told me "why do you not approach the Prime Minister to adjourn the House because the pandemic is coming?" I went personally to Shri Narendra Modi. I sent a note. I told him "why do you not adjourn the House because the pandemic has started?" *[Translation]* He said that no, no people want break *[English]* and they want the House to be adjourned. I am saying it

with responsibility. This complacent attitude was there. On the same morning, I talked to Dr. Harsh Vardhan. I told him to do something about the pandemic. *[Translation]* He told that no, no pandemic will be controlled. *[English]* After I spoke to Shri Narendra Modi, five days later, he said, *[Translation]* you beat the *Thali* and Corona will end in 15 days. ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY : when was it said? ... *(Interruptions)*
[English] Sir, he is quoting the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Yes, I am quoting the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Nishikant Dubey, if I am wrong, then bring a Privilege Motion against me. I am saying it.... *(Interruptions)* I will provide the proof. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, please listen to me. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please let him complete. If you want any clarification, you will get it.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I am saying this with responsibility. ... *(Interruptions)*

The first wave of Corona went and the country was totally unprepared. ... *(Interruptions)* It is true that the country rose to the occasion. We slowly started getting ventilators, hospital beds, and oxygen plants. All the States put in their efforts and there is no doubt about it.

Then the Prime Minister made a second mistake, which was fatal. In January, 2021, he said *[Translation]* India is *VishvaGuru*. We have exported vaccines to 80 countries and we have controlled Corona. *[English]* Our Prime Minister said this. Then what happened? In April-May, the second wave hit the country. We were not prepared as daily four lakh cases were being reported. If

the Prime Minister had not been complacent in January, 2021, this would not have happened. I say it with responsibility.

Sir, I can tell you that personally during COVID-19 times I did not stay at home for one day. I tried to arrange for cremation of people unlike in ... (*Not recorded*) Uttar Pradesh. We did not let the dead bodies rot in the Ganges. We arranged for their cremation. Every day, I was admitting 10-20 patients in hospitals, which were declared as COVID-19 hospitals. We were trying to get Remdesivir and HydroxyChloroquine for the patients, and we were arranging for food for the poor migrant workers who had come.

With God's grace, I did not contract Corona. Every day, I was in touch with these people. We did not escape our responsibility. Anybody who came to me did not have to do a RT-PCR test like the Prime Minister insists on a RT-PCR test for everybody who goes to meet him. We are ordinary people and we live among the people. Hence, we have survived, and with God's grace we have developed the immunity.

Now, there have been many mistakes. Since we exported our vaccine, our vaccination programme was started late. Covishield, which was developed by AstraZeneca in Oxford was manufactured by Serum Institute of Pune. Mr. Poonawalla did a great job in manufacturing it. Covaxin -- which is also a good vaccine though it was recognized very late by WHO -- was developed by Bharat Biotech and ICMR, which were also doing a good job. But till today I do not know about the other vaccines that have been discovered in the world like Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson. Have all these vaccines come to India? Can they be used here? This is the question, which the Minister must answer.

The next question is regarding this issue. I have taken two doses of the vaccine. Is a booster dose necessary? The ICMR has not issued any directive yet on this issue. I am an old man with comorbidity. I have got high diabetes. I have

taken two vaccines and I mingle among the people affected by Corona virus. So, I just want to get this protection. Should we take a booster dose? The Government must clarify on this matter.

What about testing? They are using the Greek alphabets. During the first wave, it was the Alpha variant; during the second wave, it was the Delta variant; and now it is Omicron.

Omicron has come to South Africa. We have to protect ourselves. Our airports are being told to observe carefulness and caution. Now, strange orders are coming saying that everybody has to do RT-PCR test at the airport. It costs Rs.4,500 per patient. Why? Then, they will have to stay seven days in quarantine. The country did stand up to Corona. If the mistakes have not been made from the top, the country would have combated Corona even better. We have got the scientists; we have got the doctors; we have got COVID warriors, who can fight Corona. They don't need politicians like us but the political leadership must not give a wrong direction, must not develop complacency. Corona is the biggest crisis in 100 years. We should admit it with the alacrity that it demanded.

Thank you very much for allowing me to discuss the Corona Pandemic.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : You have concluded your speech within the stipulated time. Very good.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, I stand here with deep anguish and pain to listen to this very difficult debate and discussion that we have today. I want to thank the Chair because on behalf of all the MPs, he, was the one who argued, debated and requested the hon. Speaker in the BAC to ensure each MP gets an opportunity and to make sure that this is

not a three-hour debate and that we can debate up to six to eight hours. So, on behalf of all of us, I thank the Chair....

HON. CHAIRPERSON: And the hon. Speaker.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: And the Hon. Speaker for giving us this opportunity.

This has been a very difficult 22 months for everybody, whether you are on this side or that side, I think, this war is against the virus. It is not about the UPA *versus* the NDA. I appreciate that Mr. Rudy and Mr. Dubey did bring out the essence of the debate when India's Parliament has shown exemplary examples. Specially, he mentioned late Sushma Swaraj. I have also seen her closely, debating. They really took the entire Parliament to an absolutely high level. We learnt to aspire to, to copy and complement the debates. So, I appreciate everything they said about complementing. But one of the statements that he made is that 'Health' is a State subject. We are aware that it is a State subject. At the same time, it would have been much nice if the States and the Centre work closely together. It is not yours *versus* us; it is all of us together *versus* the virus. For some reason, I think, he was quite offended by the statement made by my colleague, Dr. Amol Kolhe. I respect the fact that he was hurt. But my only suggestion to him was, we can still correct it. If we are going 50:50 with the cost of the vaccination, then, if the hon. Prime Minister's photograph is on the vaccination chart, why can any Government not put its Chief Minister's photograph also on the chart?

We are very proud of what Shri Uddhav Thackeray *ji*, Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Balasaheb Thorat have put together in Maharashtra. Maharashtra has really performed exemplarily. We had very challenging times. Mr. Rahul Shewale is sitting here. I am glad, he is in the House. I would like to add one

more thing to everything he said about the Dharavi model. Probably, unknowingly he slipped the point. Luckily, he didn't mention it because I can mention it.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Are States giving 50 percent cost of the vaccine?

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE : We are trying to purchase in our State. ...*[English]* (*Interruptions*) We are trying to buy. States are implementing it also. They are happy to buy. ... (*Interruptions*) I am not yielding anyway. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: I am not talking only about her. Total cost is being borne by the Central Government. I have told this much only. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE : We went for global tenders because of no support from the Central Government. We did tender on our own. The States have substantially contributed. It is not that only the Central Government has done all the work. States have also done. The entire State infrastructure has made sure of everything. ... (*Interruptions*)
[Translation] I never interrupt anyone. If you want to speak then you speak. ... (*Interruptions*) *[English]* I never heckle. I have been in Parliament for 15 years.

So, I am saying that you are taking credit for everybody. The implementing body in every State is the State workers. The Central Government does not do it, the States do it and people have done exceptional work. Even in our State, we have never complained about vaccination to the Central

Government because the vaccine fortunately is made in our State. We take great pride in saying that the Serum Institute is in that district of Pune where I come from, and they have saved many, many lives. We have great pride in all the vaccines that are made in India.

What I was mentioning earlier before Mr. Dubey intervened is that in the Dharavi Model, I would definitely like to mention the contributions made by Mr. Iqbal Chahal, of course, under the leadership of Mr. Uddhav Thackeray, Ajit Pawar and Balasaheb Thorat. I would like to bring this on record for the reason that it is important and we must encourage people to see it for themselves. We as politicians and other people are visible here to the people, but there is a huge administration which has worked relentlessly for this.

I would like to bring it to the notice that, on 5th of May, the Bench of the Supreme Court of India headed by Justice Chandrachud praised the Corporation's work. This is an unprecedented thing that an IAS officer, Mr. Chahal, as the Municipal Commissioner of Greater Mumbai, under the leadership of Mr. Thackeray, was actually praised by the hon. Supreme Court. Mr. Chahal's contribution has been exemplary, and one of the reasons Mumbai has done well is that he and his entire team have done it under the leadership of Mr. Thackeray. There are many benches that have praised him. He has got awards not only in India but also outside India. I also thank the hon. Finance Minister, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, who was also at that event, for praising Mr. Chahal's work. This is one of the success stories in Maharashtra.

Subsequently, Shri Astik Pandey, in Aurangabad, where the situation was very, very challenging, has come with a lot of very good solutions which I would like to offer all these put together. We have written to the hon. Health Minister for testing, and all these things that we have done have given very, very good results. What they have done is that they made ward level war rooms,

integrated hospital bed management through electronic dashboards, individual screening of doctors, and their prioritised treatment. They have done an outstanding oxygen supply management, which also Mr. Rahul said and even Mr. Rudy mentioned about outstanding oxygen supply management in India. I would like to add to it. With the Government of India, a lot of industries have contributed substantially through CSR. I take this opportunity to even thank the industry.

But I would like to ask the hon. Health Minister that there was Prime Minister's Relief Fund and then the Government started PMCARES Fund. Are they integrated? I know that your Government is very proud of transparency and I welcome it. It is lovely to be transparent in life, and in administration even better. If you would kindly tell us as to how this money is spent, not out of suspicion but as in how better we can work. You may want to spend a certain amount of PMCARES Fund which may not be needed by the States. I want to know how have you distributed the Fund in States because every State has contributed to the PMCARES Fund. So, if you can kindly tell us with transparency, it would be much appreciated.

Besides this, a lot of debates have been taking place on the vaccination. There is another comment about genome sequencing which even Asad bhai gave. I would like to quote the hon. Minister. The hon. Health Minister, Mr. Mandaviya ji said on 30th November, "we would do an immediate check on suspicious cases and conduct a genome sequencing". So, what is the outcome? Even our State is doing that.

NIV, which is the first National Institute of Virology, is also fortunately in Pune where I come from. Are you working closely with that? We are all anxiously waiting because that is really going to depend on the future roadmap

of what we all will achieve. What are the guidelines since you have made the statement? Please tell us what it is?

The other thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is about the third dose which is also an anxiety. Mr. Rajesh Tope, my colleague, has been there in the consultation process. I must thank the hon. Minister. He has been very kind with his time in indulging our Ministers. What is your stand on the third dose which even Prof. Sougata Ray ji mentioned? We all have ageing parents, families, and health workers who are leading from the front. They all are anxious because there is no clarity. What is the booster dose is also a confusion. A lot of people feel that booster dose is something completely different. What little that I understand is that the third dose is exactly like taking the first dose and second dose. It is the third dose but people are calling it 'booster dose'.

So, there is some sort of confusion. If ICMR and the Ministry could clarify their stand on it, it would be very kind of them.

Asad bhai talked about skilling. I would say that we need skilling, we need reskilling, and we need upskilling. These are the three levels. We discussed the ART Bill yesterday in the House. We know how fast technologies are changing. I think that is something we all really need to look at. Anganwadi and ASHA workers, all these people are important.

I will just finish, Sir. I just want to have one last question. It gives one a lot of pain actually whenever they say, "*Sattar saal mein kya kiya?*" So, I really felt and I checked things. There are three companies whose vaccines you all are praising - the Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech, and Zydus Cadila. Zydus Cadila is a company in Ahmedabad which was formed in 1952. The Serum Institute, Pune was set up in 1966. Bharat Biotech was set up in 1996. These are the companies which have made vaccines. [*Translation*] There are few companies

left, for example Cadila is manufacturing vaccine. You would better know as you come from that State. Zydus Cadila is a pharmaceuticals company.

[English] There is a small thing which my colleague Dr. Kalanidhi Maran from the North Chennai has brought to my notice. I do not know if he is in the House right now. There is an Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai. It is called HBL IVC. This was set up in 2012. Between 2012 and 2017, Rs.600 crore were invested in it. After that, Rs.300 crore investment is required. This is a government organisation. They can make 10 crore vaccines every month. Rs.50 crore are anyway spent even if they are not operational. I have no problem with the photograph. For me right now the photograph is not important. For me the vaccine and saving lives is important. So, I am not going into that argument. The Government constantly says that they created the vaccine. These are the three private companies which have contributed to vaccine production over the last 30, 40, 50 years. Not only this vaccine, the Serum Institute makes vaccines for children. Out of every five children in the world, three children are administered vaccine made by the Serum Institute. This is a very serious issue. I would request the hon. Minister, that since the Government has money, to give the requisite fund to the Integrated Vaccine Complex. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu did come and meet the Prime Minister. He had requested him to give Rs.50 crore. If this fund is given, 10 crore vaccines can be made every month. This is very important. So, I urge the hon. Minister to look into this.

We can share with you all the success stories we have had in Maharashtra. If there is anything more we can do to work together to fight this war against the virus, we are ready for it. We are not against you. We are with you in the fight against the virus. we are on the same side as you. thank you.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDVIYA) : Sir, it is already 7.30 P.M. I think the debate will go on for a long time. It is my request to you that dinner should be arranged for all the hon. members.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : All right.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Thank you, Chairperson Sir.

Sir, you have given me this opportunity to speak on the debate about the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it. I am grateful to you for this.

Sir, first of all I would like to express my condolences to all the citizens of this country, because there is no such person in our country who has remained untouched by this pandemic. All the people were affected by this epidemic and they have suffered a lot during this pandemic.

I express my condolences to everyone and at the same time thank the crores of health-workers, doctors of the country, I congratulate them for doing their work with great maturity and complete dedication, without worrying about anything.

Through you, I salute them. Sir, before I start, I would like to say one distich and this distich must have reverberated in this dome thousands of times.

"Tu idhar udhar ki na bat kar

ye bata ki kafila kyu luta,
Mujhe rahajano se gila nahin
Teri rahbari ka sawal hai"

Sir, whether it was demonetization or export of vaccines. This government has taken these steps without thinking of the far-reaching consequences. In any crisis, citizens look to their leader. Our leadership has failed in each and every disaster. The Prime Minister of the country is the biggest influencer of the country. Upon his one call, people kept standing in queues while risking their life to exchange demonetized notes. On his second call, people left everything and locked themselves in their homes and beat the *thalis*, but when there was a need to listen to the scientists and experts, in the World Economic Forum, he announced in front of the whole world that India has defeated the Covid pandemic and as a result every citizen of the country started celebrating the victory over this epidemic. They celebrated *Holi* with great fervor. The elections were contested on a war footing level and the result of this untimely declaration of victory was that people had to lost their lives for want of oxygen. This has been the biggest failure of our leadership and all these examples prove it.

Sir, I would like to seek clarification from the Government on two of its policies. First, as many members have asked, what are we doing for genome sequencing? Less than one percent of RT-PCR tests in the country are sent for genome sequencing, which is the lowest among all the G-20 countries. They boast of this achievement. It should also be noted that among all the G20 countries, we send the least samples for genome testing. Genome sequencing helps us capture different variants of a COVID-2 virus. If we are able to catch different variants, then it can help us to make our strategy in fighting the pandemic more smoothly, but the situation is that our genome sequencing is

very less. A few days ago, the Hon'ble Health Minister said that the cases of Omicrom variant is not found in India. But it is necessary to clarify here that making such announcements without any data on genome testing is irresponsible. The government will have to clarify what the time-limit has been fixed for sequencing the samples of Covid-19. Last year in October, 2020, a press note was issued through the PMO, in which it was told that the virus is genetically stable and it was also the statement of ICMR at that time that we do not need genome sequencing because the virus is genetically stable. This was at the time when two researches were going on. There was a research from Oxford University which was showing that all types of variants are present in our country at this time.

In December, 2020 after the world's toughest lockdown, the Government set up the Indian SARS COVID-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). If the scientists of INSACOG are to be believed, then they said that, they did not even received 90 crore rupees of the budget in March 2021. You are creating these institutions, but you are not providing budget to run them. The government should give clarification in this regard.

Sir, although I had much to say, but since there are still many people, I would like to conclude my speech by making last point. In September 2021, when the matter regarding genome sequencing was raised, at that time, in 2021 wave, millions of people lost their lives. After this, private companies were allowed to come and conduct genome testing, which are still not believed that they will be able to get all the tests done by January 2022. I would definitely like to know about this from the Honorable Minister.

Sir, I would like to highlight the mis-management of the Covid vaccine.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude. This should be your last point.

..... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RITESH PANDEY : Sir, as on date 12 crore vaccines are going to expire in January, February in our country. On one hand we say that we have vaccinated 30 percent of people above the age of 18 and just now an honorable member was stating that vaccines are in surplus. I would like to state that the target of the Government was that by 31st January, everyone above the age of 18 would be vaccinated, but all these things show how our vaccination management has failed. ... (*Interruptions*) I am just concluding, Sir. About 12 crores of vaccines are going to expire. Only 30 percent people of the age above 18 years could have been vaccinated. It means that still 70 percent people are yet to be vaccinated. On the other hand we are saying that vaccines are in surplus.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have already made this point.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Sir, this should also be clarified. This is our big shortcoming and I hope the Government will take necessary action in this regard as well. Thank you.

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI): Hon. Chairperson sir, I am thankful to you for holding discussion on pandemic like COVID in the House. I would also like to thank the Hon. Health Minister for this. Many families have lost the Family heads during this COVID pandemic. So much so, that in many families out of these, both the parents have died. I express my heartfelt grief towards such children and all other afflicted families. I express my heartfelt thanks to Hon. Prime Minister, and Hon. Health minister who took responsibility for every district and every state of the country and provided PPE kits, oxygen plants, ventilators, Remdesivir, vaccination etc. to our state of Maharashtra, our Amravati area through PM CARE fund.

Sir, many people criticized, many people supported also. Amid all this, I can only say that this situation was quite new for all of us and every step taken to combat this situation was in the form of a new step. The poor, labourers and farmers were reassured solidarity by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the provision of providing food grains during COVID. Once we have imposed lockdown, then we take your responsibility also. You stay indoors and we will take care of you fully. I express my heartfelt thanks for this to our Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Central Government.

Sir, the second wave of COVID started in Maharashtra and its onset was from my district Amravati. During that wave, The Maharashtra Government was utterly unsuccessful in controlling the second wave due which many lives were lost which the Maharashtra Government tried to hide also. Therefore, I demand a probe from the Central Government to find the exact number of deaths due to this so that the actual list of the number of people died in Maharashtra may come to the fore before all of us. This is very necessary. This truth must come before the people.

Nothing is going to be achieved by mere words of praise. People have lost their lives during this pandemic. It is very important to pay attention as to who has been and whose ill-will has been responsible for this all. The Maharashtra Government has been unsuccessful in controlling CORONA. We tried a lot to talk to and contact the Maharashtra Government, but there was never any response from the Maharashtra Government. It is very regretful for us. We represent the area which is inhabited by tribals, labourers, farmers and the second wave of Corona started from that area, Amravati.

Sir, I would like to inform that we have been inside our homes for 1-1.5 years observing lockdown and majority of people in our area are tribals, labourers and farmers who are daily wagers and who procure food on a daily basis to feed their families. At that time, whoever had to stay indoors and when the matter concerning Electric Department came, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of our state and the Hon'ble Minister of the Department assured it in clear words in press conference that some percentage of the electric bills of that period will be waived somehow to provide relief to the people; however, they have not waived it. The Maharashtra Government officials are forcibly disconnecting the tube-well connections of the people who have not cleared the dues and have not operated the tube-well for two years. I would humbly request and certainly offer my views on the remarks on the Centre and the subject matter concerning Centre, made by the floor leader who is like my elder brother and very senior to me and the floor leader of Shiv Sena. Many traders, businesses in Maharashtra have suffered losses due to COVID. I would like to request the Central Government to extend all possible help to reopen the businesses shutdown or closed. We should help them out also.

Hon. minister sir, you are here and data of lot of expenses to the tune of 100 crores have been submitted as have been spent during COVID in Amravati

district. I would request you to kindly seek its full detail from our District Collector since many ministers and the administration there... (Interruptions)

Sir, kindly allow two more minutes to me. They have allotted works to their close ones while not going for Direct Tendering for every work. Due to this, our people, our region have suffered and the fund which was allotted from the center for our district has been grossly misused. An enquiry should be instituted to probe how and where expenditures were incurred. I would request the Hon'ble minister for this.

The flights arriving from all those countries should be restricted to some extent, where, recently, the new variant the third one has been detected which has been given the third name. Today, our schools and colleges have reopened and the children in Maharashtra have started going to their respective schools. There will be a huge loss to our children and all the families if the migrants arrive here and infect them. We will have to put some sort of control on it. Hon'ble sir, I would like to tell the minister through you that in Maharashtra all the doctors, ward in-charges, sanitation workers, our Asha Workers and all other people who have been working that they have been hired during COVID on contract basis and have been thrown out of their departments like 'use and throw', the moment COVID wave seemed to wane.

Sir, I am concluding in a minute. Since they have been shown the door, I would request you that they should be given permanent jobs and should be made stronger because they have helped us out and served the country putting their own lives in danger. We cannot dispose them off like 'use and throw'. We should speak for them on this issue. Our colleague and floor leader has made very good comments. He has made some remarks on the Centre and some remarks on privatization. I am a resident of Maharashtra and represent one district of Maharashtra; I would like to ask him regarding our State Transport (ST) workers protesting in Azad Maidan of Mumbai for the last one month.

They have been protesting in different depots and are concerned about privatization in the entire country. First of all, you should tell the action taken regarding the protesting ST workers for so many days and 50 people have lost their lives. Instead of talking about the ST workers protesting on road. I would humbly request you. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramprit Mandal.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. sir, I would like to say that their salary has been increased by Rs. 5 Thousand. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA: Hon. sir, I would like to add just the last sentence. He is telling that after increment of Rs. 5 Thousand their salary is Rs. 40 Thousand in comparison and the salary of those working for the past 18 years is 18 Thousand. So, this needs to be somewhat comparable. I would request Hon. Minister that the way we are vaccinating people makes us also accountable for vaccination. Those who are making adverse comments on vaccination, we are publicizing it in our own way that taking vaccine is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

***SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE (LATUR):** The devastating effect of second wave is receding slowly in our country, however all types of precautions are being taken due to apprehension of the third wave. According to data of Central Health Ministry, in the last 24 hours, 9,765 cases of corona have been detected in India. At the same time 477 people have lost their lives due to Corona in last 24 hours. 8,548 people have recovered from Corona in last 24 hours in our country. At present, there are 99,763 active cases in our country. The total death from corona is 4,69, 724 whereas 3,40,37,054 people have recovered. In last 24 hours, 80,35, 261 doses of vaccine have been administered. Whereas total vaccination data is 1,24,96,19,515. But it is not a time to relax satisfied with this data, because the second wave of corona is still continuing in India and it has not ended. Still there are 35 districts of country where weekly Covid infection rate is more than 10%, whereas this rate is between 5 to 10 per cent in 30 districts.

Panic has started in whole world with the outbreak of a new variant of Corona virus variant namely Omicron in South Africa. World Health Organization has expressed its concern about this new variant and in technical term it has been described as the 'variant of concern'. World Health Organization has warned that infection can increase due to this mutation. This variant mutates in large number and at a very rapid pace. World Health Organization (WHO) has asked to increase vigilance and strengthen the public health services. WHO has advised to take all precautionary measures in marriages or other functions, celebrations and other programmes with large gatherings.

The bad effect of Corona virus's new variant Omicron (B.1.1.529) is increasing in South Africa. The scientists doubt that this variant can again flair

* Speech was laid on the Table.

up the Corona epidemic. More than 100 cases of Omicron variant have been detected in South Africa. In addition, this variant has been identified in Belgium, Botswana, Hong Kong and Israel also. Thank God still no case of this variant has been found in India.

I support the comprehensive drive of 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme run by our government because only with help of this programme, we can increase the speed of administering the second dose of vaccine in states. As the Prime Minister has said that there is a need to be more careful considering the new variant. There is a need to make people aware continuously that there is no need to relax in social distancing, putting on masks, etc. because if we relax slightly in this matter, there is apprehension of spreading this disease at large scale. In addition, there is need to strictly monitor the passengers coming from foreign flights and to follow all the directions issued on this matter strictly so that as far as possible, no people infected with this new variant could enter our country.

There is no need to be careless even after the vaccination, this thing is to be put into the mind of public, because the capacity of antibody to fight virus arisen out of vaccine is different in different people and how much effective is a vaccine against the Omicron, its level could be different. This data would be known after some time only. As far as there is a question of restrictions, I feel that it would be better if the restriction which are economically harmful should be put in place for a period when the infection attacks and it should be for the duration of approximately two to three weeks. At present, we should discuss that how we can co-exist with the virus. We have to also identify such steps, which are necessary considering the form of Omicron.

