

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

EDITORIAL BOARD

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

MAMTA KEMWAL
Joint Secretary

BISHAN KUMAR
Director

ROHINI SHARMA
Joint Director

ABHA SINGH
Assistant Editor/Editor

© 2019 Lok Sabha Secretariat

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

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

C O N T E N T S

**Seventeenth Series, Vol. III, First Session, 2019/1941 (Saka)
No. 29, Thursday, July 25, 2019/Shravana 03, 1941 (Saka)**

S U B J E C T	P A G E S
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 461 to 466, 471 and 477	13-43
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 467 to 470, 472 to 476 and 478 to 480	44
Unstarred Question Nos. 5252 to 5481	

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

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 46-55

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA 56

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS 56-59

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 266th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in 260th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping

Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya 57

- (ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 265th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in 259th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari 58

- (iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 293rd Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi 59

GOVERNMENT BILLS - Introduced 60-80

- (i) **Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019** 60-66
- (ii) **Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019** 67-73
- (iii) **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019** 74-80

**STATEMENT RE: COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)
SECOND ORDINANCE, 2019**

81

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

82-108

- (i) Need to take steps for overall development of Musahar caste in Rewa Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

Shri Janardan Mishra

82

- (ii) Need to expedite doubling of railway line from Jhansi to Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh

Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

83

- (iii) Need to relax qualifying marks for recruitment of Urdu teachers in Bihar

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

84-85

- (iv) Regarding alleged fraudulent scheme of Adarsh credit cooperative society

Shri Devaji Patel

85

- (v) Regarding need to renovate Maldaha Airport in West Bengal

Shri Khagen Murmu

86

- (vi) Regarding release of required funds to Maharashtra under PMAY-Urban

Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil

86-87

- (vii) Regarding talks with Gorkha representatives

- | | | |
|--------|--|-------|
| | Shri Raju Bista | 88 |
| (viii) | Need to establish a Rice Research Institute in Bhandara-Gondiya Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra | |
| | Shri Sunil Baburao Mendhe | 89 |
| (ix) | Need to give recognition to Electropathy as a branch of medical science | |
| | Shri Ramcharan Bohra | 89-90 |
| (x) | Need to provide appropriate compensation to people whose lands have been acquired for construction of NH-527C in Muzaffarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar | |
| | Shri Ajay Nishad | 91 |
| (xi) | Regarding utilization of funds allocated to District Mineral Foundation Trust | |
| | Shri Sunil Kumar Singh | 92 |
| (xii) | Regarding participation of Members of Parliament in implementation of development schemes in LWE affected districts | |
| | Shri Sushil Kumar Singh | 93 |
| (xiii) | Need to include Pawanager in Uttar Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan scheme | |
| | Dr. Ramapati Ram Tripathi | 94 |
| (xiv) | Need to develop historical temples in Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra as tourist places | |

- Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete 95
- (xv) Need to ensure smooth implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Burhanpur district, Madhya Pradesh
- Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan 96
- (xvi) Regarding change in the present education system
- Shri Hibi Eden 97
- (xvii) Regarding rail facilities in Attingal Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala
- Adv. Adoor Prakash 98
- (xviii) Regarding construction of Overbridges in Karur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu
- Sushri S. Jothimani 99
- (xix) Regarding addressing the problems of plantation labourers of Tamil Nadu
- Shri A. Raja 100
- (xx) Regarding construction of railway platform shed at Canning railway station, West Bengal
- Shrimati Pratima Mondal 101
- (xxi) Regarding setting up of a Welfare Commission for Fishermen
- Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari 102

- (xxii) Regarding subsidy to farmers by the National Horticulture Board subsidy scheme
Shri Shrirang Appa Barne 103
- (xxiii) Need to construct a level crossing at Bagaha in Valmiki Nagar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar
Shri Baidyanath Prasad Mahto 104
- (xxiv) Regarding development of Ramayan Circuit
Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu 105
- (xxv) Regarding setting up of National Prison Academy, Telangana
Dr. G. Ranjith Reddy 105-106
- (xxvi) Need to construct railway line on Chandausi-Sambhal-Gajraula section in Uttar Pradesh
Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq 107
- (xxvii) Regarding problem of land erosion in Kokrajhar Parliamentary Constituency, Assam
Shri Naba Kumar Sarania 108

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON
MARRIAGE) ORDINANCE, 2019**

110

AND

**MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS
ON MARRIAGE) BILL, 2019**

Motion to Consider	110
Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	110- 116, 179, 180, 249-261
Shri N.K. Premachandran	111, 116-121, 266-268
Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty	122-123
Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi	124-129, 130-137
Dr. Mohammad Jawed	137-141
Shrimati Kanimozhi	142-147
Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	147-150
Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy	151