Here I want to tell about the present condition of Corona in our Latur district. Due to co-operation of Central Government and all the precautionary measures taken by the State Government, the situation of Corona epidemic is in

quite control in Latur. According to latest data 21 active cases are present in Latur at this time. I want to thank by heart hon'ble Prime Minister Sir that he gave full support during the peak period of Corona disease and made available 125 ventilators and 2 oxygen plants in least possible time to Latur. Due to availability of these infrastructural facilities our health workers were able to control the spread of Corona to a great extent in Latur. All the ventilators and oxygen plants are in full operational condition and our Latur district is fully ready to deal with all types of conditions.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested, there is a need to take all precautionary measures in increasing vigilance in the country, to strengthen the health services more and control on marriages and other functions, celebrations and other crowd gathering programmes, we cannot be careless at any cost. Along with this we should continue comprehensive and need based public health service and social measures. Because as the Covid will spread, the virus will get more opportunity to mutate and this epidemic will continue to exist for as much days.

Thanks.

SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL (JHANJIHARPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I am thankful to you for the time you have given for participating in the discussion on COVID-19.

Sir, before starting the discussion, first of all I want to thank hon. Prime Minister Sir, hon. Speaker Sir and hon'ble Health Minister Sir through this House, because I have also suffered from Covid. Hon. Speaker Sir, and Prime Minister's office used to take information about my health telephonically for that I want to thank them. In addition, I want to thank all the doctors, nurses and corona warriors.

Sir, 124 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country till now, which is highest in the whole world. Indian government is with people of the country wholeheartedly to save them from Covid. Total active cases in the country is less than 1%. At present recovery rate is 98.35%. Due to the government's commitment on 21 October, 2021, the milestone of 100 crore vaccination has been achieved. In Bihar, State Government has expedited the vaccination programme by reaching to every home in every village. Bihar government has arranged the facility of vaccination for the aged and handicapped persons at their door steps. Now for the Corona's new variant 'Omicron', which is a cause of concern, our government is ready to fight in a systematic manner.

In Bihar the work of corona testing and vaccination is going on rapidly. Vaccination is going on at the faster pace in all the districts. The large scale work has been carried out for providing protection against Corona. Its good results are coming out. Vaccine is being provided by the Central Government. Bihar Government has achieved the target set for the vaccination drive.

Sir, 6 crore people have been vaccinated against Corona in Bihar, Bihar has become the sixth state to achieve this feat. The corona vaccination figure in

Bihar crossed 6 crores on Saturday. Under a special campaign till 6 pm on Saturday evening, 4,69, 730 persons were given corona vaccine in a day. Including this, a total of 6,02 ,30, 322 persons have been given corona vaccine so far in the state.

Sir, 11,026 vaccination centers have been set up for vaccination. So far 4,66,97, 374 persons have been given the first dose of corona vaccine and 1,35,32,948 persons have been given the second dose in the state.

20.00 hrs

With this, Bihar became one of the states to have more than six crore immunizations, with the same proportion of the population. Bihar has become the top sixth state in the country to carry out corona vaccination. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERESON : Hon. Members, if the House will agree, the time of the House will be extended up to 10 o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPREET MANDAL: Sir, Bihar has become the only state to give compensation of four lakh rupees to the families of those who died of Corona. A compensation of Rs 4 lakh is being given to the families of those died of Corona only in Bihar. Also, after the guidelines issued by the Center, this amount has been increased from Rs.4 lakh to 4.5 lakh. For this I thank Honorable Prime Minister, Hon. Health Minister and Hon. Nitish Kumar ji. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPREET MANDAL: Sir, I want to thank the honorable Prime Minister that he is alert. Hon'ble Health Minister has announced that the Government is making every effort that Omicron does not pose any threat in India.

Sir, I would like to make a request in the end that there are 11 crore diabetic patients all over the country and diabetic patients are most vulnerable to covid. Sir, I am also affected by it. I would like to request the Hon'ble Health Minister that at least free medicines should be made available to the diabetic patients.

[English]

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion under Rule 193 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it.

20.03 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

Prior to me, a lot of distinguished Members, in a very articulate manner, have presented the role of the Government in preventing the pandemic over the past two years. But when I heard the views of certain people from the Opposition and the way they were presenting the role of the Government. I recall a distich in this regard _ [Translation]“*Umra bhar ham yahi galti karte rahe, dhool chehare par thi aur ham aaina saf karte rahe*”

[English]

I have heard a lot of people from the Opposition benches. The Opposition has a habit of looking towards the work of the Government through a prism of negativity and politics. Hence, I would advise them if they could go through the recent Bloomberg Report which says that India has jumped 19 spots in the Bloomberg’s COVID-19 Resilience ranking of the best places to be in amidst the pandemic.

It is because of the vision of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and his strong commitment towards cooperative federalism along with the cooperation of the State Governments and with the *mool mantra* of *Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas* that we made a record of administering 100 billion doses of vaccines and till today 124 crore people have already been vaccinated. This vaccination programme has also highlighted the robustness of our healthcare system. I would, through you, like to present to the

House that out of 70,350 centres of vaccination, 68,785 vaccination centres, which account for 97 per cent of the vaccination centres were in Government hospitals. This is the type of healthcare system that has been developed under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, my entire speech would be on vaccination since I have been hearing about the demerits of vaccination; about people criticising the vaccination. So, I would like to speak on that. But before coming to that, first of all, I would like to thank all the frontline workers, the doctors, the nurses and all those people who are involved and who worked as a team during the pandemic to save the lives of people, I would also like to pay my tribute, on behalf of the entire House, to all those frontline workers who lost their lives serving the nation during the pandemic.

Sir, several questions were raised when the vaccination initiative was taken by the hon. Prime Minister in this country. My friends from the Opposition who were talking about the vaccination programme were doubting the vaccine itself. They were doubting the efficacy of vaccination. They were doubting the safety of vaccination. Doubts were even raised about how much interval should be there between the first and second doses of Covishield and Covaxin. To prove this point, hon. Prime Minister himself got the dose administered and then the Members from the Opposition started getting the vaccination done. That was the scenario. Since our country has been leading the race of vaccination in the entire world, all the allegations have been put to rest.

I would also like to make a special mention and congratulate our hon. Health Minister, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and our hon. Minister of State, Shrimati Bharati Pawar who have been dedicatedly engaging with the World Health Organisation for getting Covaxin approved globally. As a result of the

joint effort, I am really happy to say that Covishield and Covaxin have been now accepted by 96 countries around the world and the entire credit for this recognition goes to all the scientists, researchers, and support staff who have been working day and night for the development of this vaccine under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister.

It is a matter of immense pride that there have been eight vaccines listed by the World Health Organisation in emergency use listing and out of those eight vaccines, two of them are Indian vaccines, namely, Covishield and Covaxin.

[Translation]

Sir, Covid has done one thing that it has made everyone in the world a doctor. I did MBBS after 12th and M.S. (General Surgery) after MBBS, followed by M.S. (neuro surgery). Twelve years were spent in studies and after studying for twelve years, today it is realized that every person in the country is a doctor. People say what is your covid score? There was a time when people used to ask cricket scores. Now people ask what is the score? *[English]* When I was doing my medical course, I had never heard the word Remdesivir until and unless one was an HIV patient. When I was looking after my hospital during these two waves, *[Translation]* a person came to me and asked me that our patient had a score of 9 and that you have given him only one remdesivir so far. He never even went to school. Similarly, the debate that has been going on in this house since morning is about our Omnicrom variant. Now I do not know how much of those who speak about the Omnicrom variant have really understood the virus. It is not their fault either because the manner in which it is being shown in the media for the last one week that 'now the country is under threat from the Omnicrom variant, will Modi ji be able to save the country?'. The way this thing is being painted completely, being a doctor, I have neither

seen this virus in books nor in T.V., I have seen this virus in the patients day and night in I.C.U. while on duty. *[English]* The natural tendency of a virus is mutation. It is an RNA virus. It has to mutate. Mutation is transformation. *[Translation]* If some people have seen the 'X-Men' picture in Marvel, they change their body in it. It's a mutation, so is that a virus? *[English]* Mutation is transformation *[Translation]* and this transformation will continue to happen every year. It is my clear belief that our country is not threatened by virus, but by viral news. There may not be a threat from the virus, but the way this news is made viral, there is a danger.

Sir, just now one of our fellow MPs has said that two people affected by Omnicrom have been found in Karnataka. Being a doctor, it is difficult for me to read that name, but 50 percent of the people have spoken his name correctly. It was said that these two people have been found, what is the government doing? Hey, Brother! What will the government do? *[English]* The World Health Organization Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution *[Translation]* on 26.11.2021 gave this virus a designation –*[English]* 'variant of concern', Omnicron*[Translation]* and in the same statement the *[English]* World Health Organization *[Translation]* has said that we know nothing about this virus. We don't know the extent of its transfuability, how much disease severity it will cause, we don't know, but. Even before WHO, the people who became doctors during this Covid period in our country have even told about the danger of this virus and have asked that our country should be prepared for it. I will tell the reason for this. It has a system. If you read a WHO survey, it is written in it –*[English]* the only way to fight this global pandemic is global vaccination. *[Translation]* If you see as on date, the lowest vaccination in the whole world, only 7% vaccination has been carried out in African countries.

If you see from where this variant originated, then I would like to tell that it originated from South Africa. Until the vaccine is given to these African countries, this virus will keep mutating a new variant will continue to originate every month.

Sir, I want to share some statistics with you. In South Africa, 29% people have taken the first dose. Their population is 1.7 crores. 24 percent people have taken second dose and their population is 1.4 crore. In India, due to the efforts of the Prime Minister, the first dose has been 60 percent. So far, 80 crore people have taken the first dose. In terms of second dose, we are at 34% now. 45 crore people have taken the second dose. Due to this vaccination, we have been very successful in reducing the seriousness of that virus. What we are doing, what I am saying is a simple formula. As a doctor, I am speaking very responsibly. I don't know how many speakers were doctors. Now if you put doctor before the name, then that is a different matter. They also have different degrees. Some are PhD holders, some are veterinary doctors, some are BMS, and some are MBBS. In my opinion, being a neurosurgeon, I have the highest degree among some of the parliamentarians. I take it this way. I would like to put forward some details regarding *[English]* Less Vaccination, more mutation, more fatality, more chaos. *[Translation]* If we remain unable to increase vaccination in a global way, our Hon'ble Members of Parliament colleagues who keep on saying that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has exported the vaccination.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): Hon. sir, they have objection even on export of vaccination. The Omicron virus that has originated there due to less export of vaccine is not to be allowed in India. You neither

want the medicine to be sent out, nor is the disease to be allowed in India. How one is to solve this dilemma. The greatest achievement of our Hon'ble Prime Minister is that we have acquired global vaccination leadership. Until we help out these African countries and are able to complete their vaccination through this leadership by our Hon. Prime Minister, we won't be able to get rid of this mutation.

Hon. sir, in the end, I would like to take one more minute. I have been sitting here since morning. Other people came in between out of turn. Kindly allow me only two minutes. I would like to put forward a request through you, since there has been a lot of discussion on vaccination. Hon. sir, please tell, all those Members of Parliament who are grassroot leaders, some of them live in Delhi and seldom go out. Those who are grassroot leaders, the vaccine is lying unused presently and people are not coming forward for vaccination. People have enough spare time to attend marriages and dance in marriage parties but they are not inclined to take vaccine. They got in queue for vaccination, the moment news regarding Omicron virus broke out in media. I would like to thank the media for the way the news is hyped will certainly benefit vaccination drive. We cannot administer vaccine to someone perforce. This is the rule of the party to make joint efforts taking everyone together. This way, we can take forward the vaccination.

Sir, there are two or three demands which I would like to put up before the Hon'ble minister. I represent Ahmednagar parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra. You must also have watched in news a month back that 12 people lost their lives due to a fire that broke out in ICU. First of all, I pay tributes to them through this House.

Hon'ble sir, what is going on today in Maharashtra. Recently, many members have lauded the Maha Vikas Aghadi that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has done this, ours is a Government consisting of three parties. Hon'ble sir, this

was not the first time that a fire broke out there. This happens every time, every month and deaths do take place every month. Who will take responsibility for this? For this very reason, I would like to request the Central Ministry that an audit be conducted for all the facilities established during this COVID. Such a type of facility be there through the Central Government that no one dies due to fire in future.

Hon'ble sir, I have been sitting here for quite a long time and I would like to conclude with a Sher (Urdu poetry stanza). I have got it by heart for quite long. I would certainly like to recite this Sher in the end. It is not against any party but it represents the present COVID conditions and *[English]* how the world in present pandemic is.

[Translation]

Yoon hee be-sabab na phira karo koe shaam ghar mein raha karo
vo gazal kee sachchee kitaab hai use chupake-chupake padha karo
koe haath bhee na milaega jo gale miloge tapaak se
ye nae mizaaj ka shahar hai zara faasale se mila karo

Sir Thank You.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is a Sher by Bashir Badr Sahib of Meerut. I have a request to all of you. The list is quite long, as you can see. *[English]* Please try to complete your speech within four minutes.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak on this very important subject for which I had given notice and the notice was there in my name during the last Session for raising a Short Duration Discussion. But unfortunately, because of the deadlock, I could not initiate the discussion at that time though I waited for so many days. So, I seek your permission to speak for a little more time.

Sir, first of all, I salute the entire medical fraternity and the frontline workers who have dedicated their lives to combat the global pandemic COVID19. I would also like to pay homage to all the people who lost their lives due to this pandemic, including Members of Parliament and Ministers who were our colleagues in this House.

Sir, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human lives worldwide and presented an unprecedented challenge to public health, food system, and employment. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating. The novel coronavirus has changed the global order and day-to-day life of the people. So, my first point is, even after 1 ½ years there is no conclusive proof regarding the cause and the impact of this COVID19 or novel coronavirus because no proper research has been done so far. Even in India also, ICMR and many other research organisations are there. But we are not able to have a conclusive proof regarding the cause of novel coronavirus resulting in the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first point which I would like to make.

When we discuss in Parliament, definitely we have to see how this COVID-19 management was done by this Government. So, I would like to appreciate the Government in managing the situation during the first wave of COVID-19. I agree that the Government was able to contain the first wave to a great extent only because of the lockdown implemented for 67 days. We are

having a difference of opinion regarding the lockdown. Even then, because of the permanent lockdown for 67 days, we could manage the situation to an extent as far as the first wave was concerned. What was the main purpose of the lockdown? The first purpose was to create an awareness among the people regarding the impact of this novel coronavirus. The second purpose was to increase the preparedness of the Government in meeting the situation. These were the two main purposes for the lockdown implemented during the first wave. So, I would like to pose a specific question to the Government. I would like to know whether the Government utilised the lockdown period so as to improve the health infrastructure in our country and whether a proper planning was made. According to me, the answer is 'no'. What is the result? We have seen that during the second wave.

Sir, when we appreciate the management of the situation during the first wave of COVID-19, we have to critically examine the total failure of the Government in managing the second wave. At the time of the second wave, the peak of the second wave started in the first week of May, 2021 with the daily count of new cases exceeding 0.4 million. We have seen the shortage of vaccine, shortage of hospital beds, lack of ICU beds, and we have seen shortage of oxygen cylinders and many other problems. On 30th April, 2021, India became the first country to report over four lakh new cases in 24 hours. That was the worst situation during the second wave.

Sir, in fact, the second wave of COVID-19 hit India like tsunami both in urban and rural areas. The second wave led to a loss of seven million jobs with the unemployment rate increasing from 6.5 per cent to 7.97 per cent. Who is responsible for this? One of the main reasons for the alarming situation was the non-availability of oxygen. You may kindly see that the Government of India constituted 11 Empowered Groups of Officers for planning and implementing an effective COVID response. The Empowered Group 6 was tasked to

coordinate with the private sector, NGOs, and international organisations. In its second meeting on 1st April, 2020, this group red flagged the issue of oxygen shortage in the country.

On 1st April, 2020, oxygen shortage was red-flagged by the Committee. Then, a 9-Member Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Guruprasad Mohapatra, to ensure adequate availability of oxygen. When did the second wave break out? It was in the month of May, 2021. What has the Committee done in this regard? Is the Government not accountable for ensuring availability of oxygen? But it is quite unfortunate to note that nothing was done to ensure the availability of oxygen. Due to this reason only, so many precious lives have been lost for which the Government is solely responsible. In April, 2020, the Committee was constituted with a specific job to ensure availability of oxygen. Even the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare under the chairmanship of Prof. Ramgopal Yadav, in the month of November, 2020 had cautioned the Government that there was shortage of oxygen and so they should ensure adequate availability of oxygen. But nothing was done. That is one of the main reasons for which these casualties had happened. It was only because of the negligence of the Government that the second wave of COVID-19 had hit us like anything. It was just like a tsunami.

The second point is about the vaccination. When was the vaccination policy announced? A Task Force of National Expert Group for Vaccination Administration for COVID-19 was constituted in the month of August, 2020, under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, for conceptualisation of last mile delivery. But the lack of foresight and planning was well-evident from the vaccination drive itself. Coronavirus broke out in the beginning of January, and they constituted a Task Force to conceptualise the

policy regarding COVID-19 only in the month of August, 2020! So, what was the foresight and proper planning?

Sir, a 3-tier policy was also announced. I am not going into the details of the policies. Regarding export of vaccines, many hon. Members have already spoken.

Sir, another very important point that I would like to make is regarding the investment in vaccine manufacturing. The Government of the United States of America had made investment in the month of August, 2020 for 400 million doses of vaccines. Similarly, Europe invested for 800 million doses of vaccines in November, 2020. But India advanced for 16 million doses in January, 2021, by investing Rs. 4,500 crore. The total eligible population and the vaccines which were advanced was totally disproportionate. When USA, Europe and all other countries had advanced for manufacturing of vaccines, it is quite unfortunate to note that on the part of the Government of India, there was no proper planning, there was no foresight in meeting the situation in respect of vaccination.

So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to explain to this House regarding vaccination as well as non-availability of oxygen. Is it not the responsibility of the Government? Is the Government not accountable to this House and through this House, to the people of India? I am seeking an explanation from the hon. Minister.

Sir, my last point is regarding this 'Omicron' and the latest developments. I would make some suggestions only. In Mangalore, two cases have been reported. But one week back, we got the information that two persons had already been identified. But today, officially, it has been announced. It is okay. I have taken two doses. Now, doctors are advising us to take the booster dose. So, what is the policy of the Government of India regarding the booster dose?

Secondly, what is the status of research on the COVID-19? What are its effects? What are those results that they have concluded?

Thirdly, what are the steps taken to deal with unemployment and loss of business due to COVID-19? I would urge upon the Government and I would also urge upon the hon. Speaker also. Let the Finance Minister, the Home Minister and other concerned Ministers come to the House and intervene in this debate, and kindly explain about the steps taken by their Ministries, especially the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Sir, as far as air travel is concerned, specific guidelines should be issued in the light of this Omicron, which is a new variant of COVID-19. A learned Member has just now talked about it. It was a very good speech. I would like to appreciate him also. He has very specifically stated regarding the impact of this Omicron. I would like to know the guidelines in respect of air travel. The disaster management is being managed by the Home Ministry and, therefore, the intervention of the Home Minister, in this discussion, is highly essential. In the wake of Omicron, the need of the hour is to lay down clear guidelines for air travel, domestic and foreign, keeping in view that the airlines industry does not suffer. Therefore, a foolproof mechanism is required. We will fully support 02.12.2021 1034 the Government but, at the same time, the Government has to respond regarding the negligence or the lapses on the part of the Government in addressing or combating the second wave of COVID-19.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson sir. I am grateful that you allowed me to participate in this discussion under Rule 193. When I came in this discussion, I expected that the members from the ruling side will seek apologies saying it was their governance failure. As per even government estimates, 4 lakh 80 thousand people have died. I quote an example that if 10 thousand is said to have died, then the actual figure is usually death of minimum 2-3 lakh people. The actual data is hidden. I felt they will seek apologies, but discussion is taking place here.

Hon. Chairperson sir , we are not blaming anyone. We are not blaming the Government of Hon. Narendra Modi ji saying all deaths occurred due to them. But, they didn't do at the right time what they ought to have done. Complacency, as it is said, has certainly taken place. When the first case was detected in January 2020 in Kerala, our leader Shri Rahul Gandhi ji tweeted saying that this virus is quite dangerous. You know, what did the Government do? 'Namaste Trump' programme was organized in Ahmedabad. This has spread from there only. We people and the ruling party people, the people from the treasury benches were discussing in the Parliament and we were assured saying that there is no such thing as Corona and pandemic. Until the government in Madhya Pradesh fell, we kept sitting in parliament. The Hon'ble Prime Minister swiftly announced lockdown. We even could not go to our homes. What was said at that time? He said that we won the war of Mahabharata in 18 days and we will win over Corona in 20 days. One more fact emerged that this will vanish by this date. No one has any clue as to what is going on. COVID phase-1 was new for everyone. It was new for you, me, for doctors and for COVID warriors etc. all. What happened after that? Hon'ble Modi ji announced in a virtual meeting in January 2021 that we have conquered COVID. You had exported 6 crore vaccines the same month. One of my colleagues from BJP was

saying that we err in exporting and also made a mistake by not exporting. We didn't export, so Omicron has arrived. Its strange. At that time we were dissuading, that when you exported 6 crore vaccines, only 3 crore people had been vaccinated by then. You exported 6 crore vaccines under the Vaccine Maitri Scheme. When COVID Phase-2 arrived, there occurred shortage of vaccines. The country can not forget the rally in West Bengal and the Panchayat Elections in Uttar Pradesh. If someone is responsible for COVID Phase-2, then it is the Prime Minister of this country, it is Hon. Narendra Modi ji, it is the Government of the day. When did you order the vaccine? It is quite regrettable that only 1.65 crore vaccines were ordered. You are announcing in June that all 108 crore adults of India will be vaccinated by 31 December. You please tell me, will you be able to do it? Please reveal your road map. November has already elapsed. Will you be able to complete it within a month? Till date only 50 crore people have been fully vaccinated.

This again is a joke. 65 percent of ventilators purchased out of PM CARES fund are defective. We suspect, its a scam. Maximum scam has taken place. Scam has taken place in Gujarat. Will you constitute a committee and probe it? This country seeks your reply as to where every single rupee of PM CARES is spent.

Omicron virus was being discussed right now. There are 30 mutations in it. There are mutations in the spike protein. I want to ask this Government and Hon'ble Minister whether the vaccines named Covishield and Covaxine which we have taken; will work against this mutation? Since, some of the vaccines work on enzyme and some vaccines work on mutation. Kindly put these facts here.

Some people were saying it repeatedly that nothing would happen, we have listened to all these things twice before. So many people have died. They include my family members, my friends, Advocate Sunil Patnayak ji, what was

their age? What was the fault of Narsinghnath Behra ji. Odisha Youth Congress's leader Sangram Jena ji was only 42 years old. Hon'ble Member of Parliament Late Rajiv Satav ji, Railway's Minister of State and so many Members of Parliament have died. You have to take responsibility for it. You must take responsibility for it and you have to give an answer for it. It will not be good if you repeat the mistake which was committed earlier.

I have two children, who are three months old. When the vaccine come for them? Are they safe? You want to forget the dead bodies floating in Ganga. Here one hon. Member of Parliament said that Narendra Modi ji has the standing next to Mahatma Gandhi ji. We have still not won. Please mention if the Government wants the help of the opposition.

Sir, it is not that I want to criticize only, rather I want to give some suggestions. First you tell about vaccine. You also tell about the timeframe for universal vaccination. On the other hand, you should collaborate with vaccine manufacturers and suppliers so that production of vaccines can be increased. You should invoke the compulsory license provision under the Patents Act, 1970 so that other companies can also make the vaccine.

You should give vaccine to the States. You should give the vaccine in a transparent way according to the population. You should also tell about the death rate.(*Interruptions*) I am finishing my speech in 30 seconds. You should give the correct figures about the death rate, about the number of people who died. You should also tell about the time frame for administering vaccine to all people. Please decentralize the decision making process.

We all demand that the families of those who have lost their lives due to COVID-19, should be given compensation of 4 lakh rupees. It is not that only Rahul ji has said, even you have admitted that 4 lakh rupees will be given. You should bring a justifiable minimum basic income scheme.

Chairperson Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this topic.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri P. Ravindranath, please be brief.

SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI): Sir, first, I wish to thank and appreciate the services of all the frontline workers including medical doctors, nurses healthcare staff, sanitation workers and volunteers in managing this pandemic, and I pay tribute to those who lost their lives.

I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for having sanctioned 1,222 PSA oxygen plants across 736 districts of our country with a plant capacity of 9,47,400 LPM from the PM CARES Fund. I am most grateful that my constituency of Theni has also been sanctioned with four PSA oxygen plants from the PM CARES Fund, and they have already been commissioned.

Also, I thank our hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare who has allocated a sum of Rs.23,123 crore as a stimulus package through ECRP-II, that is, Emergency COVID-19 Response and Health System Preparedness Package, immediately upon assuming office in July 2021. This crucial package has significantly helped our States in gearing up and meeting the challenges of any abrupt outbreak of a third wave.

Sir, at this point, I would like to share a few of my observations and suggestions before I conclude my speech.

The second wave had witnessed a large spurt in cases due to over usage of steroids and medications. Hence, a focussed and specific treatment protocol than one-size-fits-all approach may be adopted to avoid secondary infections.

With regard to the reported cases of hoarding/ black marketing of health appliances, oxygen, hospital beds etc. the Governments - both the Centre and the States – should take adequate enforcement measures to prevent such incidents.

Sir, our previous experiences have indicated that a more centralised planning, coordination, digitized allocation of meager resources and decentralised execution at the State level is the need of the hour. Hence, it is my humble request that a more profound Central intervention with regard to allocation of resources as well as centralised strategic planning and coordination will be more effective in controlling the pandemic than a State-level approach.

Sir, it needs to understand that pandemic management, besides medical care, requires sound logistics and information management. Hence, we should explore the option to include advisory of the Defence and Paramilitary Forces more profoundly to coordinate the activities at the State level.

Finally, there is only one effective strategy for controlling the long term spread of the virus, that is, vaccination. This is even more critical considering the fact that the impact of more infectious variants like Delta can be reduced only by bringing a larger proportion of our population under vaccination. Further, considering the emergence of new variants like Omicron, we may further explore options to administer a third dose or a booster dose and simultaneously achieve the universal vaccination goal at the earliest.

Sir, our country is in the mourning stage. Now the latest news is that two passengers, who came from South Africa to Bengaluru, are confirmed Omicron positive. The Government should not take it easy. Two passengers can spread it to 200 to 2000 and to even more. W.H.O. announced that Omicron virus is not a modified version of Delta; we cannot judge it but it is more dangerous than Delta.

My humble request to the Government and the hon. Health Minister is to take stringent action to prevent Omicron from spreading in India at the initial stage itself and save the people of India. Thank you.

SHRI C. LALROSANGA (MIZORAM): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. We all know that the threat and the apprehension of Omicron, that has already landed in India, is of grave threat. As of now, our country is yet to fully prepare. We are having this discussion the whole day in the face of this threat that is coming to our country. But we hope that with the preparedness that has already started, we will be able to combat this dreaded virus.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that there is a matter of grave concern pertaining to my constituency, which is now having high incidence of COVID-19 cases for the last several months. The incidence of COVID-19 is high as compared to the rest of the country and the other States of the Northeast. The weekly positivity rate in the month of November was 15 and it was more than 8 today.

I would like to request the Government of India to be alert for us as well and help us tackle this disease on a war footing because we need a lot of help in this regard.

Today, I will have to tell the House that we have a positivity rate of 8.38 from the yesterday's 3,772 samples tested. This is in spite of the best efforts of the State Government and the Central Government which has also been generously helping the State.

We also have some apprehension of the influx of refugees from the neighbouring country of Myanmar who have been entering into Mizoram since

March this year. There is a greater need for screening and testing all these people who have crossed over from Myanmar into our State.

The testing facilities are still quite limited in my constituency. We have only one RT-PCR laboratory functioning as of now. We need more of them. We need to have RT-PCR laboratories in all the 11 districts of my State, which has already been brought to the notice of the hon. Health Minister and the officials of the Health Ministry. Our request to them is to please help us tackle this disease from spreading further in the State as we, even though a small State, constitute a very strategic position in the country and we have been showing green.

We were doing quite well in the first wave, but from second wave onwards, the incidence of COVID-19 has grown in my State. Therefore, we would like to request the Government of India and all others concerned to kindly help us in tackling this virus effectively.

Thank you so much.

KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA (TURA): I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak in this very important discussion on COVID-19.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to extend my gratitude to all the healthcare workers, the frontline workers, who have tirelessly and selflessly been working in order to tackle this pandemic for the last two years. At the same time, I would also like to express my condolences towards those who have lost their near and dear ones because of this pandemic.

Sir, as our hon. Speaker had mentioned that this debate should be used to showcase, or allow us to give an example of, what our respective States are

doing in this situation of pandemic, I would like to take this opportunity to slightly elaborate on the work that has been done by the State of Meghalaya.

Amidst the havoc caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, whereby global economies have crumbled and are now slowly on the path of recovery, the North-Eastern State of Meghalaya also bore the brunt of the crisis. Being a State with a large indigenous population coupled with a resource-poor setting, the challenges have been unique for the State Administration. This had called for a unique intervention. Under the leadership of our Chief Minister, Mr. Conrad K. Sangma and our Health Minister, Mr. James Sangma, the entire State Government machinery worked together in full force and was able to turn the pandemic crisis into an opportunity of sorts, especially in terms of building and strengthening our healthcare infrastructure.

Since the start of the pandemic, Meghalaya adopted an evidence-based data driven approach of managing the pandemic, guided majorly by the problem-driven interactive adaptive model. During wave one of the pandemic, the State's community-centric behavioral change model, the BCM, garnered appreciation from the Union Health Ministry which was later adopted nationwide as a COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

A collaborative approach was adopted through the constitution of the State response team and the medical expert committee comprising medical professionals and public healthcare experts from the State as well as across the country.

In the second wave, Meghalaya was posed with a new set of challenges – COVID-19 testing and vaccine hesitancy. This led to an increase in the number of deaths caused by COVID-19 and a high case-fatality ratio. Therefore, with an aim to save people's lives, the State administration along with the team of private and public medical experts formulated a breakthrough treatment

protocol, known as the step-up treatment protocol based on the biphasic nature of COVID-19 virus. This was recognised by the ICMR and Lancet India Task Force for managing COVID-19 for having been able to save numerous lives of persons affected by COVID-19 infection. Not only this, Meghalaya has been using the pandemic crisis as an opportunity to completely strengthen the public healthcare systems while investing in building infrastructure and capacity building. It may be noted that out of the total State Budget, eight per cent is dedicated solely to the health sector.

As per the NITI Aayog ranking, Meghalaya stands at the 8th position among all the States in terms of Government budget spending on healthcare. Focus is now being laid on improving health indicators through increased spending. I am happy to inform that during the pandemic period itself Meghalaya was able to come up with its own State health policy, known as MOTHER policy, which is an acronym for ‘Measurable Outcomes in Transforming Health sector through a holistic approach with focus on women’s Empowerment’.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of India for providing valuable assistance and support to our State through the Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-I and Phase-II, under which an amount of about Rs. 90 crore has been sanctioned. This has been used by the State to not only strengthen but also build various infrastructure especially in hard-to-reach areas. Through this, paediatric units have been strengthened in district hospitals; prefab structures have been built in PHCs and other sub-centres; RT-PCR and RAT testing facilities and centres have also been built across all districts, including strengthening human resources to facilitate the entire process.

There are IT systems in hospitals as well as teleconsultation services and ambulances. The State Government also has invested in private hospitals to create more beds as a crisis emergency response and to be well prepared for any such further emergencies.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Union Home Ministry and to the 15th Finance Commission for recently launching the Health Infrastructure Mission, which is also expected to provide financial assistance to the State. I am happy to inform that when the pandemic started, our State had about four ventilators, whereas today, we have over 200 ventilators and 1,100 oxygen supported beds in Meghalaya.

I would like to flag two issues, which have already been mentioned by some of the hon. Members. Over 400 million people have been vaccinated. In my own State, I recently held a DISHA meeting, where the hon. DCs informed me that in the case of first dose only about 50 per cent vaccination has been done, and in the case of second dose, only about 30 per cent vaccination has been done. That is a very low number, given the fact that in the North-East, December is a very festive time. Christmas is on, weddings are on, and people have started coming out. The State is opening, schools are opening up. So, I think there is a very, very important urgency here where vaccination drive must be done in a more full-fledged manner for which we would need the assistance of the Central Government. Currently, we have about 298 active cases but I would request the hon. Minister to look into this so that vaccination could be speeded up.

I would like to speak on one more issue. The children have suffered the maximum during this pandemic. Schools are not able to function in the normal way. I would like to speak here on behalf of not just my own State but also for all the far-flung States which are in the North-East and in other parts of the

country, where internet connectivity is very poor. So, I would request the Government to kindly look into enhancing digital education for our States. Therefore, improving internet connectivity is very important.

Thank you so much.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, Sir.

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon. Chairperson, on my request, arrangements for dinner have been made. All the hon. Members are requested to have dinner in room number 70. For our media person friends, arrangements for dinner have been made in room number 54 and all the staff can have the dinner in room number 73 and 74.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Arrangement for the dinner has been made. Arrangement for dinner for Hon'ble Members has been made in room number 70.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Respected Chairman, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. I appreciate the decision of the House to allow all the Members who are interested in participating in this discussion.

This House should appreciate and salute those who have laid their lives in service of the COVID-19 patients. I would request the hon. Minister to ask the House to join together to pay homage to all those who have died fighting COVID-19. Hundreds of doctors and nurses lost their lives. The representatives of the local self-Government, the police personnel, and the entire community joined together to fight this pandemic. We could fight the pandemic successfully to some extent.

The first COVID-19 case of the country was found in Kerala. On 30th January, 2020, two students came from China to Trichur. But Kerala successfully fought this pandemic. The COVID-19 casualty in Kerala was the least amongst all States in the country. So, our Government has done an excellent job in fighting this pandemic and the COVID-19 death was the least in Kerala.

The State Government had made it a point that no person should starve in Kerala, whether he is from Kerala itself or from outside. It was decided that whoever is in Kerala should be provided with sufficient food. Each and every family was provided with monthly food kits which include food grains, cooking oil, and all other provisions which are required for a family. This was provided to all the families irrespective of their income levels. The community kitchens were also opened in every village so that all the destitute can get free food every day. So, that was the kind of very positive response from the Government of Kerala.

Sir, out of Rs. 250 lakh of my MP Fund, I have given Rs. 85 lakh for providing health kits to medical colleges as well as their hospitals. PM CARES Fund was provided to two hospitals for providing the oxygen machines. We are now recovering from the pandemic. But we should not be complacent about this situation.

Now, we are talking about Omicron. Researchers around the world are conducting studies to understand many aspects of Omicron better and they continue to share their findings. It is important for the country to start taking necessary measures to control the spread. It is not clear yet whether it is more transmissible compared to other variants.

It is also not clear whether infection with Omicron causes more severe diseases compared to infections with earlier variants, including Delta.

Preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalization in South Africa. Initially reported infections were among university students that is among the younger generations, but we cannot conclude if it will be like that only.

All the variants of COVID -19 including the Delta variant that is dominant worldwide can cause severe disease leading to death particularly to most vulnerable people. Thus, prevention is always a key. It is also to be noted that there might be a possibility of a higher ... (*Interruptions*). Please give me two more minutes. ... (*Interruptions*). There might be a possibility of a higher risk of infection for people who were earlier infected with COVID-19.

The statement from the hon. Minister that there is no Omicron in India is good, but India's vaccination campaign has achieved tremendous feats. It is also important to set up research teams to analyze ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN: Please give me two minutes. It is also important to set up research teams to analyze the efficiency of the vaccines available in India against this variant. The Government should also start a fresh RT-PCR testing drive for the citizens of the country, initially for those who are yet to be vaccinated and thereafter for all who got vaccinated. The testing done prior to now is of no help to detect the new variant. Thus, re-testing of people should be started by the Central and State Governments.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN: Please give me two minutes. As some of the hon. Members have already mentioned, genome sequencing should also be made mandatory for the people testing positive in order to recognize if

the Omicron virus has infected the body or not. It becomes the highest priority to channelize this variant in a manner that it does not create another wave sort of a situation.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude quickly.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN : The country has moved out from the great economic hardships during the pandemic. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be brief.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN : The market has started going down. Thus, the responsibility to assure the business community and the market has to be taken by the Government.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM):**Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. The whole humanity was very much affected during the last 2 years. The world has come to a standstill. We are still reeling under the disastrous impact of Corona pandemic. We are aware that India is striving hard to tackle this Corona pandemic. We see this pandemic as a natural disaster. A kind of bio-disaster. At the time of facing this pandemic, we cannot blame anyone as such. I should say the preventive measures are of primary importance. The measures that are to be taken before the spread of corona as well as after the spread of corona are also important. Many MPs have spoken about the way the preventive measures were undertaken before the spread of corona. Hon. Members who spoke before me also told in detail about the relief measures undertaken by the Government after the spread of corona virus in our country. Crores of people died due to this Corona virus all around the world. As per official estimates, the corona death toll stands at 4 lakhs in India. The frontline warriors, doctor, nurses and medical professionals also died while doing their selfless service in this war against corona. My salutations, at this juncture, to all those frontline warriors who died due to corona while serving this society. Unofficial figures of corona deaths stand at more than 30000. We know how many dead bodies floated on river Ganges. Even the families of these 4 lakh people who died due to corona are suffering. In order to help the Corona victims, there was a complete governmental ban on use of MPLAD fund by MPs. We wholeheartedly welcome this. But what the Government has done with the funds diverted from MPLADS? The details of which are unknown. Money was collected under PMCARES, a fund in the name Hon. Prime Minister. But even no detail is divulged about how much amount was collected and how it was spent? It remains a big question mark in the minds of general

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

public. I urge upon the Union Government to give a clarification or issue a white paper in this regard. Hon. Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to provide compensation to the 4 lakh families of the persons died due to corona. It has even fixed the compensation amount as Rs 50,000 each. But the Government has not paid attention to this. At the time of disaster, if someone dies, there is a legal provision for providing a compensation of Rs. 4 lakh. Corona pandemic should also be considered as a natural disaster and every family of the deceased should be provide Rs 4 lakh compensation by the Union Government. This is my fervent appeal. Secondly there is an important demand. Many Hon MPs who spoke before me have also made a mention about that. Government had already set-up an Integrated Vaccine Manufacturing complex in Chengalpattu near Chennai with an investment of Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 Crore. Some more money should be invested in this project and should be dedicated to the people. Preventive drug or the vaccine should be manufactured through this project. This is an important demand. I, on behalf of Viduthalai Siruthaigal Party, urge upon the Union Government to consider this demand. Our Government should ensure completion of remaining works for execution of the project with adequate funds. Along with the request for fulfilling these demands, we are aware of the fact that the new variant-Omicron which is spreading fast, seems to be dangerous. The whole world is once again in the grip of fear. We should not be displaying a lacklustre approach as we did earlier. We should be alert more than before and take swift and effective decisions. I earnestly appeal that we should protect our humanity, the people of India, the working class from the effects of Omicron variant of corona virus as well. Thank you.

21.00 hrs

PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very sensitive and a very odd situation prevalent at this time. The pages of history would find that during the period of 2020-21, the whole world was fighting with a dreaded epidemic. When the crisis time comes, the responsibility of leadership becomes important and also its management becomes important. We remember the time of approximately one year in the past when we fought with a pandemic twice. It was a time of fear, time of death and everything was pervaded with darkness. Everywhere there was an atmosphere of despair. In such conditions, under the leadership of hon .Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, while fighting with the medical emergency and health challenges on one side in addition to fighting with these problems, created a sense of calmness in the heart of country and by taking along the whole nation he created an atmosphere to fight this problem. When the whole world including developed countries like America or Europe was only planning about the action to be taken, our hon'ble Prime Minister imposed the lockdown immediately. To enforce lockdown at that time was absolutely the correct step. Then, we did not have PPE kits, masks or any facility of such kind through which we could fight with such kind of epidemic. Later WHO said that the decision taken by the strong leadership in India was a serious and correct one. With it all arrangements like oxygen supply and hospital facilities could be arranged in time because quick action was taken. The people who say that the Prime Minister was not serious, I want to say that hon'ble Prime Minister cared about every area, be it availability of medicines, Oxygen generator, availability of vaccine or the matter concerning poor persons who were locked in their homes due to lockdown.

We saw that money was transferred into the account of people through DBT, 80 crore people are being provided free ration today, oxygen has been produced so much that we have produced oxygen 10 times more than the production of the last two years. Be it ICUs, be it beds in hospitals, today we have become so self-sufficient that if the pandemic comes again, we can fight with it.

Sir, as far as the question of vaccine is concerned, in this regard many people were criticizing. They should remember when everyone put a question mark on the vaccine. Now, the whole world is praising us. From the time of India's independence, it was the first time that India made a vaccine on its soil, it was covidshiled and covaxin vaccines made by our scientists. These vaccines showed not only to India but to the entire world a ray of hope. This was the reason that Mexico's President tweeted through the Lord Hanuman ji picture. It was written through it that the Indian Government is coming to help with the mountain of vaccine.

Sir, with these things, we should take into account the second wave and the extent of effort made. Be it air lifting, through air routes, be it through trains, everywhere work of transporting oxygen was done. All were seeing that Oxygen was not as less as it became due to lack of access to the common public. Due to the belief of our hon'ble Prime Minister ji, our front line warriors fought valiantly the prevailing situation. So many people lost their lives but they did not deter. We were afraid to meet with our relatives but the front line warriors were fighting this epidemic in the service of the country voluntarily. We all pay our homage to them, at the same time I want to say that the present condition in our country is quite better. It is for the first time in 18 months that the active cases have come below one lakh and the positivity rate in the past two months is at two percent.

Sir, 125 crore people have been vaccinated in our country and we could have achieved the target of this vaccination but for the controversy created by some people in the past. I want just two more extra minutes. I will conclude my talk with a few words.

Sir, keeping in view the danger posed by Omicron, ICMR has cautioned that it is not easy to evade it but very difficult because it's variant spreads very quickly. This is also a fact that WHO has termed it as [V.O.C.] i.e Variant of Concern. This virus is asymptomatic. Its symptoms are not even visible. Till date, it has spread to 14 countries. No one has been infected with it in India yet. I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Health Minister that he has been keeping a watch on it. He has stated that till now, not a single case has been detected. If even a single case is detected, then as everyone wants, the same will be sent immediately for genome sequencing. A decision has been taken in this regard. Bharat Biotech has started research on it.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI: You have given 30-40 minutes to many Members. It is not even four minutes so far; I request you to just give me two more minutes.

[Translation]

Sir, I want to say that all the governments have worked together and as far as Omicron is concerned, Hon'ble Prime Minister discussed with all the Chief Ministers; at the very moment when news regarding it emerged. He talked to the DMs of the North-Eastern states and other places where it is yet to be controlled and where 50 percent vaccination has not been achieved. Right now, the programme of 'Har Ghar Dastak' is going on, under which vaccination is being done by visiting every household. It will be better, if instead of opposing

each other sitting here; we people set out to make it successful so that the programme of 'Har Ghar Dastak' can be successful.

The government of Uttar Pradesh has implemented yet another new work. They have said it clearly that free food grains will be provided only to those who take vaccine first. Now, we have to find new ways to get people take vaccine faster. As far as oxygen and beds are concerned, Uttar Pradesh is way ahead. For you information, a total of 550 oxygen plants have been established in our U.P.

Sir, I am concluding my talk within 30 seconds. I would like to say merely that you can take it for granted that the third wave will not come if the State governments cooperated properly with the Central Government and if at all it comes, we will combat it resolutely. We need not blame each other. We will have to stand together and then only we can fight this pandemic. With this I express my gratefulness that you provided me an opportunity to speak. Thank you, sir.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): A lot of data has already been given here and the suggestions have also been given to the hon. Minister and to the Government as to what needs to be done.

At the outset, I express my gratitude to the medical fraternity, especially the doctors, the nurses, the paramedics, the ASHA workers and also the Anganwadi workers who were and are still our frontline workers. Secondly, the war has not been over. It is still continuing. Alarming situations are also arising in the world.

When you were talking about production of vaccine of 1944, that reminded me of Kasturba Gandhi who passed away in Agha Khan Palace of Pune. It took five or six years for an independent country to establish a penicillin factory to produce penicillin with the support of the then Soviet

Union. It was said, it is said and it is written that Kasturba Gandhi passed away because penicillin was not available during that time. If that had been injected into her body, she could have survived. That was the situation in 1944. What do we have now? We have two prominent organisations, institutions or firms which are producing vaccines. This question actually arose.

There are some hon. Members also present in this House who were with me in Madrid of Spain when we went there on the advice of our hon. Speaker to attend the Interparliamentary Union Assembly. I will come to that aspect a little later. But here I would like to say, coming to the production of vaccines for COVID-19 pandemic, let us salute those firms which started producing vaccines that have been recognised by WHO. WHO has helped this nation not only in providing health security but also brought in a sense of confidence amongst the citizens of this country.

As on today, 2nd December, 2021, 124.96 crore vaccine doses have been administered and it is not a small feat. At present, 96 countries have agreed to mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. Those countries recognise Indian vaccination certificates of travellers fully vaccinated with Covidshield, which is WHO approved, and with nationally approved vaccines. I would just like to mention here, what we have read in our school -- and we have written essays in our school days also -- that 'Necessity is the mother of invention'. We did not have vaccines. We got it. We did not have PPE kit. We produced it. Our medical centres were not equipped. We made it happen. We did not have oxygen plants. Now we have oxygen plants. *[Translation]* This has been told us in Madrid. *[English]* Once India decides to get things done, they get it done. *[Translation]* This has been told to us by other parliamentarians and speakers.

[English]

Once India decides to get things done, it gets things done. I believe tomorrow when the Minister will be replying to the debate, he will mention that investment was not done in January or March 2021; it was done in 2020. As far as I remember, Odisha Government also contributed to Serum Institute for production of vaccines; a number of other States have also done that. Similarly, the Government of India also had done that. I think the Minister can correct me if I am wrong.

I am not a student of science; I am a student of literature. There were serious books written about pandemics that had occurred not only in 1919 but 200 years before that also. It is written in such books that whenever pandemics strike, the Government gets full power and it becomes very powerful. But what happens in a parliamentary democracy? We question the Government's decisions. We question the Government's actions. We question the Government expenditure. At times we also demand investigation and inquiry into Government's actions. This can only happen in a parliamentary democracy. This does not happen in other forms of Government.

This is perhaps the third discussion in Parliament on COVID-19. As has been stated by my friend Shri Premachandran, we did not have a structured or elaborate discussion on this earlier. I think it is necessary that we should have this type of a discussion so that we can express our anguish, raise our questions, and the Government can respond.

The State of Odisha has worked cohesively with the Union Government on vaccine. Still, I find that vaccine is not available in our Primary Health Centre and medical units. I would like to understand from the Minister the details like the vaccines stored in different States, vaccines that have actually been given, and vaccines that have actually been administered. What I find in

my District when I go around enquiring in Primary Health Centres and medical units is that there are long queues. People have to register themselves first. Still, vaccines are falling short of the demand. Why is this happening? Are vaccines in short supply? Are vaccines not being provided to some States? I believe that is not so. That was the thing that I had in mind when I went and met the Minister in his office, and he elaborated upon it. As that question has come up in this House, I think it is better if the Minister explains to the House as to how many doses of vaccine have been provided to different States, how many of them have been administered, and how many vaccines are still stored in different States. This needs to be brought before the country.

Recently I had the benefit of leading a Parliament Delegation to attend the Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly in Madrid, Spain. Hon. Speaker had asked some of our Members also to attend. I had attended international conferences on earlier occasions also. But this time I found a difference. The difference is in the appreciation India got on two counts. First is the successful vaccination programme that has been done in our country and the COWIN portal. The portal that we have developed is being appreciated in European countries what to speak of Latin American and other countries. This is something which we should be proud of. Second is the vaccines that have been provided to foreign countries especially the developing countries, the emerging countries. They stood up on the stage and appreciated our contribution.

As you are aware, Sir, being a senior Member of this House, a number of resolutions come up during the international conferences. There was a resolution to express our solidarity for Palestinians. There was a resolution also to express our anguish relating to the migrants or the exodus that is happening from Belarus to Poland. That is a European issue which is there. There also, last minute, another resolution came up from the African countries regarding

equitable distribution of vaccines throughout the world. I think, that also came up here. Unless and until Africa is vaccinated, we are not free from this disease. That resolution came from the African group. I saw that unanimously, cutting across party lines, cutting across national boundaries, everybody got united to save humanity, human beings. That was unanimously passed in that Conference. That shows that when human beings are attacked by an unforeseen enemy, we are one. I believe, in this House, we will express our solidarity with this Government and also with the steps that the Government is taking.

While going around the constituency, as I said, I marked another issue. I was trying to find out about the casualties, the morbidity. Who are they? How many are males and how many are females? I found that in my district – Danish will agree with me – which is supposed to be one of the advanced districts of an emergent State, Cuttak...

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I know.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Yes, Sir. You also know. You have been around that district. In that district, a large number of women were falling victim to COVID-19. I asked the doctors, the paramedics, the ASHA workers and the Anganwadi workers about the reason behind it. It was said that they are being detected late; they are brought to the hospital late. That is why, recovery is late. A similar thing is also happening in vaccination. The lady of the house, the girl child of the house will stay back. First, the male children will come forward for vaccination.

Please see to it. This is a request to the Government and also to other provincial Governments that first we should vaccinate the womenfolk of our country. It is because already we have undergone two phases of COVID-19.

When vaccination is now the order of the day, let us prioritise it so that our womenfolk are protected.

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

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE) (BIRBHUM): Sir, call it CORONA or COVID or whatever name, everybody will say at least one thing that with its entire doings it has told us the meaning of our lives. It has told us what is life and it has told us that life is nothing. It was a big challenge for the government.

I have few questions for the government. One is, now that all schools and offices have opened and Omicron is spreading. What steps is the government taking beforehand? .We need a normal life, what are the steps taken to achieve that normal life and how to mitigate that? Secondly, the education system has changed. The children attended school for two years and did not attend for next two years. The intelligent children who used to get 95 percent marks are now getting 25 for online school college while those who were getting 25 for system have got 95. Ultimately, its side effects need to be paid attention. There is vaccine, there is oxygen, everything is there. But, besides that, the effect on those who got infected with Corona, and the effects it had on all mentally due to COVID, due to pandemic. Life has changed completely due to quarantine. Attention needs to be paid towards the quantum and type of its psychological effects on the society of people. Those who say that there is unemployment, the economy is in a bad state, GDP is down. That was going on since long. In fact, this COVID has helped the government to escape from all these. They can say, something happened due to COVID, and some other thing also happened due to COVID.

I am quoting a survey. 76 million means 7.5 crore people got included in B.P.L. It is very important to know what the government is doing to revive the

economy. If you say that we are providing loans, then, it also happened in case of loan that the EMIs for three months were not waived after announcing that the EMIs for three months have been waived off. Those three months EMIs were added in the last, meaning thereby they were not waived off. Presently, no one is in a condition to repay the loan which he takes. It is very necessary to spell out what is the different line of thought of the government for this.

Covaxin, Indian Council for Medical Research, Government of India, Research Institute, Bharat Biotech were to provide 20 million doses under a deal worth 320 dollars with Brazil. The rate of that comes out to be 1.34215 per dose. In this, the deal was finalized with Precisa Medicamentos Company of Brazil. Recently, there were talks of corruption in Brazil. The Indian Government is also linked to them in this since these people gave those. Why is the government mum on this? This is very necessary to tell as to why the government is not providing explanation to them.

In which manner and how many of the said boosters will be provided by the government? This is necessary to spell out as to which places shall we be able to reach to administer them and how many people shall get them in how much time.

Sir, I have two questions for Hon'ble Modi ji before I conclude. One is, our Hon'ble leader Mamata Banerjee told many times to reduce the number of phases of elections when polls were conducted in West Bengal. But, the elections were conducted in many phases. Has he ever thought about the extent of spread when the Prime Minister, Chief Minister and ministers visited there multiple times? And if he has thought about it, why has he not said 'Sorry'? Why have you not conceded that it has spread to so many people due to me? It should be accepted.

My second question is, whether it is necessary to put a photograph of Hon'ble Modi ji on the certificate? If it is not so, how many scientists and other

people who provided this vaccine to us in India do we know? I do not know how many people present here know it. We cannot accommodate photographs of many scientists in place of that photograph, but we can at least give their names. If it is done, then I feel, that won't be political and will really be a work of humanness.

SHRIMATI GEETA KORA (SINGHBHUM): Hon.Chairperson, Sir, today you have given me the opportunity to speak on a very important issue, for that I would like to thank the House. Several members before me have revealed so many things about Corona period as to what happened in the first phase of Corona and what happened in the second phase. Today when we are discussing Corona pandemic sitting in the House, third wave of Corona has knocked on the door of Karnataka, where two patients infected with Omicron have been detected. I would like to know from the Government as to what are the preparations of the Government in this regard. How the Government is going to handle the third wave? What is Government doing for the farthest rural areas? The area, which I belong to is quite backward. I come from Singhbhum area of Jharkhand, which has Asia's largest forest. Even today, Sun does not reach the ground. Such type of dense forest are there, what are you doing for such types of places? There is no employment with the people there today. People here sell 'datun' or teeth cleaning leaves for their livelihood. Where there is no phone network, how will you send the vaccine there? The Government should tell about it. Today many hon'ble Members said and I also agree that health is a State subject. But we have seen that the Central Government has done step motherly treatment with some States.

Our State Government has written to the Centre many times that our vaccine has finished. We should be given more test centers but the Central Government did delay it. Due to it, many people lost their lives untimely. Whose responsibility is this?

Sir, I would not like to talk much about the data, I would like to mention here one thing. There are some data from year 2014 to year 2020-21. These are not my data but issued by NCRB. It has been mentioned therein that many people have died unnaturally. This figure is alarming. According to the data, 9,72,975 people have lost their lives. The Government should have some mechanism, that could stop these deaths. Is the Government going to develop any system?

Sir, today there are many States, where health is a very big challenge. Because, there are negligible number of hospitals. What does the Government propose to do for these States? I would like to know about this? I would like to tell the Government that during the corona time, 183 children have been orphaned in Jharkhand. In my Parliamentary Constituency, 26 children of 17 families have been orphaned. This is fully on record.

Sir, as I have said that Saranda is a ravine area, where even today the people are not able to take advantage of Government's schemes, many records have not been received from there. What does the Government propose to do for these orphaned children? What is the Government's plan about education? Now is the time to change the education policy. I, myself is a mother of three. My children are doing online studies now a days. We all parents know that how children are studying online. We all know that what is the situation of education of those children. I would like to know from the Government if it wants to change the education policy. You should change the education policy so that we can improve the future of children. Today, we have gone backwards many years. We definitely say that we have become Digital India, children are studying through digital medium, but it is having a serious impact on them. I would like to request the Government to change the education policy.

With it, I would like to say one more thing. In this Corona period many families have been ruined. A lot of families have finished. In these situations many people have suffered mentally and physically. What are you planning for the health of these people, who have suffered mentally. I want to add one more thing here. We all have seen that we have developed a number of infrastructures during Corona period. We have constructed many hospitals, care units, Oxygen plants but the biggest problem is that from where we will bring doctors. Today, in our country, we have the highest shortfalls of doctors. In such a situation, I would say to hon'ble Minister Sir that medical colleges should be increased to the maximum so that even poor children can also take admission therein.

Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak given to me. I hope that hon'ble Minister Sir will give reply to all the questions.

Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV (HINDUPUR): Hon.

Chairperson, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the discussion under Rule 193 on COVID-19 pandemic.

The invasion of Coronavirus was so dangerous, sharp and powerful that made even those countries, which had the richest economies, the finest healthcare systems, advanced technologies, kneel down before the Coronavirus. Their hydrogen bombs, atom bombs and missiles were no match to the impact of the Coronavirus. Even the rich and mighty countries like the USA, Russia and China were so helpless that they just became mute spectators and witnessed their people falling like birds. It was thousand times more effective than explosion of atomic bombs. This kind of an invasion had been seen only in the fiction world.

I myself, in the capacity of a Member of Parliament, witnessed the lives of people being played out in a tug of war between the doctors on the one side and Lord Yama on the other side. Earlier the solution was seen as lockdown but lockdowns are not affordable to a country like that of ours. The only way out is to boost the immunity of people.

The Government needs to pay more serious attention and prepare the people to follow proper diet and exercise. So far, we have asked people to follow defence mechanisms only but now we need to fill courage in the minds of the people. I have seen a number of families who lost their fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters and witnessed heart wrenching scenes. In Kadiri town, in a family, a father and his three sons died due to COVID-19 pandemic. Imagine the situation there! There is no bread earner and no male is left out in that family. Likewise, many lives and livelihoods have been lost. COVID-19 pandemic was more devastating than the two World Wars.

In this regard, our honourable Chief Minister Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken a lot of initiatives to provide relief to the needy people who have suffered tremendously in the State.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been in the forefront in implementing all the recommendations of the Government of India. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been implementing vaccination programme in the true spirit of national guidelines. The medical fraternity in this country rose to the occasion and made many sacrifices.

I hope the Central Government will support all the States in every possible way.

Last but not the least, the life style and attitude of the people towards the *pancha bhoothas* has changed tremendously during these 5000 years of

civilisation. The *pancha bhoothas* which are essential to the very existence of human kind are being disturbed and tested to their minimum level of patience in the name of development. They are paying for it now. It is high time that we need to introspect our misuse of *pancha bhoothas* and revive the ancient Indian method of dealing with the nature. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Respected Chairperson Sir, while fighting the battle with Corona the doctors, nurses, Asha Workers, frontline workers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, whosoever was involved in it, whose family members had to suffer in this tragedy, I express my grief for them.

During the Corona period, our hon'ble Prime Minister asked to clap and to beat thalies. The people know that Corona will not go by doing all these, still the whole country was standing with the hon'ble Prime Minister. Our hon'ble Chief Minister Uddhav ji also clapped and beat thali because he wanted to show that like the rest of the country he was with Hon. Prime Minister.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, till date according to the Government data, 4,69,724 people have died in Corona period. Lakhs of people died and lakhs of people suffered. Such was the situation in the country that there was no place to cremate or bury the dead bodies. In my constituency, it took 10-12 hours of wait to cremate a dead body. The country has passed through that phase. Today, the discussion was held under Rule 193. I would like to thank our Party's Hon'ble Member Vinayak Raut ji. We have discussed what has happened in the last two years, the condition through which the country has passed. But during Corona period, some people took advantage of the miserable condition of the others, action must be taken against those in future.

Sir, first wave came. The Central Government and State Governments did a lot of work. In second wave many people died. Hon'ble Minister Sir, several hospitals come under State Governments, several private hospitals have collected maximum money from the patients. In Maharashtra, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar called a meeting and audited all private hospitals. In my district Pune,

there were more than 20 crores, which were returned to the patients. There are a number of hospitals which took advantage by charging more from the patients.

I have complained to Hon'ble Health Minister also. There are hospitals in my area, against whom action should be taken. Definitely hospitals should be banned as Medical Council comes under Central Government. During the pandemic, people suffered and this suffering was increased by hospitals. Central Government put into operation ED against many people, Central Government has lost two years' record, it has income tax record as well. It may please be checked as to how the hospitals have repaid their loans in just two years. How the hospitals were constructed. The actions should be taken against such people after collecting full information. Action should be taken against those hospitals also who troubled people in this difficult time.

During this period, Maharashtra Government have done the best work. Maharashtra's Hon'ble Chief Minister Uddhav Thackrey ji and Health Minister Rajesh Tope ji asked for the assistance from Central Government, Central Government provided assistance. I would like to repeat it, but Maharashtra was the most affected State in the country. It was the Hon'ble Chief Minister who provided relief to the people of Maharashtra.

Secondly, I would like to say that 50 percent ventilators of those provided out of PM CARES fund are not working even today. Action should be taken against the institutions or private contractors who provided ventilators. You can seek information even today. In Maharashtra, 50 percent of the ventilators are not working even on date. There is a need to take action against such people taking undue advantage.

The first wave of Corona came, and then came the second wave but now we are getting information about onset of third wave. The central Government should keep a close watch on this. Whatever happened in first and second wave,

should not happen in third wave. The Central Government should pay full attention towards this.

Sir, numerous members participated in this discussion. I appreciate Hon. Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji and Hon'ble Mandaviya ji for the work done during Corona period. Thank you.

***SHRI SANJAY SETH (RANCHI):** When the economy of the entire world was faltering due to the global pandemic Corona, when the countries of the world were in deep trouble, when there was news coming of looting of shopping malls from several countries, everything was taken good care of in India in a nice manner. Compared to the type of panic created, our country recovered well under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. We took care of our citizens.

When the question of extending financial help to the citizens arose, the entire administration of USA surrendered saying they will not be able to deliver the financial aid to the people in such a short time. But it was made possible in India. Rs. 500 was sent to the Jan-Dhan accounts every month. It was farsightedness of Hon'ble Prime Minister that he got the Jan Dhan accounts opened and the aid reached to the people through it.

Not only that, today we are celebrating the completion of administering 125 crore vaccinations against Corona. That was possible because our Hon'ble Prime Minister is visionary. India has a strong leadership. And the citizens of the country stand equally firmly with the leadership. They are with the Government in all circumstances. This is the reason we are moving quickly towards vaccination and have been successful to a large extent.

This has been a great management of our Government that we are providing free food grains to 80 crore people till date. We did not let even a single person starve and die.

The leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, his guidance has come to the rescue of us all. Our citizens demonstrated equal level of alacrity as that shown by the Government. Our health workers, doctors, personnel of armed forces, sanitation workers, thereby every citizen of this country has played the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

role of a warrior in combating Corona and I express my gratefulness to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for this.

Several works of public service were undertaken through me in Ranchi Lok Sabha Constituency also, during the first and second wave of Corona under the guidelines and guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister. 'Namo Bhojanam' was delivered to the homes of citizens infected with Corona thereunder. Medicines were delivered to them; oxygen cylinders were delivered to them. I have brought all these details along.

We delivered the 'Namo Aahaar' packets containing essential items like rice, pulses, potato, onion, salt to thousands of families during the first lockdown. Distribution of sanitary napkins was done for our sisters. I distributed essential items like Oxymeters, Thermal Scanners in Government Hospitals and other Swaasthya Doots.

We also encouraged the health workers so as to ensure awareness and increased activeness amongst people towards vaccination. We conducted public awareness campaign and the result of which is that we could reach this stage of vaccination.

I am laying the detailed description of services on the table of the House rendered through me during Corona period in Ranchi.

The services rendered during Corona period in 2020 include distribution of more than one lakh 20 thousand packets of Modi Aahar, distribution of 60 thousand packets of sanitary napkins, making available Modi Aahar and other essential goods to more than one thousand local artists, making available essential medicines and other medical facilities to more than 2000 families, providing free food to 5000 people of the parliamentary constituency daily during lockdown in 2020 and distribution of more than five lakh 'Namo Suraksha Kit' at village and town level. Online medical consultation facility was made available to more than 15 thousand senior citizens. Food and other

essentials were made available to more than 2000 people crossing the highways. Relief material and food was made available to more than 500 labourers, students and families belonging to other States and districts living in Ranchi during lockdown.

Works were done in Ranchi during Corona period of 2021. During the second wave of Corona, 22 Thousand Namu Bhojanam was made available to families who were under Home Isolation after Corona Infection. Forty four thousand Namu Aahar packets (Rice, Pulses, Potato, Onion, Salt, and Oil) were distributed during second wave. Approximately, nine thousand packets of Organic Turmeric and other Immunity Booster Ayurvedic Products were distributed. 8750 packets of Namu Aushadhi were distributed. 200 Oxymeters and 300 Vaporisers were distributed. Sixty thousand Packets of masks, sanitisers and soaps were distributed. Three Helpline numbers were made operational for the convenience of citizens which remained functional round the clock. Four new ambulances of Force Company were arranged. A large number of citizens were helped in getting admission to the hospital. Oxygen cylinders were delivered to the homes of citizens.

[English]

***SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA (AMALAPURAM):** After the devastating second wave, it is good to be back among fellow Parliamentarians. It is an opportunity for all of us to collectively grieve the tragedies of the past few months and take stock of the response to the pandemic in our respective constituencies. I hope to share and learn about what we have done till now and how we must be prepared for the future. I would like to share with you all today what has been Andhra Pradesh's experience and learning under the able management of CM, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

I think it is a testament to the sound management of our state government that Andhra Pradesh among the Southern states, has the lowest caseload till date. Apart from the treatment in public hospitals being completely free, all COVID empanelled hospitals will also provide free treatment under the Dr. YSR Aarogyasri Scheme. In 2020 itself our State Government after due consideration of a technical committee had created a fixed rate card detailing the cost of treatment for critical and non-critical COVID care in private hospitals to avoid any profiteering and misuse. To manage the most severe eventuality of sepsis with ventilator was also capped at Rs. 10,380 per day. In the same spirit, non-Aarogyasri hospitals were also mandated to display the per day rates at the reception of the hospitals.

Apart from that, moved by the plight of the elderly and differently-abled people who were waiting in long queues, our CM Mr. Jagan Reddy also launched door to door delivery of ration using GPS fitted vehicles to seal and deliver good quality rice, dal and sugar in reusable bags. Ration is being delivered to more than 1 lakh cardholders a day as a door-to-door service. This

*Speech was laid on the Table.

has prevented crowding at Fair Price Shops (FPS) during the second wave. Through the delivery mechanism we have also empowered youth that were previously unemployed – the State has helped to provide vehicles at 60 per cent subsidised price and a salary of Rs. 16000 per month to those operating the vehicles. We, like other States, have met with a lot of roadblocks in implementing a scheme with a simple but impactful mandate that helps the nutrition and health outcomes of the poorest in these pandemic times. I am thankful to our CM who showed foresight by announcing the scheme in January and who by February – within one month – complied with all the legal issues as raised by the State Election Commission. Our government has put day and night together to ensure implementation of the scheme and the scheme has run successfully during the second wave when people needed it the most and has been a lifeline for many in the State.

Keeping in mind the concerns of our medical fraternity who has made immeasurable sacrifices for the State this past year we have recently decided to increase the stipend for senior resident doctors from Rs. 45,000/- to Rs. 70,000/- . I would additionally like to add about the success in vaccination that Andhra Pradesh has seen. As of June 2021, more than one crore people have been administered at least their first dose in our State. This is nearly 20 per cent of the 5.34 crore population of the State and persistent efforts are now being made to meet more ambitious targets of 10 lakhs daily doses. Our Government also ensured that irrespective of age, thousands of student that go abroad for their higher education and NRIs with travel plans from Andhra Pradesh every year are not affected as many universities in the US have now made vaccination of students with World Health Organisation approved manufacturers mandatory.

I do not wish to stand here today and only congratulate about what obviously went right with the management of the second wave and what we

have managed with compassion and sensitivity. It is being said that the third wave is not a matter of if, but rather when. The Andhra Pradesh Paediatric Covid-19 Task Force Committee has projected that it might affect 18 lakh people in the State and around 4.5 lakh – almost a quarter of all cases could be children. This Task Force has advised us that the worst case scenario involves treating 45,000 children in hospitals over a period of five to six months, of which 9000 may require intensive paediatric care.

Heeding to this advice, hon. Chief Minister has taken three concrete steps that will ensure that the third wave can be navigated smoothly. Firstly, the second wave has not even completely settled but our CM has already convened a meeting with officials on preparedness of the State and conveyed specific instructions on facing the possible third wave. Secondly, the CM has ordered the health machinery to prepare a district-wise list of nearly 35 lakh mothers with children below the age of five years and administer the vaccine to them at the earliest to avoid the mothers getting infected if their children fall sick as it is hard for younger children to self-isolate. I see Andhra's mom-kid policy being replicated by other like-minded vigilant States which will help prevent cascading infections and shows the attentiveness with which our government is preparing for the future. Last but not the least, the State Government has directed officials to prepare an action plan for making available three state-of-the-art paediatric care centres at a cost of Rs. 180 crore each in Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Vijayawada-Guntur region.

I hope that the Central Government will take all measures to ensure that the administrative machinery of the Central Government will function without any hindrances and in effective coordination and support to the States.

With this, I conclude.

Thank you.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Thank you, Hon'ble Chairman sir. First of all, on behalf of this House, I pay my tributes to all those people who lost their lives during Corona period including many of our colleagues, colleagues of this House, Central Ministers, our Members of Parliament, Members of Parliament of the other House, MLAs and sitting Ministers of my constituency, several such Ministers, MLAs of Uttar Pradesh, various Public Representatives of the country, and particularly the frontline workers who provided services during Corona period by laying down their lives.

I also thank the present Hon. Health Minister who was Shipping Minister earlier that he played role in Oxygen supply while being Shipping Minister. I appreciate him for that. Everyone knows the conditions that prevailed during Corona. I myself visited Corona ward. When I was going to the COVID ward, the District Administration people questioned my move. I told them that I was going there to boost up their morale.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the entire country witnessed the way we remained careless. We put the lives of people in peril for petty political gain. The entire country witnessed that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of this country conducted rallies when polls were conducted in Bengal. Panchayat Elections were held in Uttar Pradesh. The Panchayat Elections were held when the second wave was at peak. Hundreds of teachers were pressed into duties. Their families lost them forever. The Uttar Pradesh Government has recognised recently that compensation will be provided to those who died during duty. But only those, who were on duty and who were on duty of 08 hours or 12 hours. But those who contracted COVID there and died in homes after two days or in some hospital after a day; are not being paid the compensation.

Chairperson Sir, I would like to submit that what could have been avoided has not been avoided. There was a cremation ground in Lucknow,

where pyres were being burnt. When the media showed it, the boundary wall was erected by putting a sheet there the next day. A tin shed was put up there so that the media could not see it. I do not want to use the words in a manner in which the dead bodies were being desecrated on the banks of the Ganges, animals, dogs were tearing out those dead bodies. No one can imagine such a horrifying scene. Still, we are thumping our chests that we have achieved the victory. We have succeeded over Corona.

Chairperson Sir, through you, I want to say that the children who are the future of this country and the poor have suffered most. There is a digital divide in this country. Online classes are being held in this corona period. We know how many places in the villages and countryside have internet connection. How many families have a laptop, i Pad or mobile phone? There is no one to care for those poor people. Even if any State Government has said that as long as there is Covid, the school should not take the fees, but the school union and the school associations approached the court and the court allowed the school to charge the fees as well as the development charges also. But, who will approach the court and fight for the poor, the Dalit and the backward people of this country? Government lawyers did not represent them.

Chairperson Sir, I will conclude in just two minutes....(Interruptions) The issue of PM Cares Fund has been discussed here. I also gave my one month salary in PM Cares Fund on the very first day. CSR funds have gone to the said Fund. Whether there should be any accountability of it or not? Let the Government decide in this regard. Now, claims are made here that the infrastructure has increased so much.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI : Sir, I want to show you the letter. On October 11, 2021, the CMS of Amroha's District Hospital wrote a letter to the Uttar Pradesh Government that even insulin is not available there in the hospital since a year. There is a complete list of medicines, three letters have been written, on October 12, 2020, February 5, 2021 and October 11, 2021 respectively. There are no medicines in the district hospital. I will conclude my speech in just a minute... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Sir, through you I will only ask the honorable minister that ventilators were provided, oxygen plants have been installed, but there is a need for skilled technician staff to run machines, there is an acute shortage of doctors in the hospitals. I would like to say one more thing, because I hail from Western Uttar Pradesh. Western Uttar Pradesh is adjacent to Delhi.

Let me tell you that there are big private hospitals in South East Delhi. There are many hospitals like Apollo, Escorts, Fortis but there is no government hospital there. I would request you that there is an old pending demand for a medical college for Jamia Millia Islamia, keeping in view population of Western UP, Noida and Delhi, you should give assurance to sanction a medical college to Jamia Millia Islamia. I have also written a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. I urge upon that a medical college should be sanctioned for Jamia Millia Islamia. I Would like to know as to when will the booster dose will be given and when will the vaccination of children start?

[Translation]

کنوردانشعلی (امروہہ): محترم چیئر مین صاحب، مینسب سے پہلے انلوگون کو جنہونے
کورونا کا المینا پنیجائینگوائیں، ایسے ہمارے کئی ساتھی، اسایوانکے ساتھی، مرکز یو

زیر، ہمارے ممبر آف پار لیمنٹ، دوسرے ایوان کے ممبر آف پار لیمنٹ، میرے پار لیمنٹ کے لہجے ایم۔ ایل۔ اے۔ اور سینٹ گمنسٹر، ایسے کنیٹری پر دیش کے منتری، ودہا یکمل کے مختلف و امین مائندے، خاص طور سے فرنٹلائنور کرز، جنہونے اپنی جانگو اکر کور و نا کالمینا پنی خدمات دیں، مینانسب کو اسایوان کی طر ف سے خر ا جعقید تپیش کر تا ہوں۔

آج کے محترم وزیر صحت، جو پہلے شپنگمنسٹر تھے، مینانکا بھیشکر یہاں آدا کرتا ہونکہ ہونے شپنگمنسٹر رہتے ہوئے آکسیجن کی سپلائی مینا یکا ہمر و لادا کیا، اس کے لئے مینانکا کو ایپری شیٹ کر تا ہوں۔ سب جانتے ہینکہ کور و نامینکسٹر حکام حوال تھا، کیسے حالات تھے، مینخود کو و ڈوار ڈمینگیاتھا مینجب کو و ڈوار ڈمینجار ہاتھا تو میرے ضلع انتظامیہ کے لوگ مجھ سے کہہ رہے تھے کہ ہارے آپ کیا کر رہے ہیں۔ ہمنے ان سے کہاکہ ہمانکا حوالہ بڑھانے جارہے ہیں۔

چیرمین صاحب، پورے ملکنے دیکھا کہ کس طر ح سے ہملو گونے لاپرواہی برتی۔ چھوٹے سے سیاسی فائدے کے لئے لوگوں کی جان کو جو کھم مینڈالا پورے ملکنے دیکھا کہ جببنگال مینچناؤ ہو رہے تھے تو اسملکے وزیر اعظم صاحب جاکر ریلیاں کر رہے تھے۔ اتر پردیش کے اندر پنچایت چناؤ کرایا گیا۔ سیکنڈویو کی پیکی مین پنچایت چناؤ ہوا۔ سی کڑو ٹیچرز کی ڈیو ٹیلنگائی گئی انکے گھر و الو ننے انہینکھو دیا۔ ابھی اتر پردیش سرکار نے ریکو گنائز کیا ہے کہ جو ڈیو ٹی مینمرے ہیں، جنکی جانگئی ہے، انکو کمپنسیشن دیا جائے گا۔ لیکن جو صرف انڈیو ٹی تھے، اور جو 8 گھنٹے یا 12 گھنٹے کی ڈیو ٹی پر تھے۔ لیکن جو ہانسے کو وڈلی کر گئے اور دو دن بعد گھر مینجنکیمو تہو نییا ایک دن بعد کسی اسپتال مینموت ہوئی تو انکو کمپنسیشن نہ ہیندیا جا رہا ہے۔

محترم چیرمین صاحب، مینا آپ سے یہیکہ ناچاہتا ہونکہ جس چیز کو او انڈکیا جاسکتا تھا، اسکو او انڈہینکیا گیا۔ لکھنو کے اندر ایک کریمیشن گر او نڈتھا، وہاں پر لاشین پھون

کیجا رہتھیں۔ میڈیانے دکھایا تو پتہ چلا کہ وہاں پر اگلے دن شیٹلنگا کر باؤنڈریو الیکھڑیکر دیگئی۔ وہاں ٹینکیشن ڈیٹا گائیڈنگی تاکہ میڈیانہ دیکھ سکے۔ گنگا کے کنارے کس طریقے سے لاشوں کیے ادبہور بیتھی۔ مینو بالفاظ سے تعمانہ بنکر ناچاہتا، جانور، کتے لاشوں کے ونوچرے تھے۔ ایسا بھیانک سینکونیتصور بھی نہ بنکر سکتا پھر بھیہما پنا سینہ ٹھوک رہے ہینکہ ہمنے فتح حاصل کر لی ہے۔ ہمنے کوروناپر جیت حاصل کر لی ہے۔

چیر مین صاحب، مینا آپ کے ذریعہ سے کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہاسمینسب سے زیادہ اگر کس یکنونقصانہو ابے تو اسملک کا جو مستقبل ہے، جو بچے ہیناور جو غریب ہینا نکاہو ابے۔ اسملک مینڈی جینڈیو انڈہو ابے۔ اسکوروناکا المینا تانکلا سزہور بیہیں۔ آپ جانتے ہیں، ہ مجانتے ہینکہ گاؤں، دیہات مینکتیجگہا نٹرنیٹکنیکشن کام کرتا ہے۔ کتے لوگوں کے پ اسلیپٹاپ، آئی پیڈ، یامو بائل فونہے؟ انگریبونکو کوئی پیرسانہ نہ ہینے۔ اگر کسیریا سٹی سرکار نے کہہ بھی دیا کہ جب تک کووڈ ہے، تب تک اسکو لوکو فیس نہ ہینلینہے تو اسکو لکیونہ یناور اسکو لکیا سو سییشننا کٹھا ہو کر کورٹسے آرڈر لے آئی کہ صاحب فیس تو فیس آپ کو ڈیولپمینٹ چارجز بھی دینے ہونگے۔ لیکن اسملک کا غریب، اسملک کا دل، اسملک کا چھڑا، اسکی پیرویکورٹ مینجا کر کونکرے گا؟ سرکار کے وکیلوننے انکی پیروینہ ہینکی۔

محترم چیر مین صاحب، مینصر فوونٹ مینا پنا پنا مینا مکمل کر دوں گا۔ (مداخلت)۔ ہ ہا پنا پی۔ ایم۔ کیئر فنڈ کی بات ہونئی۔ مینبھی پی۔ ایم۔ کیئر فنڈ مینا پنا پنا مینا کیسیلر پہلے ہیندے دیتھی۔ اسمینسی۔ ایس۔ آر۔ فنڈ چلا گیا۔ اسکیا کاؤنٹی بلینٹیہونیا چاہیے یا نہ ہینہونیا چاہیے مجھے اسکے بارے مینکچھنہ ہینپتہ ہے، وہ سرکار جانیں۔ ابھیہا پنا پنا پنا پنا چارہا ہے کہ ہانفر اسٹرکچر اتنا بڑھ گیا ہے۔

چیر مین صاحب، مینا آپ کو ایک لیٹر دکھانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اتر پردیش سانسکو امر وہیکرے ڈسٹرکٹ اسپتال کے سی۔ ایم۔ ایس۔ نے 11 اکتوبر، 2021 کو ایک لیٹر لکھا تھا کہ ہاسپتال کے

ۛ اندر ایک سال سے انسولین تکموجو دنہیں ہے۔ دو ائیونکیپوریل سٹہے، تینلیٹر لکھے گئے ہیں، 12 اکتوبر، 2020، 5 فروری، 2021 اور 11 اکتوبر، 2021 کو لیٹر سلکھے گئے ہیں۔ ضلع اسپتال میں دو ایانتکنہیں ہیں۔ مینبسا ایکمنٹمینا پنیبا تخرمکر دو نگا۔

محر مچیر مینصاحب، مینآپکے ذریعہ سے ماتنئے منتر یجی سے اتناہیکہونگا کہوینٹیلیٹر ساگئے، آکسیجن پلانٹس لگائے، لیکناسکو چلانے کے لئے اسکڈٹیکنیشیناسٹاف کیبے حد ضرورت ہے، اسپتالونکے اندر ڈاکٹرز کیبہت ضرورت ہے۔ مینایکاور با تکہنا چاہونگا، کیونکہ میرا تعلق مغربیا تر پردیش سے ہے، مغربیا تر پردیش اور دہلی ملاجے لایے۔ مینآپکو بتاؤنکہ ساؤتھ ایسٹڈہلی میں بڑے بڑے پرائیویٹ اسپتالہیں۔ اپولو، ایسکرٹس، فورٹس اور دنیا بھر کے اسپتالہیں، لیکن وہاں پر کوئی سرکار یا اسپتال نہیں ہے۔ مینآپ سے یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ ہویسٹرنیو پی۔، نوئیڈا اور دہلی کے اس علاقے اور اسکی آبادیکے ودھیان میں رکھتے ہوئے، جامعہ ملیہ اسلامیہ کے لئے ایک میڈیکل کالج کیبہتیرا نیڈیمانڈ ہے، آپہاں پر جامعہ ملیہ اسلامیہ کو ایک میڈیکل کالج دینے کا وعدہ کیجئے۔ مینے اس کے لئے محترموزیر اعظم صاحب کو بھی خط لکھا ہے۔ مینبہمانگرتا ہونکہ جامعہ ملیہ اسلامیہ کو ایک میڈیکل کالج دیا جائے۔ آپہ بھی بتائیے کہ ہوسٹر ڈوز کب ملے گی اور بچونکی ویکسین کب اسٹارٹ ہوگی؟

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the COVID-19 pandemic and its various aspects.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left its mark in the 21st century in such a way that it will always be remembered in history while dealing with this pandemic, our honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has taken India to the highest position in the whole world. As a result of the courage shown by our doctors, nursing staff and all the people associated with the medical field, the country has fought COVID-19 with great strength.

Sir, India has helped the country as well as the world by following its centuries-old tradition 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'. United Nations Assembly with 193 countries is the largest assembly in the world, India has sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution, so as to ensure access to medicine and vaccine all over the world.

Sir, on August 11, 2020, Russia made the first vaccine in the whole world, named SARS-CoV-2, which protects against Acute Coronary Syndrome. After that the Sputnik V was developed for protecting from Covid-19. India also did not lag behind in this. Two indigenous vaccines were also invented by our scientists. Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced the vaccination in the country on January 16, 2021, as a result of which about 124.96 crore vaccines have been administered in the country. Today the recovery rate is 98.35 percent, while the active cases are less than one percent.

Sir, the Government of India has provided every facility in the country. Health care facilities have increased. Essential services are available everywhere. Oxygen plants have set up in remote areas also. I would like to inform this House that at the time when First Lockdown was imposed on 23rd of March, 2020, 10,100 isolation wards and 2,118 ICU beds were available. But

as on August 3, 2021, there are 18,03,266 isolation beds and 1,24,598 ICU beds. 2,808 laboratories have reported ICMR that 46.96 crore samples have been taken in the country.

Rupees One Thousand was deposited into to the accounts of 21 lakh people who were living outside Bihar and 5300 rupees per person was spent for quarantine period and our honorable Chief Minister himself monitored it. Our honorable Chief Minister has announced a grant of Rs 4 lakh per person in cases of death due to Corona and the Government of India has given an amount of Rs 50 thousand, which amounted Rs 4.5 lakh. Bihar government is also giving it in the form of assistance.

About 7 crore people have been vaccinated so far under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar. Average 2.5 lakhs persons are being vaccinated every day. So far 125 crore doses of the vaccine have been inoculated in India.

Sir, the new variant Omicron has once again raised concerns across the globe. WHO reported that the cases reported in the epidemiological report in South Africa on 24 November 2021 were predominantly delta variant. Experts say that even though the variant limits the efficacy of the vaccine, it cannot possibly bypass the protection provided by the vaccines.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Suman Ji, please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: Sir, as a doctor, I can confidently say after examining all the documents that I have come across that there is no need to panic from the Omicron variant, but there is a need to be alert from it. With this I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

[English]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA (BANGALORE SOUTH): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. The country has successfully come out of once in a century pandemic. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts and strengthened resilience displayed by the most common Indian. The victory of the country against this COVID virus is a testimony to the fact that the common Indian has the ability to rise up to the gravest of challenges and prove that when the most difficult of questions are posed before him, he stands up and responds in the most extraordinary manner. Like the hon. Prime Minister says, the victory is a result of *Sabka Prayas*. From Hon. Prime minister to a Asha worker in the village, this victory and this success goes to the common Indian who came together unitedly to fight this battle. The entire country came as one. However, all of us are aware that during the most difficult of times, when the entire nation came together, the Opposition displayed to the country and to the world that they are morally bankrupt, vicious and that they place the interest of their petty politics over the interest of the country. I do not want to go into the details that have been already repeated by earlier Members. But, Sir, I just want to bring to the attention of this nation through the medium of this august House the viciousness, the pettiness, the absolute moral bankruptcy that this country's Opposition displayed. Our hon. Member from the Congress Party earlier was mentioning that Rahul ji was warning the country through his tweets that there will be an economic tsunami; that there will be millions of deaths; and that this is a virulent violence. I say this with extreme frustration that Rahul Gandhi does not sound like a responsible leader of the Opposition.... (*Interruptions*) He sounds more like a ... * (*Interruptions*) It is a matter of utter shameful that

* Not recorded.

this county's Opposition behaves in a most petty manner at a time when the country was facing the grave national crisis. Sir, let us take the example of vaccination. *[Translation]* Members of opposition parties have said so many things. *[English]* From the day, the vaccine issue was started in this country, the debate started. Every single leader of the Opposition party, the important leaders of the Congress Party, did their best to create vaccine hesitancy in the country. *[Translation]* Akhilesh Ji and Danish ji, who hail from Uttar Pradesh. They said that it is a BJP vaccine.

22.00 hrs

I do not want to go into the details of the tweets of the educated Members like Shashi Tharoor Ji, Chidambaram Ji and the kind of vaccine-hesitancy their tweets created. What did elected Members do? ... *(Interruptions)* The elected Health Minister in Chhattisgarh created vaccine-hesitancy in Chhattisgarh. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please avoid the controversy.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : When you have made the accusation, have the compunction to sit and get a reply. ... *(Interruptions)* So much politics have happened on vaccine.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please address the Chair. Kindly avoid the controversy.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Danish Ali Ji, please address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: We are the only developing country in the world which has not one but two made in India vaccines, and it is a testimony to the strength of India's scientific community.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly avoid the controversy.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, when the accusation is political, the answer has to be political.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, this is a discussion on the COVID-19 pandemic. You have to stick to the pandemic.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Danish Ji, you should sit and listen. I have listened your complete speech. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have a limited time.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: Sir, I will try to be as brief as possible but these are answers that the youth of India must know.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Tejasvi Ji, you have only five minutes' time. So, you have to conclude within five minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA : Chairperson Sir, I request you that the time should be extended.

[English]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, they created vaccine-hesitancy against India-made vaccines. Discussion is going on about how countries in Africa are passing resolutions today demanding equitable distribution of vaccines. Can you imagine a situation if our scientific community supported by our Prime Minister had not come up with two indigenous, made in India vaccines?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wait a minute.

Hon. Members, I have a long list of Members to speak. If the House agrees to extend the time of the House, maybe, we can extend the time by another one hour, that means, up to 11.03 pm.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I do not know what the Congress Party has against made in India vaccines. I understand that they are very averse to having made in India leaders in their party but their hatred towards made in India vaccine costed the nation very dear.

Sir, even today questions are being raised about the rate of vaccination in India. I want to present before you and before this House of how politics has affected performance in vaccine distribution in the country between the BJP-ruled States and the Congress-ruled States. There is 100 per cent first dose vaccination, and 91 per cent second dose vaccination in Himachal Pradesh. In Goa, there is 100 per cent first dose vaccination, and 90 per cent second dose vaccination. In Gujarat, there is 94 per cent first dose vaccination, and 70 per cent second dose vaccination. Seven BJP-ruled States have achieved more than

90 per cent first dose vaccination, and eight of the BJP-ruled States have got 50 per cent more vaccination. ... (*Interruptions*) Danish Ji, listen to this.

Sir, this is an interesting statistics. Not one single Congress-ruled State has achieved 90 per cent above first dose vaccination even today. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You address the Chair. Please conclude. Your time is over. You address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, not one Opposition Party State has achieved this. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, Bidhuri Ji, please sit down. Danish Ali Ji, please sit down. Let him complete.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You sit down.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: Please do not count this interruption in my time. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Danish Ali Ji, please sit down.

Now, you please conclude.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, I want to repeat this. This should go on record that as on today there is not one Opposition ruled State which has completed 100 per cent first dose vaccination, and they blame the Narendra Modi Government for not vaccinating the country at the fastest pace. I want to congratulate Mansukh Mandaviya ji, the hon. Health Minister. The country has

completed 125 crore doses of vaccination as we speak today. Congratulations to him, congratulations to all the frontline workers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude. You have made your points.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: Sir, at the same time, the Opposition was deliberately, and dare I say mischievously, opposing everything for the sake of opposing.

*[Translation]*We have imposed lockdown. *[English]*Shri Rahul Gandhi went to the Press and said, “Lockdown is not the solution”. When the second lockdown was imposed, he said, “Lockdown should have been done earlier.”

[Translation]

They opposed PMCARES, Lockdown, Made in India Vaccines, Central Vista and ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’.

Sir, a point was being raised about CoWIN App. I hail from Bangalore.

[English]

Young engineers from my city and from around the country contributed to building these technological digital solutions and today CoWIN App was made an open source, and more than 146 countries drew inspiration and tried to replicate CoWIN App. This is matter where Indians should be proud of our scientific and technological capabilities. But the Opposition did not enjoy and take part in India’s success.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, I will just conclude in two-three minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please come to the final point.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: I will, Sir. *[Translation]* So many things have been said. *[English]* At the peak of India's fight against COVID-19, Shri Rahul Gandhi did a Press conference. You know what he spoke. These are the words, "Modi's image is dead, it is gone." You know what hurts me most, Sir. Not that he spoke against our Prime Minister. In a democracy, he can. But while India and Indians fought against the virus alongside our Prime Minister, Shri Rahul Gandhi chose not to fight the virus but he chose to fight Shri Narendra Modi. This shows the pettiness of Congress politics.

Sir, today I want to ask and the nation wants to know, if Rahul Gandhi is vaccinated. If yes, which vaccine has he taken? Why has he till now not tweeted about vaccines? Is he not proud of the fact that India has two made-in-India vaccinations? Why has he not done it? The nation wants to know this.
...(Interruptions)

Sir, a discussion went about oxygen. I just want to spend 10 seconds on the issue of oxygen. One of the most senior and respected doctors of this country, Dr. Devi Shetty, used these very words. He said, "the Narendra Modi Government moved heaven and earth to provide oxygen in India." Sir, our daily demand was 900 metric tons. In a matter of 10 days, it increased to 9000 metric tons. No country in the world has such a steep challenge. My Prime Minister, my Government ensured that this was met in an effective manner.
...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. Hon. Member, Shri Jugal Kishor ji.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, I will conclude my speech within one minute.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your party Member will lose his time.

....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, so many lecturers were given – *[English]* this is how it should be done; that is how it should be done. I just want to ask one thing from the Congress Party. In the last one year, we did not have N-95 masks, we produced it and exported it. We had no ventilators, we produced it, exported it. We vaccinated 125 crore people in the last one year. We ensured that despite economic downturn 33 unicorns came up in the country. We ensured that in the last one year there is double digit economic growth.

Sir, I want to ask, when the country could achieve so much in the last one year, why has the ... * party not been able to appoint a full-time ... * in the last one year?(*Interruptions*) This is the Congress party.(*Interruptions*) And, today they are lecturing the Prime Minister on good governance.(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: Sir, I just want to conclude only on one note.(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do not mix politics in the discussion on COVID-19 subject.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: Sir, I would conclude.(*Interruptions*) This is not politics.(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. Now, Shri Jugal Kishore ji.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, today we are at a juncture where there are reports of a new variant, but I can tell you that the country, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, is fully ready and most importantly, the people are ready.

I want to conclude by quoting these very interesting and very hopeful lines because in times of distress, what we need is hope and that is what the Prime Minister has given to us.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jugalji, you can start.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is too much. He can start.

You finish and sit.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir, please allow me to say few lines. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your party has a number of members to. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA : Sir,

*Ye Uthal Puthal Uttaal Lahar,
 Path se n digaane paegi,
 patvar chalaate jayenge,
 Manzil aaegi, aaegi,
 Laharon ki ginati kya karna,
 Kaayar karte hain karne do,
 Tufano se sahame jo hain,
 pal-pal marte hain, marne do,
 Unginat sankat jo jhel pada,
 Vah yan hamara anupam hai,
 Nayak par hai vishwas Atal,
 Dil mein, bahon mein dam-kham hai,
 Yah rain andheri bitegi,
 Usha jay mukut chadhayegi,
 Patvar chalaate jaenge,
 Manzil aaegi, Manzil aaegi.*

[English]

We will fight this.

India will be resilient. India will always win. This is India's victory and this is our victory.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA (JAMMU): Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you that today you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on a very serious issue.

Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi ji, the country has overcome the corona pandemic; it is a matter of relief for the country. Narendra Bhai Modi, Prime Minister of the country has taken various steps to get rid of the corona pandemic during the corona. He spoke to the Chief Ministers of the States, provided all possible help to the state governments, whatever resources were sought for the fight against Corona, those resources were provided. Apart from this, he has also taken many such steps, so that the spirit of the people of the country remains high and the people of the country could fight against Corona.

Sir, *Arogya Setu* mobile app has been launched, through which people get important information regarding corona pandemic. In future this App can be used in many more ways. This app has proved to be an important tool for prevention of corona.

Sir, during this time, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, ration was provided to the people of the country, especially the poor people, who could not go out of their house. Financial assistance has also been provided to women, elderly and farmers. Under the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Package, an installment of Rs 500 was deposited into the Jan-Dhan accounts. From the month of April to June, 20 crore women were provided assistance.

Sir, the country has faced the pandemic situation in the past also and the country has faced it. India had to wait for vaccines for years. After one, two or three years vaccines used to be ordered from abroad. But, during this corona pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi ji encouraged the company and talked to scientists and doctors. India has developed not one, but two vaccines

with the help of these persons. After that mega campaign, vaccination was started.

Sir, I also want to express my gratitude to the doctors, nurses, police personnel, sanitation workers of the country, who played a very important role in the fight against Corona. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called them by the name of Corona Warrior. These people, without caring about their lives, fought the corona pandemic and helped people to remain protected from the corona pandemic.

Chairperson Sir, the country will be grateful to these corona warriors. To strengthen the healthcare infrastructure, The Union Government made many arrangements and provided ventilators, beds, PPE kits, oxygen cylinders etc. to the States. I would also like to submit that no one died of hunger, no one slept hungry. Ration was delivered to every household through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, every poor has been provided free ration. The poor street vendor, who used to earn something to bring up their children, the small shopkeeper who could not open the shop, the laborer who could not earn wages and the people who used to work in the factories, they continued to ensure livelihood of their children and families through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

Chairperson Sir, I would also like to state that the opposition parties did not play the role they should have played in this corona pandemic. Today, the whole world is praising India and the Prime Minister of India. Whereas the Prime Minister was working hard day and night with dedication to get the people of the country out of the pandemic, the doctors, nurses, employees, etc. were working in harmony to save the country, the opposition parties didn't fulfill their duty and did not cooperate with the Government to tackle the disease. It was their responsibility to raise the morale of the public, but on the

contrary, they demoralized the public and they continued to serve their own political interest.

Chairperson Sir, these opposition parties spread confusion among the people about the vaccine, which doesn't suit them. I want to say that during this corona pandemic, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the doctors, nurses, police personnel, sanitation workers and voluntary organizations of the country have made a very good contribution, due to which the country overcome the corona pandemic. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

HON.CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member Mr. Jasbir Singh Gill.

.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB): Thank you, Chairperson Sir.

I rise to thank our doctors, nurses, paramedic staff, scientists, police personnel, frontline workers, and Corona warriors for serving us and for saving a lot of people during this pandemic.

I will fail in my duty in case I will not thank Baba Gurinder Singh Ji of Dera Beas Radha Soami, Baba Kashmira Singh Ji Garha wale, Baba Sewa Singh Ji Khadur Sahib wale, Baba Bhuri wale and Baba Avtar Singh Ji Sulahkul wale, who opened all their centres as quarantine centres, and provided food to the people who were admitted there. Even the migrant labourers were given shelter, food and medicines at those religious places. They deserve their names to be mentioned here.

I will restrict myself to the post-COVID-19 scenario. I will not indulge in any blame game but I would rather say that all discrepancies and shortcomings which were there in COVID-19 management are bound to be credited in the Government of India's account. COVID-19 is a puzzle, and COVID-19 has left many puzzles unsolved. It has changed the world in many ways. We saved our people but put a pause on our economic activities.

After every dark night, the Sun shines. Now that the COVID-19 has passed, we have to prevent another COVID-19 outbreak. We have to ensure that, with proper planning we are ready for new dawn where the world has changed in many ways. Now, we have to be ready with strong steps and put systems in place for economic growth which has seen a downward trend. All major issues need to be tackled.

Most of the workers or the man power have not returned to the companies or the cities where they used to work earlier and we have to make their work places COVID-compliant to restore their faith and safety. Many businesses, be

it small shops, show rooms, hotels, factories, big companies, or corporates are facing cash crunch. No doubt the Government has taken some steps. But they are not of that magnitude or size which are desired.

To keep small, micro, medium, and start-ups, the Government needs to buy from them to help them to sustain. Businesses like transport, hospitality, and airlines are the worst hit and many of them even after being honest tax payers are on the verge of being declared as NPAs. We need to hold their hands and give them some rebates to help them to move out of red, thereby giving Indians urgent robust and professional response to the growing public health and economic crises.

The Government should be protecting and supporting families, small businesses, first responders, and the sections which are most vulnerable to health and economic impacts. We should not blame others and we should not just bail out business houses and corporates.

As the danger of Omicron variant of the Corona virus is looming on our head, we should encourage testing vastly, which should include home testing, institute testing, etc. We can scale up our vaccine and testing capacity by huge magnitude. The Government should establish a renewable fund for the States and the local bodies to prevent Budget shortfalls as most of them are facing funds crunch, and their Budget deficits are on the higher side.

Earlier too the world has faced very bad economic phases, like the Great Depression of 1929 and the global financial crisis of 2007. Now also our economy is in recession which is more severe than the earlier ones. The Governments throughout the globe are showing rosy pictures, some by fudging figures and statistics. But remember this is not about politics. It is about saving people and economy.

Now, it is a question of which way to steer the new India. What steps should be taken? Now, globally the strength of a nation is measured by its

economy, not in terms of bombs. We have the example of our neighbour, Pakistan, which has been enslaved by China by not firing a single bullet, but just by the size of its economy.

Now, we have to differentiate between short-term stimulus, jump-start economy and long-term strategy, for transition to sustainable economy and society, which is just, equitable, and strong.

We should take a leaf out of Dr. Manmohan Singh ji's policy to spend heavily on infrastructure and development projects of huge magnitude to keep our economy vibrant and not by privatising vital Government assets. The fiscal package of the Government turned out to be a fraction of what was announced. It was just one per cent of the GDP as compared to other countries which gave more than 12 per cent of the GDP. So, I think we have to walk and talk and do more. Thank you. *Jai Hind.*

22.25 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agarwal *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI (INDORE): Thank you Hon. Chairperson for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on Covid. First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister, who led not only our country but the whole world in this COVID-period. Recently, Honorable Member Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji was telling that in the International Conference of Parliamentary Committee which was held in Spain, it was discussed worldwide ‘how our country controlled Covid and how the vaccination drive was conducted through the portal’. After independence, Honorable Narendra Modi ji is one such Prime Minister, on whose call the whole country followed. We saw that the call of clapping, beating *thali*, lit candles was followed by the whole country.

Sir, you had said that the exemplary work that has been carried out in our respective constituencies should be brought into the notice of the people of this country. I would like to give some examples of Indore. In Indore, we had setup a call center during the lockdown and information regarding the arrangements for food, ration, medicine, ambulance, hospital etc. was made available to the people through the call center. Several ration centres were opened. ‘Ghar Pahunch’ service of ration was launched. We cooked food and distributed it in the peoples’ houses.

I would like to congratulate the team of those doctors who made a protocol in the hospital. Our doctors like Dr. Nishant Khare, Dr. Sanjay Dhanuka, Dr. Ravi Doshi and the team of whole doctors and the district administration made a complete protocol as to how more and more of patients could be cured in minimum time.

Sir, not only this, we could get the information sitting at home regarding the availability of beds in a particular hospital through online portal. Our paramedical staff, all doctors, sanitation workers, municipal corporation, all the public representatives and social service organisations have together fought this battle. Even, some doctors have provided online services. Those patients who sent their reports through WhatsApp were advised home isolation and were prescribed medicines by our doctors in Indore through video call. When the beds in the hospital were not available, the isolation centres were set up for mild patients. Various dharmashalas, marriage gardens etc were made isolation centres so that the patients could get treatment in case of non-availability of beds in the hospitals.

Sir, I would like to congratulate all the Swayamsevaks of RSS, all the Swayamsevaks of Seva Bharati, workers of Bhartiya Janta Party, team of the Members of Parliament, team of Namonamoshankara, several trader organisations and social organisations for giving their services during the Corona period. Thousands of labourers had migrated at that time and all the social service organisations of our city provided them food to eat, ration, medicines and even slippers and shoes to wear at the Indore bypass.

The second biggest Covid care centre of the country was set up at Radha Swami Satsang Beas ground in Indore for mild patients and they were sent homes from there after getting cured. This was a very large centre having 5 thousand beds.

I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for supply of oxygen as oxygen was supplied to various places through roads, railways and air medium under his leadership. Moreover, we also conducted the oxygen audit in the hospitals.

Sir, oxygen plants have been installed or are being installed in almost 45 hospitals of Indore. Crisis Management Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the hon. Chief Minister which was working at the urban level, Vidhan Sabha level, ward level and panchayat level and was taking on the spot decision. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and the scientists who developed indigenous vaccine. Vaccines used to be developed in three-four years during the regime of earlier Governments. The vaccine developed in our country this time is being exported to other countries also apart from being distributed in the whole country. It was the same opposition which said that this is BJP's vaccine, this is hon. Modiji's vaccine but our colleagues from the opposition are themselves taking the vaccine.

Sir, today, 125 crore people have been vaccinated throughout the country. I would like to thank the hon. Modi ji who took such an initiative and saved the whole country. Indore is the city of the country which topped in completing 100 percent vaccination. We have reached 80 percent figure in case of second dose and hope that the process of second dose will be completed soon. Our district administration, NGOs, traders and social organisations have worked together in this regard.

Sir, finally, I would like to point out two things in particular. We carried out two things through Saansad Seva Sankalp. First is vaccine-on-wheels under which we were vaccinating those who were unable to come out of their homes, older persons or Divyangas at their homes. This work was done for those who were unable to reach vaccination centres.

Secondly, regarding the education of children just as we have heard, a campaign was launched to adopt and teach them in their very schools and I would like to tell that 500 children were taught in their respective schools. The

fees of 350 lakhs was provided by the people and they are studying in the same school.

I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister that the battle against corona was fought under his leadership. Thank you.

***SHRI MANOJ KOTAK (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST):** I am very thankful for giving me permission to put my views on very important subject i.e. present situation of COVID-19 in the country.

We all know that we have about to come over the COVID-19 situation and we are slowly coming on the track as it was before COVID-19. Our economy also has started growing. Vaccination is the only remedy for COVID-19. Our county has manufactured COVID-19 vaccine in a record time. Our Prime Minister encouraged the scientists and applauded them also. Today India has administered over 122 crore total doses of the COVID-19 vaccine so far and still it is going on the at the war level.

Today we are safe only due to this vaccination and COVID appropriate behaviour. Each and every citizen of whole country is very thankful to our respected Prime Minister for free vaccination to all. This time, we face many problems to convince the citizens to take the vaccination.

I have taken the massive drive for vaccination in my constituency called “Sanjeevni Aapke Dwar”. That time, the situation of COVID-19 in the country was a deadly situation. The only way to fight and combat COVID-19 is to ensure that the maximum citizens get vaccinated at the earliest. Keeping this in view, I have coordinated the local authority and Government of India and started door to door vaccination in housing societies and other places in my constituency.

We have specially organised vaccination drive for the auto rickshaw drivers and their family members. I personally started convincing the people that vaccine is the only way to fight COVID 19 and because of our drive, maximum member of people has taken the vaccines.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Now we have to start new fight with new variant of Coronavirus named Omicron. In fact, few hours back, two cases of Omicron have been found in India today in Karnataka. I can assure all the citizens of India that there is no need for getting panic regarding new variant of COVID- 19. Only we have to follow the COVID protocol properly.

Now, we have to fight more strongly and more collectively to prevent the spread of this variant of COVID-19 under the leadership of our dynamic and visionary Prime Minister of India. I hope that there should be no politics on the Corona today or in future. It is time to serve the society and all have to do the service for the society and for the nation. I feel proud that I am working under my dynamic leadership of respected Prime Minister who always thinks and act for the welfare of people of India and humanity. I am very thankful to the respected Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi ji who has already started conducting high-level meetings to review the situation relating to COVID-19, its new variant and vaccination done in the country and how to complete the vaccination in India at the earliest. Respected Prime Minister Modi Ji has also discussed about the new variant along with its characteristics, impact in various countries and suggestions for India. The Prime Minister has also taken the overview of the sequencing efforts in the country and the variants circulating in the country.

We all Indians are blessed that at the time of global pandemic and most difficult situation, we have a strong pillar and guardian as Prime Minister Modi Ji who works for Indians, who works for poor and who works for humanity with dedication. Our Prime Minister not only works for Indian. He also thinks about global citizens also. The example is our Vaccine Maitree. Any country needs medicine, he orders to send it immediately. When leaders of Opposition parties are spending time to criticise the Prime Minister Modi ji, he is doing continuous

work for the welfare of Indians and humanity only. We all know that Prime Minister works day and night to control the situation of COVID-19 and its after effect. In the same time, he is boosting the moral of Doctors, Nurses and all health workers by many different ways.

Hon'ble Prime Minister also inspired us to work for each and every citizen of our constituency. Right from first wave, we have followed the instructions of the hon. Prime Minister and started our work to serve the people of our constituency and for all who needed help. During vaccination drive “Sanjeevni aapke dwar” campaign was the most famous in my constituency which was very successful.

We have also taken care that no one should be without food. As you have seen, how Government has taken care of each and every person. Also due to the policy of the Modi Government, the economy is now growing in full speed. FDI is coming in various sectors and our country is on fast track now. Today I also want to thank you our party National President, Respected Shri Nadda ji who also deserves praise. I remember that he has issued a standing order to all the Party workers including MPs and MLAs of the Bhartiya Janata Party to serve for the nation in this difficult time. He has given a Slogan “Seva Hi Sangathan” for all BJP karyakartas and the entire Sangathan started seva in this most difficult time.

As and when the new Health and Family Affairs Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya has taken the charge, he has given the new direction to the most important vaccination drive and reforms in health sector. He has directed to all hospitals to be prepared for pandemic situations in the country. Under his able guidance, our country is preparing for new era in health sector. He has full of energy, vision and dedication for his work. So, people of India are on very safe hands of respected Prime Minister and Health Minister.

Our respected Prime Minister is constantly reminding the country for vaccine, *Do Gaz ki Dori* and *Mask hai Jaruri*. This will prevent the third wave of COVID-19. Our Government has started monitoring the situation and there is no need to be panic for any new variant of Coronavirus. Just we have to follow the COVID Appropriate Behaviour and we have to educate every citizen about vaccination. As the speakers are more and time is less, I would stop my speech here. Jai Hind.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (ARUNACHAL EAST): Sir, whether call it an epidemic of a very large proportion or something else, this Corona virus has shocked India and the whole world. It was in the form of Covid-19 in the beginning, then delta variant and now Omicron is being heard.

Sir, ASHA workers, RSS workers, laboratory assistants, police department personnel, administration people etc. have lost their lives and various Members of this House as well as the Members of Legislative Assembly have also lost their lives and we pay our tribute to all of them. Shankar ji has just mentioned that vaccination started in the year 2021 from the 16th January but all efforts were made to defame the vaccine by naming it as BJP vaccine or other nomenclatures and the large percentage of people were denied the vaccine. Second phase of vaccination was started on 1st march in which I also took the vaccine. Third phase started on 14th April. Modi ji did tremendous hardwork. Here in this House, I would like to say that had Modi ji not been there in this pandemic, what would have happened to the country and this is a very big question. Modi ji's support is with all the political parties on our right side and all the non-BJP states. I think that the differences appear to be only in the House but these people are also thinking in their heart that had Modi ji not been there, what would have happened to the country. Not saying much, I want to give some suggestions to our hon. Health Minister. Before that, I want to say that today ventilators have been supplied in the hospital of every district in Jammu-Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and the whole of North-East by Modi ji. Oxygen plants have been installed from PM Cares fund. If Modi ji were not there, who would have done all this? Today, ventilators and oxygen plants are available in each district and these have been supplied throughout the country. Had Modi ji not been there, who would have done it? I am giving some suggestions to the hon. Health Minister. The honorarium of ASHA workers or the central assistance to them in this

country is quite minimal. ASHA workers are those workers who brought the Covid patients to the hospital first before their detection as Covid patients by doctors. ASHA workers did a lot of hardwork in each lane and every colony and also lost their lives.

Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Health Minister to increase the honorarium of the ASHA workers of this country and give them special aid also. It is altogether a different thing and I want to say that installing an oxygen plant in Himalayan belt is a very complicated task.

Sir, you have the experience that oxygen plants were planned to be set up in district hospital in remote areas of Himalayan States but there were shortage of technicians there. Ventilators have been set up in each hospitals but there is a dearth of technicians there.

Through you, I would like to request the hon. Health Minister to pay attention in this regard also. Free ration was distributed in the North-Eastern States , even then the opposition is not happy. Free vaccine was administered which costs around 2000 rupees and 1400 rupees. You were given free vaccine for survival, you are not happy with it. I would still say that we need to show concern towards new variant Omicron which is finding mention in the House today. Well, if Modi ji is there, everything is possible, so we will find its solution also. We all should cooperate.

Sir, through you, I would like to mention one thing to the hon. Health Minister. More than 50 thousand foreign MBBS degree holders are in our country. According to the Medical council of India, they should obtain 50 percent marks, but the MCI has reduced qualifying percentage in this Corona period. By giving one time relaxation in qualifying marks to these foreign MBBS degree holders, they can be posted in the remote areas where there is shortage of doctors. Attention of hon. Health Minister is sought in this regard. I

would say that there is no district hospital in Arunachal Pradesh where oxygen plant is not available. Oxygen plants are available in Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, Uttarakhand and Jammu-Kashmir. Therefore, if Modi ji is there, everything is possible. Thus, we all should collectively fight this battle. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Sir, I rise to take part on the Discussion under Rule 193 on COVID-19 Pandemic and various aspects related to it. 'Health' is a State subject in India, and at the ground level, the State Governments have been leading the fight against the Coronavirus. But the most crucial aspect relating to policy response to the Pandemic rests with the Centre. Unplanned lockdowns to delayed response on travel restrictions at international level led to an unimaginably disastrous and chaotic situation in the entire country when the Pandemic had just set in. Be it the case of migrant labourers or students pleading for postponement of exams, the Government had disappointed all.

Further, this unstructured response of Government is covered up by self-appraisal and false claims at every step. You had curbed our most important weapon, that is, the MPLAD Fund when we needed it the most, and due to which the amount of Rs. 1 crore that I assigned for covid-related work was never sanctioned. Not only that, when I approached various PSUs for Covid-related relief work, most of them turned me down stating that they have already made huge contributions to the PM Cares Fund, and thus, are unable to extend any further help. You cut the wings of a bird, and then, penalise it for not being able to fly. What form of public policy is this?

The sudden lockdown led to individuals starving to death, after they were left without work, money or any way to travel to their native homes. Sir, the hon. Prime Minister does not believe in consultations. His Government is run by a few yes-men. In times of such crises, you need to discuss, first within the Cabinet, then with the bureaucrats; you need to have contrary opinions. One man army is never successful; it sounds good only in the entertainment world. So, please learn the facets of teamwork. The food shortages, directly related to

the poorly executed lockdown, pushed hundreds and thousands of migrants to the edge of starvation. Here, I would like to take an opportunity to express my gratitude towards my colleagues and various NGOs whom I approached for help and they actually helped the migrant labourers of my constituency placed at different parts of the country.

Sir, thousands of people have lost their jobs. Millions of people are facing loss in their respective businesses, and the ray of hope is very dim. The blunder that has been made will take years, maybe, decades to cope with.

Another major issue that has been witnessed is related to the school fees. Even now, online classes are being held for which parents are spending thousands of rupees to purchase a smartphone and to pay for data separately. Not only that, no relief has been provided by lowering the school fees. The people who would not be able to afford this will take their children out from schools, and India will have a new batch of uneducated youth. This cycle of poverty will go on and on.

In a study conducted by Child Fund India, 64 per cent of the children expressed that they may drop out if they are not provided with additional educational support. In order to prevent the creation of another generation of uneducated workforce in India, immediate steps are required to be taken. The state and non-state actors should work together to identify children from the special vulnerable groups through rigorous monitoring, locating them, and ensuring that they are back in schools.

Also, with the looming danger of a third wave and new variants like Omicron, it has become critically essential to analyse the preparations in place. Production of oxygen must be ramped up in the country so that no person has to lose his or her life due to the dearth of oxygen. The Government of India had sanctioned the plan of setting up of PSA oxygen plants across the country with

the help of bodies like NHAI and several PSUs. I would like to state that I personally called the hon. Petroleum Minister, and I also talked to the hon. Speaker over telephone regarding setting up of an oxygen plant in a hospital in my constituency but all our efforts went in vain.

The effects of the virus have been manifold across all sectors. People have lost their lives, families have lost their loved ones and their earning members. The ones who escaped the virus have suffered job losses. So, it is my sincere request not to make this issue just a topic of debate in the House but to actually act upon it and ensure the all-round safety of the people of the nation. The image of migrant labourers walking hundreds of kilometres, pregnant women crying for help, children going to bed with an empty belly is haunting. Policies and schemes can never compensate for what people of the nation have suffered. So, our aim should be to prevent the same situation from occurring again.

I would like to end my speech by paying my gratitude and great respect to all the doctors, nurses, ASHA and ANMs.

SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA (VISAKHAPATNAM): There should be quarantine measures for passengers arriving from South Africa and its neighbouring nations. The variant has so far been found in about twelve nations. India is however yet to see a case of that variant even though several States have reported confirmed covid COVID-19 positive cases of people returning from South Africa. The positive samples have been sent for genome sequencing. Experts in India have suggested that the country may not see a huge surge as majority of Indians have developed antibodies against the Delta variant and adequate number of adults have been vaccinated.

At the same time, they have suggested to be vigilant and to do aggressive surveillance on international travellers. The Government should consider the third booster dose for its citizens, especially for the frontline workers and make people aware about the spread of the infectious variant. Andhra Pradesh among the southern States has the lowest caseload till date and this has been due to strict monitoring by our beloved Chief Minister, Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy *Garu*. Apart from giving free-of-cost treatment in public hospitals, all private empanelled hospitals were also directed to provide free treatment under Dr. YSR Aarogyasri Scheme.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Jaganmohan Reddy *garu* held a review meeting a couple of days ago and took stock of the situation. He directed the officials concerned to be vigilant and to ensure that all adult people in the State are vaccinated. He instructed the officials to hold door-to-door campaigns and also to check the travellers coming from countries where the new variant has been detected.

Sir, COVID-19 is not a problem just of our country. All countries in the world including USA and Russia have suffered from COVID-19. Government of India has done very well in controlling the pandemic. Hon. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi ji and my Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy garu have done a very good job in controlling the pandemic. This is not the time for making personal comments and criticise. We all should together fight this battle against COVID-19. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY (BETUL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank and express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the issue of Covid global pandemic in the discussion under Rule 193 today.

Sir, today, I express my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Health Minister and also towards the frontline workers and all the known-unknown warriors. I also pay my tribute to all the brothers-sisters who departed during this period. Hon. Prime Minister of the country is standing with the bereaved families. Prior to me, several learned Members presented their views in favour and in opposition. Some ideas are motivating and exemplary and some ideas presented by our opposition ...* members. Not taking the discussion in that direction, I would like to say that we are fortunate to have our country being constantly led by the eminent Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji since the year 2014 under whose efficient leadership, we have succeeded in safely coming out of this global Covid pandemic. I would briefly say that we have been able to get rid of this pandemic due to the efficient management during the first and the second wave of Covid infection.

If you study the situation of the whole world, you will find that even the super powers of the world could not protect themselves in this pandemic period. We all know that the nation and the world was reeling under such a situation like that of a house where marriage is taking place and food is prepared for 500 baratis but 5000 baratis turn up leading to a chaos in managing things, similarly the sudden arrival of this global pandemic caused some difficulties but we have been able to win this battle due to the efficient and motivating leadership.

* Not Recorded

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that the situation of our colleagues of opposition Congress party is like that of character actors of our movies . *They are there, but they do anything, nor they have done anything. During that period, Shri Rahul Gandhi was on a foreign trip. Congress and other parties were conspicuous by their absence during that period. The manner in which our organisation and our other allies together have served the people throughout the country by doing hardwork during that period is beyond comparison and extremely admirable. My parents also died in this period. Myself and my family have suffered setback due to it, nevertheless, I have continued to render my relentless service.

Today, the accusations and counter accusations being hurled by our colleagues needs consideration. After the independence, it is the Congress which has ruled the most.

Friends, several diseases like small pox, malaria, polio, plague, goitre, chikunguniya have occurred during their regime. By any means, they could not make medicines available at that time. It is quite fortunate that vaccine was developed within nine months period to contain Corona pandemic. Vaccines in the form of Covishield and Covaxin have come before us. This is an extremely admirable and incomparable task for the whole world.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY: Sir, in such a situation, our friends from opposition are giving vent to their frustration by making several criticism. I want to caution them and tell them that our hon. Prime Minister has made an incredible contribution in awakening the collective consciousness of the scientists and the people. We have disaster management committees, unparalleled efforts of our community organisations, frontline warriors and efficient leadership. We have succeeded because of the unparalleled

* Not Recorded

contribution of all of them. Under the efficient and inspiring leadership of hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and through Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Samoohik prayas, we will definitely overcome the polymorphous Omicron virus.

Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Jai Hind- Jai Bharat.

[English]

SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA): Sir, the fact that at this late hour so many Members are here in the House to discuss this issue clearly shows the seriousness with which all of us are taking this issue. In that way, I would like to compliment everybody who is showing their commitment in airing their views.

I would like to make five or six very short points. It is because of the Omicron variant having been detected, we have now established certain protocols in the airports for visiting passengers. It is very, very confusing. Firstly, they will have to fill in a form called the Air Suvidha Form. On top of that, each airline has its own protocols by which they have to fill forms physically, and certain forms have to be uploaded. I think, it is incumbent upon the Government to make it absolutely very clear what they expect from passengers who are flying in from other countries to come into India. I think, the Air Suvidha Form is comprehensive enough. That alone should be adequate rather than having physical forms which, I am sure, nobody is even reading because it is impossible to read all physical forms. Today, everything is only done electronically. So, I think, the Government must clearly inform all airlines that the Air Suvidha Form alone will be enough and they do not need any other forms. It is because even recently, many airlines are wanting physical forms to be filled in the aircraft. When people were landing, there was complete confusion.

Now, we have put this protocol that as soon as people land in airports, they have to have an RT-PCR test at the airports. If multiple airlines land at the same time, which they do in India because most of the flights come in the early hours, our airports do not have the facilities to house thousands of people who are landing in multiple aircraft. We do not have any adequate toilet facilities

there. These people are expected to stay in the airport to get their RT-PCR test done. Only when the test becomes negative, can they leave the airport. It means, there will be, at least, a minimum of six hours of holding time in the airports. Where are the toilets? Where are the resting areas which are going to be there for these thousands of people who are going to come in multiple aircraft? I think, the Government must think about this. They should either create temporary facilities so that people can rest and wait and have adequate facilities, or have a protocol by which double-vaccinated people who can show a certificate give the sample and they can go to their respective places of stay and then wait until the results come. To make people wait in the airport, there is a lot of confusion. If you just read the social media posts of various people landing in various airports in last two days, because this protocol has come in only from the 1st of December, there is tremendous confusion. It is only going to get worse. They need to put in place mechanisms to make sure that all airports of India including the Adani Airports have adequate facilities to deal with the influx of passengers.

My second point is this. It is very clear now that the booster shot has to be given. We do not need to fudge this. Our supply is inadequate. So, let us not wait for this thing. We need to gear up to give third booster shot to everybody who is in need of booster shot. So, I think the Government must really double up its efforts to procure adequate vaccines, not only to give first and second doses but also the third dose and there should be no hesitancy in that. There should be no delay in that. The distribution of vaccines must also be equitable and there should be no favouritism in distributing the vaccine by giving only to the preferred States and certain States should not be treated in a step-motherly manner.

Sir, many State Governments have said they are giving compensation for COVID-19 deaths. But there is total confusion about that because in no death certificate, it is mentioned that a person had died of COVID-19. It is because there are other medical reasons for which a person generally dies. So, it is actually very difficult for anybody who has passed away because of COVID-19 to get COVID-19 death certificate. Internationally, the practice is this. If anybody tests positive for COVID-19 and dies within 28 days after testing positive, that is considered as COVID-19 death. So, international standard should be applied here and the Government must clearly lay down guidelines to give compensation to those people who have died of COVID-19. It is because in most places, the recorded cause of death is not COVID-19. The Minister must take this into account and give some uniform guidelines so that the State Governments can follow that protocol and that protocol alone should be there to determine whether it is a COVID-19 death or not.

Sir, MPLADS fund has just been restored. But for one and a half years, we did not have any MPLADS fund. The ostensible reason for withholding MPLADS fund was that money was needed to fight COVID-19. Sir, logically speaking, that money was for that particular constituency but money was taken and put into the Central fund. So, money which was due for Sivaganga, that is rupees five crore which was due for Sivaganga, did not come back to Sivaganga. You are not giving it as MPLADS fund. That rupees five crore should be given back to the particular constituency and medical facilities must be improved there.

Some countries sometimes do not accept the vaccination if the vaccine is manufactured in India. In fact, recently, Austria has come with a list saying that they will not accept Covishield if it was manufactured in India. I think it is incumbent upon the Health Ministry and the vaccine manufacturers to make

sure that the Indian manufactured vaccine – whether it is Covishield or Covaxin – is internationally accepted.

Sir, the COWIN app works well. I must say this as I have used it myself. It is quite easy to download the certificate. But there is a peculiar thing. Internationally, when you show that certificate, there is a little bit of confusion in the counter at the time of checking. They see the passport photograph and then they see the COWIN certificate photograph and they find that there is a mismatch because the photograph in the passport is of the passenger but in the photograph in the certificate is of somebody else which is creating a lot of confusion in the immigration counters. It is essential that the COWIN certificate should not have the photograph of a non-passenger. Let us be very clear. You know whose photograph I am referring to. Even in an absolute monarchy, the certificate does not carry the photograph of the Head of the Government.

Sir, I have a final point which I want to make. There are lots of quacks, self-styled babas, and Sri sri's, who are all prescribing all kinds of quackery medicines. That must be stopped. Only Medical Council of India must be allowed to give medicines. What is scientifically proven must be given and there must be an end to all quacks. The hon. Health Minister must make efforts to ensure that self-styled babas do not prescribe Coronil.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today, the House is discussing a very important issue of global pandemic...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bidhuri ji, your turn has not come yet. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: We are discussing it till late night. How much the Government is serious in this regard is becoming visible.

Chairperson Sir, different people have been saying different things about the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Health Department and the Government. I want to clearly tell such people that this was not the time to take credit and Hon'ble Prime Minister did not take credit. Honorable Prime Minister has served the people with a sense of affinity and as a result of that; today we are in a position to control Corona in the country.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wait a minute.

If the House allows, the time of the House may be extended to 12 o'clock.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: All right.

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Hon'ble Chairman Sir, this Corona has not spared anyone. Be it the politician of great stature or a well established businessmen or be it the most famous artist or the most prominent doctor,

23.00 hrs

Those who saved the lives of thousands of people or they were poor people living in the villages, whoever got infected they suffered and died. When the Corona started spreading in India, at that time India was completely on bottom to prevent it. But, the Hon. Prime Minister of the country made efforts continuously at that time. He gave a package of 20 lakh crore rupees for *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. In the lockdown period where there were no PPE kits, no testing centers to test, no P.I.C.U.s and no ventilators were available, there were no other facilities and no medicines in the country, all those things were manufactured during the lockdown period.

Sir, people sitting in opposition were saying many things at that time, some were raising their hands, some were riding a cycle, some were riding on an elephant, they all were saying that this is BJP's vaccine. This is Modi's vaccine. If you inoculate the vaccine, you will become impotent, if you take the vaccine, you will start uttering *Ram-Ram*, if you get the vaccine, you will start speaking *Modi-Modi*. They used to shout these slogans. They used to mislead the people of the country. At that time, due to their misleading, the speed of vaccination was actually a little less. When they got the same vaccine, they started saying that this Modi vaccine is to save our lives. The whole world trusts this vaccine. We also have to take it and they have also taken the vaccine. India will not forgive those who were misleading. Today those people are in focus.

Chairperson Sir, I would like to say through you when the second wave of Corona came, people tried to make artificial shortage of oxygen. Today I think, there is no such hospital at sub-division level in the country, where oxygen plant has not been installed. Oxygen plants were installed by defence, by other sources, from PM Care Fund and the health department itself took care of it. Today, we have many times more oxygen than what we had at the time of

the pandemic. Today there is not a single district headquarters, where PICU, ventilator, bed or oxygen plant are not available. Oxygen has been made available through pipeline. Today many things are in surplus due to *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. Today we are exporting these to abroad also. Today, foreign countries are also hailing India and Modi ji.

Chairperson Sir, I would like to say through you that even in this pandemic, we are providing food to 80 crore people of this country. It is not the first time. The pandemic had been in this country earlier also. We had to get food from abroad. We had to import maize and lentils to satiate the hunger of people. Today we are providing 5 kg of food grains to 80 crore people for free.

Chairperson Sir, I will take one more minute. Today, if you look at other countries of the world, you will see when the vaccine came, the leaders took it first. But, when the Indian vaccine was developed, the Prime Minister of India first inoculated the vaccine to the Corona warriors, people of defence, police, the front liners as well as the elderly persons. The Prime Minister of India only took it when the turn of his age group came. He set an example in the world.

When there was a shortage of Oxygen in the country, we got it from other places through trains and airplanes and then we delivered it to villages and homes.(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sigriwal Ji, please conclude your speech. You speak your last sentence.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL : Chairperson Sir, when you are on the Chair, I would like to take one more minute.

Chairperson Sir, through you, I convey my heartfelt congratulations to the National President of our Bharatiya Janata Party. He has made every worker aware and got engaged in this work. Today, he has ensured that the people who were not vaccinated could get vaccine. they have also done this work. In order to provide employment in this lockdown, through '*Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan*', we have given 10,000 rupees without guarantee to street vendors who sell on lorry by the road side.

Chairperson Sir, I will conclude my speech by making a request through you. I am saying this only because our country will not forgive those who were misleading the country....(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri ji.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Chairperson Sir, this Government has arranged the education for the children and the pension for the people of our country who have lost their families and parents. This is because of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas.....(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please keep in mind the time limit.

.....(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Bidhuri ji, your time will be cut short.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL : Chairperson Sir, I would like to tell that the Ministry of AYUSH has also prescribed a formula of indigenous anti-Corona treatment and we have accepted it....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Chairperson, I am thankful to you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on the situation that arose from COVID-19 epidemic and different aspects related to it. The Government deserves applause for allowing discussion on this pandemic under Rule 193 showing big heart. Any member of opposition parties can put their point regarding shortcoming in management of pandemic or even criticize the same here so as to enable our hon. Prime Minister Sir to take initiative and take the country forward.

Hon. Chairperson, the Government is concerned about fellow countrymen which reflect able leadership and farsightedness of Modi ji. I would like to give one example, though various members have said this but I think that I should repeat it, when on 24 March, 2020, hon'ble Prime Minister Sir imposed the lockdown in the country, the people wholeheartedly accepted and followed the decision taken by Modi ji.

Hon. Chairperson, hon. Prime Minister provided a relief package worth Rs. 1.70 lakh crores on 26 March and proved as to why 125 crore people of the country believed him. Under the said package 80 crore poor citizens were given free ration. Rs. 500 per month has been deposited into Jan Dhan Account of 20 crore women to ensure their livelihood during Covid pandemic. The whole world was affected by Covid including India. An ex-gratia of Rs. 1,000 has been provided to three crore poor senior citizens, poor widows, divorced and differently abled persons (Divyangjans). 72,500 citizens were brought back to the country from foreign countries. 52,00,000 migrants returned to their homes by 3,450 shramik special trains.

Hon. Chairperson, the role of opposition parties is to criticize the Government, but they should have acted as per the situation. If there was least, India reported the least 2.87 per cent mortality rate in the world due to able

administrative leadership. Members of opposition parties should also consider the condition of the world's so called developed country. When the world's developed countries were unable to control this epidemic situation, then hon'ble Modi ji has taken all out measures to ensure safety of 125 crore citizens of the country.

We should remember that when Polio disease started to spread across the world, the vaccine was manufactured in 1961 itself , but this vaccine reached India in 1985 after so many years. The family, which was in power at that time, should remember this fact. Today those people are making comments in this regard. Rural people, particularly farmers who work in the field have died due to cactus disease.

The vaccination for this disease started in the world in the year 1948 and this vaccine reached India in year 1978. It was the leadership of hon'ble Modi ji that he took initiative and talked to all the scientists about the vaccine and along with the scientists visited Zydus Biotech, Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute in November, 2020 to review the same.(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Hon. Chairperson, please give me two minutes. I have to reply to some people. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir himself took initiative for this vaccine and they say that this vaccine is immature. They tried to create fear among the people. Opposition parties and Rahul Gandhi himself* They were asking the people that if the lives of people will be saved by taking vaccines, then how they survive in politics. They want to gain political mileage by risking the lives of people. Today, in the morning Shri

* Not Recorded.

Gogoi Saheb was asking to put forth views on Covid. Shri Gogoi Saheb was mentioning about Asam that the rate of petrol has increased. The prices of petrol was Rs. 35/- per litre in June 2002, during Atal ji's regime and when in year 2014 hon. Modi Sir took charge, the price of petrol was increased to Rs. 73.60, then who is responsible for the price rise?

Hon. Chairperson, through you, I want to congratulate hon'ble Health Minister. Six medical pharmaceutical companies are working in India to develop vaccines for the disease. India is capable of manufacturing vaccines for this disease under the leadership of hon'ble Modi ji. they should understand this fact.*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, I want to highlight the matter regarding Delhi. There was an outbreak of an epidemic in Delhi and the Chief Minister of Delhi**
The Chief Minister declared to provide Rs. One lakh each to the kin of corona warriors of Police Department*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON:* expunge the word from proceedings.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Sir, there was a doctor, named Amit Gupta, who died in the hospital. I have* tweet, posted by one of his ministers. He said that I will bear the expenditure of Amit Gupta's family, but the doctor died during treatment. His old parents are running from pillar to post. They were not paid even the treatment expenses. His parents are under the debt of Rs. 70 lakhs. Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, please give me one minute more. There was an outbreak of an epidemic in Delhi and the Chief Minister of Delhi* gave assurance that there are 44,000 beds and sufficient medical facilities ...

** Not Recorded as ordered by the Chair.

* Not Recorded.

(Interruptions). What would have happened in Delhi, had the Minister of Home Affairs not constructed a 10,000 bedded isolation center here?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the discussion on COVID-19 under rule 193. I pay my sincere gratitude to doctors, nurses, health workers, police personnel, frontline workers who fought bravely during Corona pandemic. I stand by the families who have lost their lives during this pandemic time.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am starting from little early. Entry of nationals travelling from China to India was banned from 5th February, 2020, although, 25 other countries had already confirmed about several COVID cases by January, 2020. India waited for another one month before banning entry of nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea and Japan.

It was not until March 22, 2020 after much confusion and chaos, and with a total of 2,92,142 cases confirmed across more than 150 countries globally, that India finally suspended all international travel, more than two months after it issued its first travel advisory. By then, silent carriers, at least 30 per cent of them, already affected India.

During this period when lockdown was imposed by the end of March, 2020, we have seen shortages of emergency supplies specially masks, essential protective healthcare things like sanitizer etc. We have seen shortage of testing kits also. Shortages of protective gears have led to shutting the doors clinically.

Even we have seen the doctors threatening to boycott their work in Lucknow. Ambulance workers were going on strike in UP.

In Chhattisgarh, doctors complained about the shortage of PPE. There were reports to the effect that doctors were using raincoats and helmets for protection. *[Translation]* I am not standing here to criticize the Government. I have come here to state the problems faced by people during the time of Corona outbreak, *[English]* at that time, I was, myself, pregnant and in that situation also I had to go to my constituency and work for the people who have voted for me. *[Translation]* But at that time I have also witnessed these problems, sanitizers were not available, proper masks were not available but our doctors, health workers and even ASHA workers were executing their duties sincerely in the rural districts. We have seen that *[English]* many doctors have died in this pandemic while they were giving treatment to the patients.

[Translation] But I want to ask one question from the government, as people were saying that opposition parties will appreciate the good work of the Government. But the PM CARES Fund, the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund was created on 27th March 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic in India and crores of rupees have been donated to this fund. I would like to know from the government in which area this PM CARES Fund has been used. The people of India want to know about this. *[Translation]* If the fund has been used for noble purposes, then why is it not being made public. The public wants to know about the Head where this money has been used.

It is also being witnessed that in America minor children have been vaccinated but in India there is no mention about the vaccine of children. The rate of vaccines is quite low. *[English]* The Government's target of vaccinating about 94 crore adults in India by December 2021 is not getting met and only 30 percent of the population is totally vaccinated. *[Translation]* But it is also being witnessed that in BJP ruled states like Haryana, Goa, Gujarat,

Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tripura first dose has been completed upto 90 per cent. This is a good thing, but I want to know from the Government as to why vaccination drives are not being conducted in other states because it could spread the disease.

[English] Then, what preparations have been made by the Government to prevent the spread of the Omicron variant which has been found in India now.

[Translation] I want to know from the hon'ble Minister what are the guidelines of ICMR about the booster dose.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am repeatedly requesting you all to make your points briefly and conclude within 3-4 minutes.

Shri Margani Bharat.

[English]

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I start my speech with a sad note that five cases of Omicron variant have been reported in Bengaluru and a few cases have been found in Hyderabad also. I pray to the Almighty that this should not be the beginning of another wave. Yesterday, the hon. Health Minister said in the Rajya Sabha that no case of Omicron variant has been reported in India. But now some cases have already been reported in our country.

Sir, I am a little perplexed and I still do not understand why BCCI is sending our Indian Cricket Team to South Africa where this new variant got originated. Yesterday also I tweeted about this matter. It is not a popcorn; it is Omicron. So, the Government should seriously think about it and cancel this tour of our Cricket Team to South Africa. If the Government cancels it, it would be a great thing.

I think, perhaps, the Ministry of Health might have already consulted the Director of ICMR, Director of AIIMS and other experts about this new variant.

I would request the hon. Minister to give us the latest updates.

Secondly, I wish to know about the compensation that the Government was supposed to give at the behest of the Supreme Court. What has happened to this compensation? When is the Government going to complete the process of giving compensation? Have the guidelines been framed and consultations held with the stakeholders? If so, I would request that the details may be given to this august House.

Sir, I whole-heartedly compliment the Health Ministry officials, health workers and the frontline warriors for doing exceptional work in these two COVID waves in controlling and curtailing the Coronavirus cases, which recently came down to below 10,000 level. Yesterday also, our country stalled the inflection rate, which came down to even below 7,000 infected cases. I whole-heartedly congratulate the Health Ministry for this.

Next point, which I would like to make is regarding export of this vaccine. What were the reasons for exporting it when our country was already struggling and did not vaccinate all the people? Did we not anticipate it? Even we have not yet started vaccinating children below 18 years of age yet we exported it.

Sir, more than 65 per cent of our country's population live in the rural areas, and almost 50 per cent of the people in the rural areas have got vaccinated. How are we going to reach the saturation level?

My next point is relating to the population covered under the health insurance schemes. As per reports, four to five per cent of Indians are covered under the health insurance schemes. Similarly, as per the Report of the NITI Aayog Survey of 2020, our State of Andhra Pradesh is in the forefront in providing the free universal health insurance coverage under Aarogyasri Health Scheme. Almost 74 per cent people have been covered under this scheme. I am also sure that the hon. Minister must be aware that our State of Andhra Pradesh has brought 2,430 diseases under Aarogyasri Health Scheme. Looking at the vast coverage, the financial implications are also there. So, the Union Health Ministry has also to consider giving some incentives to our State.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, now.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT : Sir, there are a few suggestions also which I would like to make.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please make them quickly.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Yes, Sir,

Sir, I would like to suggest to the hon. Health Minister to create Rs. 1 lakh crore COVID Pandemic Fund in order to provide free health insurance coverage to those whose income and health have been badly hit by this pandemic.

I would also like to know whether it is true that Sputnik-V has stopped the vaccine supply to India? If so, the reasons thereof.

Finally, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to conduct a crash course training for the COVID warriors because this series of pandemic wave is being continued. Is the Ministry planning something in this regard?

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI ANIL FIROZIA (UJJAIN): I would like to thank you very much, Hon. Chairperson for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important subject. I would also like to thank the police personnel, health workers and sanitary workers who have rendered their selfless service to the nation in a pandemic like Covid, they are really worth saluting. I express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, because due to his efficient leadership today we have been able to save our country from the Covid pandemic.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the opposition demanded that a debate on Covid be held and they did not allow the previous session to go on. It is a matter of great shame when you have given time for debate in the House, the entire opposition is missing today. I would like to thank you very much for taking the time to discuss this topic.

When Covid arrived and our students and people were stranded abroad, Hon. Prime Minister brought them safely to this country. He made the laborers reach home safely. It is really a wonder in today's world that the work done to provide free ration to 80 crore people in a country with a population of 130 crores is a very surprising event. The world is astonished by this. This has not happened anywhere in the world. Free ration has been arranged for the poor people in our country. Today we are talking about vaccination.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, our Health Minister is also sitting here. I have come to know that when a vaccine is made, many experiments are done, which take about five years. In fact, under the leadership of Modi ji, our scientists have done a miracle and we have made a vaccine and given it to the country and the world within 9 months. There used to be a time that when we had a calamity, a disaster, we used to look towards abroad, to the West with request gesture. But

today, for the first time under the leadership of Modi ji, we have given free vaccine to the world. I thank and express my gratitude to Modi ji. Those who used to say that this is the Modi vaccine, they will die after taking it, they will become impotent, who did the work of misleading the people, but when their turn came, they silently got the vaccination done. People in the House had said that I will die, but I will not get vaccine administered, but they got the vaccine first.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, for the first time it has come to notice that when the Hon. Prime Minister or His Excellency the President goes somewhere, they get complete protocol. The same protocol was done by the Hon. Prime Minister of our country to deliver oxygen tankers. Installed two engines for it, arranged the entire protocol, so that oxygen reaches as soon as possible, and people may get help. Wherever he could arrange the oxygen, he has arranged the oxygen throughout the country. In fact, it is a matter of research that we have made vaccines available to about 120 crore people so soon. This is efficient leadership.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, before independence, the most revered Bapu used to give a call to the the people, the people used to follow him, but after independence, if any leader has been that popular in the country, it is Shri Narendra Modi ji. Who said ring the bell, people rang the bell, Beat thali, people beat thali. When Modi ji said lockdown, people followed it literally. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to such a Prime Minister. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ (BASTAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, today we are discussing on Covid under Rule 193, I thank you very much for this. The Covid-19 global pandemic has shaken the world. It does not belong to our country, but it is a disease that has come from outside.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, Covid-19 had not even arrived in our country, but our leader, Hon'ble Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, was the first to say about it. He had warned the Government that the Government should take appropriate initiative, because a very big pandemic is about to come, due to which the country will be in great trouble. But this Government never got serious and put the country in trouble.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the first wave came, the lockdown was imposed in a hurry which was a failure. I would like to tell this Government that it was right to impose lockdown, it should be imposed, but were the Chief Ministers consulted? Have other public representatives been consulted? Was there any consultation held with the opposition parties? There was no consultation. The Government did not even know how many laborers were trapped in the outside States, the Government did not know how many laborers from how many States were trapped in which States. Even when the lockdown was imposed, the laborers kept waiting for eight to ten days, but when their hope was broken, then all those laborers were forced to walk on foot .

They did not even have a morsel of food to eat, no water to drink, no slippers on their feet, which caused blisters on their feet. This is a failure of the Government. People were left to die on the streets. Far from saving the public, you made the country clap. we are not refusing that you made people clap, beat the thali, lit the candles, lit incense sticks, lit torches, lit everything, but what came out of it? Did Corona go away? Your clap and thali, everything turned out to be a jumla.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, this was the first wave, which ebbed and it was followed by the second wave. The second wave devastated the country. It was already feared that there would be a second wave, but the Government was not serious about it. The Government was just preparing for the elections. The people of the country were fighting Covid to save their lives and the Government was present in West Bengal. The entire cabinet from the Hon. Prime Minister of the country was contesting the elections in West Bengal. There are no hospitals, no beds, no oxygen, no ventilators in the country. People were lying on the streets as patients, this Government was not worried about them at all. A picture also came in limelight in the country where a sister was trying to save her husband, as her husband did not have oxygen, she tried to revive her husband through mouth to mouth cpr method, but in the end she could not save her husband. .

Even at that time, the Hon. Prime Minister continued to give speeches in West Bengal. People's bodies were piled up in UP, there was no place to bury the dead bodies, dogs kept on taking bites from the dead bodies. The whole country has seen this situation. Who is responsible for the death of lakhs of people? The Hon. Prime Minister of the country and the Central Government are responsible for this. Vaccine was sought from the Government, but the Government did not give the vaccine, leaving it to the States that the States would vaccinate the people of their respective states.

I thank Hon. Shri Bhupesh Baghel ji, Chief Minister of my state Chhattisgarh, that he was the first in the country to say that we the Government would buy and give vaccine to the people of our Chhattisgarh. After that, all the States of the whole country concurred to follow the same process and under the pressure of all the States, Central Government agreed to give the vaccine.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, not only this, I want to give one more example. There was a teacher in my Lok Sabha constituency, who got infected with Covid and was admitted to the hospital. Due to him being infected with Covid, his wife was also quarantined at home. On receiving the shocking news of the death of her husband, the wife also died. There were two poor children, a five-year-old boy and a three-year-old girl. They don't even know that both their parents have died. Those children stayed alone in the house till eight-nine o'clock in the morning and kept crying. We have seen this condition, but in view of this situation, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Shri Bhupesh Baghel ji has decided to bear the full expenses of those children through Mahtari Dular Yojna to help those children. The third wave of Covid is about to arrive. Surely the Government should tell what it has planned for the children. What are your plans in the third wave? ... (Interruptions) I am going to conclude my speech in just a minute. ... (Interruptions) How are you preparing for the third wave? The UP elections are about to be conducted in near future. Do you have a mission for UP elections? Do you plan again to proceed to UP elections with the same sort of speeches?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, Omicron has knocked at the door. The Government should deal with it seriously, because the people of the country are scared of the second wave, the people of the country are suffering, The establishment has nothing to lose. I am just concluding my speech. When you fail, you will cry in front of the country on TV about your various achievements. Now the country will not be administered by mere shedding of tears, you have to deal with it seriously. Thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak.

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA (MANGALDOI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the discussion of the global pandemic COVID-19 today. I also want to thank the frontline workers, Covid warriors, all ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers who are fighting against this global pandemic. I also want to greet, the people of India and especially thank the successful Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi ji, through the House.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, if we take cognizance of present situation of Covid in this whole world, 264 million people have been affected by it all over the world and 52.2 lakh people have lost their lives due to this disease. If we compare India and USA because USA is the nation with best health facility, and their population is 34 crores, There also 4.81 crore people have been infected with Covid and 7.77 lakh people have died. Where India is a country with a population of 146 crores, due to the efforts of all of us in India, only 3.46 crore cases have come in light and 4.7 lakh people have lost their lives. I am placing this data in front of you because the people of our country should know that under the visionary leadership of Hon. Modi ji. We did not get despair and we all bravely overcome this difficult time due to the vision of the Prime Minister although we went through difficult circumstances, and after Phase I, even in Phase II, the facilities were lacking, but we overcame it through collective efforts. At that time the Opposition parties were criticizing the Central Government, it was also their responsibility to motivate people, and ask them to administer the vaccine, but instead of this, many leaders of the Congress party, like Gaurav Gogoi ji, were speaking in the name of Rahul Gandhi ji. Rahul Gandhi ji also raised the question about the availability of vaccine. Today, because of the Hon. Prime Minister and due to the frontline workers, a very historic achievement has been achieved by providing 125 crore doses to the people of India.

Sir, I want to speak about North East. I feel proud today. Today Assam has become the first state among the states of North-East, where cent percent first dose vaccination has been completed. Frontline workers go 70-70 miles with the vaccine on their back in hilly areas like Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur etc, where it takes two days to reach, but even there they go to vaccinate people. We should salute such people but the Opposition is criticizing. I urge them to support the Hon. Prime Minister's slogan of ' Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' in the coming times.

[English]

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA (KRISHNANAGAR): Thank you, Sir.

*Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone...
For the times they are a-changin'*

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, my esteemed colleagues, it is probably the first time that Bob Dylan has been quoted in this august House. But in these changing times, popular culture can sometimes do what great poetry and great prose can't, that is, to strike a cord.

It is unlikely that in this Hindi-Hindu-Hindutva-driven myopic environment most people will have listened to Dylan. So, let me again begin by repeating that the times are indeed a-changin'.

From starting out as the 'Ironman Government' which prided itself on never budging from its position, the past 18 months have seen India transform itself into the land of the u-turn. The BJP Government has finally realised that they better start swimming or they will sink like a stone.

I stand here today to speak in a discussion on the COVID pandemic. It is a pandemic whose official death toll is 4.7 lakhs, but all realistic unofficial records put the number at ten times of that or four million people. This Government only yesterday told us that it had no data on farmer deaths. Previously, it has told us that it lacks data on migrant deaths and it has no data on deaths due of lack of oxygen. So, frankly, we would much rather go with unofficial figures than the official figures.

The pandemic started off on almost a celebratory note where the Prime Minister exhorted us all to gather outside, bang *thalis* and light *diyas*. When the Government should have been ordering vaccines, it was actually propitiating the Gods. The key errors that the Government made in COVID management were along the following lines.

First, I come to vaccine supplies. The Government always knew that this was a double-dose vaccine and to vaccinate an adult population of 940 million, India would need about two billion vaccines. Foreign vaccines had not been approved by India. Domestic production capacity was nowhere near what we needed. In May and June of 2020, we should have been ramping up production, but we did not. When the UK, the USA and the EU were investing in vaccines which had not yet been cleared and placing orders, these were obviously high-risk investments, India did not make these investments. So, they did not get advance allotments and we had a supply crunch.

Half-way through the year, in May-June, the Government said that we would have 900 million vaccines by year end, but when they went to the Supreme Court and submitted an affidavit, they said that they would have only 500 million vaccines. I am very glad today that this Government administered a billion doses, but that is not due to the Government; it is due to the fact that Covishield alone has ramped up production to 240 million doses a month.

The next error was in the field of rate of vaccination. The Government claimed that it would fully vaccinate all adults by the year-end 2021. However, as of today, we have given a double-dose only to 48 per cent of the adult population, which is not even half, and a single dose to about 83 per cent of adults. To reach this target by the year-end, that is, in another 30 days, we would have to vaccinate 18 to 19 million people a day while today, we are doing only nine million people a day.

What is the problem in increasing double-dose coverage? The problem is that when we took down the names of people who were getting the first dose, we took only their phone numbers. The Government did not take their addresses. Now, we have a vast rural population, urban slums and migrant labour. With the harvest season going on and poor rural connectivity, when you are trying to contact these people to chase up on double dosage, you are not getting much success. So, we need physical teams to go house to house.

In India, now we are busy playing catch up. There is a complete silence on third booster shots for the vulnerable as well as vaccines for children and under-18s.

There is a battle outside and it is raging. It will soon shake your windows and wreck-in your walls for the times are changing. These changing times cause the Government to do three rapid u-turns in vaccine policy. The Government's original vaccine policy required people under-45 to pay for their vaccines. The Supreme Court called this arbitrary and irrational and it also breached the Fundamental Rights of Indians as provided under Article 14 and Article 21. The Centre first said that States should pay more than the Centre and then they backed down. Then, they first said that the private hospitals have the right to fix prices and then they backed down. 'The line it is drawn, The curse it is cast.'

The second wave of the pandemic laid bare how grossly unequipped our healthcare systems were. When several factors were responsible for the pandemic, not all of which can be blamed on the Government, an easily preventable dimension of this was that oxygen shortage should never have happened in India. Independent researchers have documented that between April and May, 2021, over 700 patients died due to oxygen shortage alone. In early April, it was clear that we had a problem.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Madam, you have already taken five minutes.

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: Sir, please give me two minutes more.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please finish within one minute now.

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: Sir, please give me two minutes. I am aware that my party has asked you to give me time to speak.

In early April, it was clear that there was a problem. Numbers were exceeding 2,70,000 a day, yet the Prime Minister was lauding a huge crowd in a Bengal election rally; the Shahi Snan at the Kumbh by lakhs of people continued; and the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand said that ‘we have faith in God and in Mother Ganga’.

Let me point out a very brief timeline of who said what. On 27th January, 2021 at World Economic Forum in Davos, Hon. Prime Minister declares 'India has succeeded in containing corona effectively'.

On 21st February, 2021, the BJP passes a resolution glorifying the Prime Minister and stating that India has defeated Coronavirus solely due to him. On 7th March, 2021, the Health Minister said, “We are in the end game of the COVID-19 pandemic in India.” Then, Parul Khakhar said:

[Translation]

Dekh Lapton ko fidal bajate, Wahe Re Billa-ranga,

Saheb Tere Ramraj Mein Shab Vahini Ganga.

[English]

The majoritarian narrative that this Government was propagating through its intermediaries and via its power is slowly but surely disintegrating. The first of these is the office of the PMO. In a democracy one should be able to fairly criticize the highest elected office. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Bhola Singh Ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: Sir, this is not fair. Janardan Singh Ji got nine minutes. Shri Tejasvi got ten minutes. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please complete it now. It has been six minutes now.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Bhola Singh.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bhola Singh ji, you start.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHHAR): Hon. Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the discussion of the global pandemic COVID-19 being held under Rule 193.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not disturb.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHOLA SINGH : Sir, I am Hindi speaking member....
(*Interruptions*) Just now TMC leader was speaking against Hindi, Hindu and God.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, don't say such thing. You conclude your speech in half a minute.

.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bhola Singh ji, you speak.

.... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): Sir, please expunge what the Honorable member has said about the chair. ... (*Interruptions*) It is not right.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Bhola Singh ji, you start your speech.

.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. Only Bhola Singh Ji's speech will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHOLA SINGH : Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the discussion on this global pandemic.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am Hindi speaking.... *(Interruptions)* Right now I was listening to the speech of TMC leader... *(Interruptions)* She was speaking against Hindi, Hindu and God in her speech.... *(Interruptions)* their leaders dreams of becoming Prime Minister, so will her dream of becoming Prime Minister come true by speaking against Hindi, Hindu and God... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, India has fought collectively against the global pandemic Corona and has achieved many unprecedented achievements. There is a steady decline in the cases of corona in the country. In this era, corona cases are increasing in many other countries of the world. Along with this, the economy has also come to a halt. In our country, despite being such a big country, the corona epidemic is under control and the work of stabilizing the economy has also been done under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister. There is no doubt that India has been successful in making its mark in the Corona crisis. Despite being a country of large population, India has set an example in Corona management.

Hon. Sir, at the time of the beginning of the Corona crisis, India did not have sanitizers, masks, other arrangements, nor was there a system to make them, but under the able leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister, India has made the whole world realize its potential by producing these goods during that crisis. Today the vaccine of India is world renowned and till date vaccination of 125 crore residents has been completed. At present, we are taking up the task of vaccinating people in rural areas visiting their doorsteps. During the times of earlier governments, people usually didn't get vaccine during the pandemic but today under the leadership of Hon'ble Modi ji, vaccine has been given to 125 crore countrymen at their doorsteps.

I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the fact that 19 lakh people have been vaccinated till date in my constituency. Along with that, Hon'ble Prime Minister is providing free ration to 80 crore people under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana to ensure no poor sleeps empty stomach. In my constituency Bulandshahr also 21 lakh people are getting free ration under this scheme. I express my thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister for this. Presently, 15 Oxygen plants have been set up in my constituency. Approximately, 1310 new ICU beds have been set up by the Government. I express my thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister for this also. I express my thanks to the Government and the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the task of delivering nutritious food to the homes of people by our Anganwadi Workers when lockdown was imposed during Corona pandemic. The credit of recovering the nation from pandemic goes to Hon'ble Prime Minister. Globally, India has earned the image of a noble nation and prestige of India has increased around the world.

Brazil's President Shri Jair Bolsonaro and the Head of the World Health Organisation Shri Tedros Ghebreyesus have praised India. The way, our country has recovered from Corona pandemic under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, he deserves much accolades for this. Our colleagues have stated that Hon'ble Prime Minister has saved the countrymen and protected them by recovering the country during this time of crisis. The Government is working on the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayaas and this positive approach has been visible. Thank you Hon .Chairperson sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi. Please conclude your point in 3-4 minutes. I also do not like to interrupt.

[English]

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have only a few points to highlight. We are anticipating the third wave. Hopefully, we will not get the third wave. But we should be prepared for it because prevention is better than cure, as we all know. India has seen the second wave and we could effectively fight the second wave also.

On Omicron, I have one or two points to make. There are studies to show that Omicron is a fast-spreading variant of COVID-19 virus. But till now, according to WHO's studies, there are no medical emergencies because serious cases, deaths and mortality are not there. They have stated one fact. It is that, they have studied only the young people, like students of universities. So, some more studies have to come after studying the elder ones. Hence, we have to wait and watch. On the impact of the virus on the people who are already vaccinated and the need for boosters, within one or two days the result of all the scientific research will come. But we should be more alert. We pray to the Almighty that India won't see the third wave. Under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister *garu* and the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan *garu*, our hon. visionary Chief Minister, who is taking care of both health and education under the *Nadu Nedu* Scheme, we have done well. Our Chief Minister is improving all the health infrastructure. We have village health clinics in each village. We have a Village Secretariat also. We have a volunteer system. We have done a very good service during the second wave. We could do almost 45,000 tests per day and we could control the disease like anything. He has sanctioned 16 new medical colleges. After Independence, we had only 11 medical colleges. But now, after Shri Jagan Mohan *garu* became the Chief Minister, 16 new medical colleges have been sanctioned. Three of them are Centrally-sponsored ones. We are asking the support of the Central Government

to sponsor the other 13 medical colleges also so that we have better infrastructure.

From our medical fraternity, I have a few recommendations to make. I will take only one minute to point them out. On behalf of my profession, I would like to pay huge tribute to doctors and other frontline warriors who have lost their lives, including some of our colleague Members of Parliament. Shri Balli Durga Prasad Rao *garu* from Tirupathi Parliamentary constituency has lost his life. I would like to extend my condolences to their family members from this august House.

The medical fraternity rose to the occasion and made many sacrifices in the process of discharging its duties. Many doctors have lost their lives. There is a lot of difference between the statistics as depicted by the Government and the realistic numbers given by the Indian Medical Association. Through you, I would like to ask the Minister to verify them because according to our statistics only 750 or 800 doctors have lost their lives, but according to IMA statistics, almost 1,800 doctors have lost their lives.

The Government should take pro-active measures in ensuring the safety of all the doctors. With the new variant Omicron, we have to be more vigilant and curtail international travels till the pandemic fades away. The Government should give a call to the celebrities to come forward and advise the general public on the COVID-19 appropriate behaviour free of cost as a social responsibility. There is every need to increase skill development in fields, like anaesthesiology and in other paramedical subjects. The Government of India should take upgradation of the ICUs in Government teaching hospitals throughout the country and constantly finance the maintenance of these units.

The hon. Minister and the Government should come forward to establish post-Covid-19 treatment units throughout the country in all the teaching hospitals. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI (BHARATPUR): Hon. sir, the largest vaccination campaign in the world was started after developing COVID vaccine in the least possible time under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister which is presently being made available presently to all the countrymen absolutely free of cost. 100 crore countrymen have been vaccinated under this campaign till now. Oxygen Mission was started by the Hon'ble Prime Minister when there was shortage of oxygen in the entire country during the second wave of Corona. The oxygen tanks were supplied immediately from one state to other in the entire country with the help of Air Force and through railway lines and all possible means and Oxygen was procured and imported from foreign countries also through special planes keeping in view the shortage of oxygen. Along with this, Oxygen plants were set up in the entire country through PM CARES Fund. I want to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for immediately making ventilators available to the hospitals struggling due to shortage of ventilators with increase in the number of Corona patients in the hospitals all over the country during the second corona wave. Alongside, whereas Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji was making ventilators available in the entire country, at the same time, the Congress Government dumped the ventilators in garbage in Bharatpur District before my eyes. There was an attempt to suppress our Government. Those ventilators were provided to Private hospitals. But, I want to thank our government for tackling the pandemic and helping each other out, whereas this Congress government was trying to suppress our good deeds by giving away the ventilators to the private hospitals. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Ranjeeta ji, kindly conclude now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI: I exposed their failure in front of the entire country by exposing it. By way of manufacturing RT PCR Kits during Corona period ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, kindly allow only a little more time. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly conclude by speaking in brief. Please make your final point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI: RT PCR Test Kits were manufactured and made available in the entire country so that the chain of infection could be broken by identifying COVID patients and conducting maximum tests and their treatment could be started immediately. I would like to thank Hon. Prime Minister that our Government in such Corona period... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR (TIRUVALLUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity. I pay my condolences to the bereaved families of the departed souls due to COVID-19. I would also like to put on record my sincere thanks to the hon. Congress President and Shri Rahul Gandhi for having monitored the Congress units across the country through Zoom during this COVID-19 period and inspiring us to work with the people and to extend our help to the people. I would also like to thank the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who has done an excellent work in the recent days to see that the corona virus is put under check now.

I am sorry to say that the Union Government has committed a few errors, which they could have comfortably avoided. For instance, when they closed down the country for COVID-19, they could have taken into consideration the practical problems faced by the people. The Government should have paid attention to the issues faced by the people. Only one day's time was given to settle down, that is only 24 hours were given to them. Had the Government given more time, people would have settled down comfortably and much of the problems would have been solved. Particularly, the migrant workers' condition would have been much better, but the Government has miserably failed on this front.

I would like to touch upon only one point which is about the vaccination programme. The Government is behaving like a miser. It was decided that we are going to vaccinate only people above 18 years of age. The total population is about 800 million. So, you require only 1,600 vaccination vials. The cost of it is not more than Rs. 48,000 crore.

24.00 hrs

You may appreciate that this Rs. 48,000 crore is 0.32 per cent of our GDP, and if we go for ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Five of our Hon. Members of Parliament are yet to speak. I think you should take two to three minutes each. The timing of the house is extended till speeches of all are over. No one else, other than these names will be given opportunity. You can lay your speech today or tomorrow. You can lay at the time of reply also but right now it would not be feasible to allow time to speak.

[English]

Dr. Jayakumar, please conclude now.

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR : Sir, money is not a problem. It is a very small amount when you compare it with our GDP and it is only 0.32 per cent. I do not know

why the Government has made a big mess of delaying manufacture of vaccines in our country.

Another thing that I noticed is that the Government was very reckless in handling this programme. Some of our Ministers and senior leaders have handled it in a very bad way. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The next speaker is Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: The hon. Health Minister has said that we are in a pandemic...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I will be able to give three minutes only. Please cooperate with the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: It was not three minutes. We were told that five minutes will be given to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Dr. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA (ROHTAK): Sir, first of all I want to congratulate Hon. Modi ji that if anyone has understood this disease, this COVID pandemic deeply, it is only the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. When the entire world was tackling the pandemic during the first wave of Corona and a country like America was not able to decipher what this pandemic was; Hon. Modi ji understood it quickly and engaged renowned scientists and doctors during first phase itself, in planning for vaccination. Is it not a big feat? We should thank Hon. Modi ji for enabling us to organise programmes in the open, to breathe freely and to roam around freely in the open. Hon. Modi ji accomplished this by administering 125 Crore doses and so we are talking freely in the open.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, one more thing has emerged from the pandemic and that is we have moved towards self reliant India. There were no face masks, PPE kits, sanitisers etc. earlier, but the way Hon'ble Modi ji has taken it to move towards self reliant India; you will see that Hon'ble Modi ji talked on 15 August about import of C.N.G., P.N.G. worth 12 Lakh Crores. If you have a look towards self reliant India, then there are 5000 C.N.G. plants going to be established in the country today. This is a great contribution of Hon'ble Modi ji.

Sir, one thing that has emerged out of this 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' is that earlier India was called Golden Bird. Mughals ruled over us for 800 years and the Britishers for around 180 years. Thus, our country remained enslaved for one thousand years and today as we have marched ahead towards Self Reliant India, I can say it with conviction that presently we don't need India as a Golden Bird but as a Golden Lion because the Golden Bird was taken away by

the Mughals and by the Britishers. Today, we have to make India a Golden Lion under the leadership of hon'ble Modi ji. We have to work towards it.

Sir, I would like to thank doctors, nurses, para-medical staffs, sanitation workers, all of them as Corona Warriors and pay homage to those, who have lost their kin and those who have lost their lives in this corona pandemic.

Sir, I would like to say to the hon'ble Health Minister about the new wave coming in the form of Omicron that it is seven times more infectious. We should be careful about it. The Omicron pandemic spreading in 29 countries has two patients in India also. First of all, through you, I would request the Ministry of Health to stop International Flights with immediate effect, else we won't be able to control it.

Sir, I would also like to thank the social and religious institutions which have worked day and night tirelessly during Corona pandemic in our districts of Rohtak, Jhajjar, Kosli and Bahadurgarh.

[English]

SHRI ASIT KUMAR MAL (BOLPUR): Sir, today, an important matter regarding COVID-19 is being discussed. I am also participating in this debate.

I would like to urge the Government that it must inform to the House how many people were died due to COVID-19 till now. How many people were affected by COVID-19? How many were cured? I would also like to know how many people have been vaccinated so far. Is this Government prepared to vaccinate all the countrymen? Has the Government provided proper infrastructure to the State Governments to vaccinate, as per their demands?

I would like to express my thanks to the West Bengal Government. It has provided adequate services to cope up with the COVID-19 virus. Doctors, nurses, and the staff at all levels have dedicated their lives to save the people affected by coronavirus. The hon'ble Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee has always been alert and active to fight the virus.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to tell one more thing. We received an order from the Central Government that the Members of Parliament of Lok Sabha and Rajyasabha will have to forego MPLAD Fund for two years. This is regarding COVID-19. We also received an order to donate salary *[English]* in the interest of our country. *[Translation]* All of us followed Government orders to contain the spread of COVID-19 and for treatment and medicine. We all contributed funds but it is regrettable that we still do not have knowledge about how much money got deposited and how much got spent. Through this auspicious House, I

would like to know as to how much money has been spent to contain the spread of virus. It is quite necessary to have information in this regard.

[English]

Sir, I will not take more time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, you have made your point.

SHRI ASIT KUMAR MAL: Sir, I will not take more time because Prof. Sougata Ray, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Shrimati Satabdi Roy, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar, Sushri Mahua Mitra have also provided details on COVID-19 in their speeches. Thank you.

[Translation]

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL (SIRSA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, first of all I would like to thank our front line workers, who have worked during the Corona Pandemic. Along with that, I also want to express my condolences to all the families who have lost any member of their family.

Sir, after this I would like to say that such a pandemic has occurred in 100 years which has shaken the entire world. Earlier, whenever there was an occurrence of a disease, we used to call it Epidemic. That disease affected only a limited area. But, this disease is a pandemic which has affected the entire world. There will not be any family or household, which has remained unaffected due to this. Today, we are quite advanced due to technology. This disease spread in the entire world due to means of communication, which has been very fast paced, be it through air or transmission through train or even if we talk about ship. Today, means of transport are enormous.

Hon. Chairman Sir, I want to say that just now hon'ble leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan ji was speaking. He enumerated a large number of countries before us, but did not tell us about their population. For example, let us talk about America where seven lakh people died in a population of 34 crores. India's population is 135 crores and comparatively, there have been four lakh deaths. We are saying that whatever happened due to this disease was tragic and not even a single death should have occurred. Work was carried out under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister and our Corona Warriors also worked, and I would like to thank all for this. Our Members colleagues also

helped each other a lot. As told by Hon'ble Nishikant ji, there have been several Members of Parliament and Ministers, who responded at once regarding this, whenever we contacted them over phone. We all combated this disease through TEST, TRACK & TREAT strategy.

I want to thank all for the same. I want to say that these are the people, some of whom termed it as BJP's vaccine, while others termed it as RSS's vaccine, when Hon. Prime Minister exhorted the people to take vaccine. They also said that they would get vaccinated if Hon. Prime Minister got himself vaccinated first. Categories were made under which our warriors were vaccinated first, then people above 60 years of age were vaccinated. Now, these people are desperate for getting vaccine and running from pillar to post. These very people had said bad things about vaccine. I want to only say that let bygones be bygones. Let's forget the past. Now, we have to concentrate on how to control the oncoming Omicron and how can we help out each other in this regard.

I want to talk about my constituency. Our farmer brothers helped a lot in this situation. They produced record quantity of yield in such times. You can see that, we could provide foodgrains to 80 crore people due to that only. Hon'ble Prime Minister provided foodgrains to 80 crore pl through 'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana'.

Sir, King Harishchandra was a great philanthropist. Whenever he donated something, his eyes always looked downwards. Hon'ble Prime Minister never wants to take credit for these things, if not told by us.(Interruptions) I am concluding. Revered Tulsidas ji forwarded four liens to him, "Aisi Deni Den Ju, Kith Seekhe ho Sain, Jyun Jyun Kar Unchau Karau, Tyun Tyun Neeche Nain" Harishchandra ji responded with the following four liens "Denhar Koi Aur Hai, Devat Hai Din-Rain, Log Bhram Ham Par Karen, Yaate Neeche Nain."

Thank you very much.

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN (SAHARANPUR): Chairperson Sir, we are discussing about Corona. At present, the burning topic in entire world is the third wave, i.e. Omicron. We should prepare for it and it should be in such a way that if there was any negligence or deficiency from our side, in the first two waves, it should be rectified. For example, in the first wave the lockdown was suddenly imposed for one day and it got extended for approximately 50 days. Due to it, there arose an atmosphere of fear and terror all over India. What I want to say is that steps should be taken in such a way that the law and order situation is not disturbed and there is no panic among the people.

In this context, I want to say one thing that the Government should take some precautions. For example, when the first wave came, Tabligi Jamaat was made responsible for it. Delhi's Markaji, which is the centre of Tabligi Jamaat, was made responsible for it. The High Court and the Supreme Court condemned it. I want to say that the Government should pay attention to the fact that such things does not happen again. In the same way, when the second wave came, at that time our government was not fully prepared. This was the reason that Oxygen shortage occurred. Oxygen had to be imported, plants were set up hastily. In spite of this, so many casualties occurred in villages and hinterlands. So many people died there due to shortage of Oxygen. I want to give one strange example of my Lok Sabha Constituency, Saharanpur. At that place, a father died only because his son went to bring an Oxygen Cylinder. The moment he reached the plant, he was taken into the custody. He was released when his father died. Our government should pay attention to such things. In

this context, I want to appreciate our doctors, nurses, medical staff, sanitation workers, police personnel and administration people. They have done very good work and we appreciate it. One more thing is about vaccination. The data about the number of vaccinated people in crores is being released.

My request to you is that the separate data in percentage terms about the people who have been administered first dose and second dose should be displayed.

I want to thank you very much that during this Corona times, large hospitals have been benefited very much due to oxygen shortage. Exorbitant charges have been taken of ICU beds. There should be atleast some guidelines framed so that people can garner some benefits.

جناب حاجی فضل الرحمن صاحب (سہارنپور): محترم چیرمین صاحب، ہم لوگ کورونا سے متعلق چرچا کر رہے ہیں۔ اس وقت پوری دنیا میں تھرڈ ویو یعنی اومیکرون کی چرچا ہے۔ ہمیں اس کی تیاری کرنی چاہیے اور اس طریقے سے کرنی چاہیے کہ جو پہلی دو ویوز کے اندر، ہماری طرف سے اگر کوئی لاپرواہی یا کمی رہ گئی ہے، اس کو دور کیا جائے۔ جیسے جب پہلی ویو آئی تو اچانک ایک دن کا لاک ڈاؤن لگایا گیا اور وہ بڑتے بڑتے تقریباً 50 دن تک پہنچ گیا۔ اس کی وجہ سے پورے ملک میں ڈر اور خوف کا ماحول پیدا ہو گیا۔ میرا یہ کہنا ہے کہ اس طرح کے قدم اٹھانے چاہیے کہ ماحول خراب نہ ہو اور ڈر پیدا نہ ہو۔

میں اس کے اندر ایک اور بات کہنا چاہوں گا کہ سرکار کو کچھ احتیاط بھی برتنی چاہیے۔ جیسے جب پہلی ویو آئی، تو اس کو ذمہ دار تبلیغی جماعت کو ٹھہرایا گیا۔ دہلی کے مرکز، جو کہ تبلیغی جماعت کا سینٹر ہے اس کو ٹھہرایا گیا۔ اس کو ہائی کورٹ اور سپریم کورٹ نے کنڈیم کیا۔ میرا کہنا ہے کہ سرکار کو اس طرف دھیان دینا چاہیے کہ اس طرح کی باتیں آگے نہ ہوں۔ ایسے ہی جب دوسری لہر آئی، اس وقت ہماری سرکار پوری طرح سے تیار نہیں تھی۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ آکسیجن کی کمی ہوئی، آکسیجن باہر سے منگانی پڑی، جلدی جلدی پلانٹ لگانے پڑے۔ اس کے باوجود بھی گاؤں اور دیہات میں بہت زیادہ اموات ہوئیں اور آکسیجن نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے وہاں

پر بہت لوگ مارے گئے۔ میں آپ کو اپنے پارلیمانی حلقہ سہارنپور کی ایک بڑی عجیب سی مثال دینا چاہوں گا کہ ایک لڑکے کے والد صرف اس لئے مر گئے کہ وہ لڑکا آکسیجن کا سنڈر لینے گیا تھا۔ جس وقت وہ پلانٹ پر پہنچا تو اسے گرفتار کر لیا گیا، جب اس کے والد کی موت ہو گئی تب اس لڑکے کو چھوڑا گیا۔ ان چیزوں کی طرف ہمارے سرکار کا دھیان ہونا چاہیے۔ میں یہاں پر اپنے ڈاکٹرس، نرسز، میڈیکل اسٹاف، صفائی کرمچاری، اس کے ساتھ ساتھ پولس اور انتظامیہ کے لوگوں کی تعریف کرنا چاہوں گا کہ اس دور میں انہوں نے بہت اچھا کام کیا، ہم ان کی تعریف کرتے ہیں۔ ایک بات یہ ہے کہ ویکسینیشن ہو رہی ہے، اس کا آئکڑہ گنتی میں بتایا جا رہا ہے کہ اتنے کروڑ لوگوں کو ویکسین لگ چکی ہے

(ختم شد)

[English]

***DR. AMAR SINGH (FATEHGARH SAHIB):** Thank you, Sir. Please give me 5 minutes.

Hon'ble Minister Sir, I represent the Fatehgarh Sahib constituency in Punjab. It is the historic place where in 1705, the 10th Sikh Guru Shri Gobind Singh ji's two younger sons were walled alive. I hail from this constituency and am an elected representative from here. Even 315-316 years later, on 25th, 26th and 27th December, Sikh women and men gather here in huge numbers of 50 lakhs and wail and shed tears. It has such importance in our religion.

I urge the hon'ble Minister to understand its significance. We Sikhs have shed our blood for India. Aurangzeb wanted to convert all Hindus. We fought against the Mughals. Our 9th and 10th Gurus fought against him.

So, I demand that the Government of India should sanction a medical college for Fatehgarh Sahib Constituency. The State Government does not have the resources.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered Punjabi.

Secondly, some small hospitals are there. These need to be upgraded into 50 bed hospitals. 700 farmers have sacrificed their lives in the agitation. Kindly grant compensation to the farmers and jobs to their family members.

Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, 74 Hon. Members have participated in this discussion. Laying speeches are in addition to that. I understand that this subject has been discussed very patiently. The Hon. Members who could not deliver their speeches can lay their speeches. They have their chance.

**THE STATE MINISTER IN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
MINISTRY AND STATE MINISTER IN CULTURAL
MINISTRY (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Chairperson Sir, after independence of country when the Lok Sabha was constituted in the year 1952, there have been many discussions under the Rule 193, I think this discussion would be considered as the longest of all of them. Today, you are on the seat.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I congratulate Hon'ble Minister and all the Hon'ble Members. Maluk Nagar ji, I thank you especially as you have decided not to speak at this time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House is adjourned today till morning 11 o'clock on Friday, December 3, 2021.

00.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 3, 2021/Agrahayana, 12, 1943 (Saka).

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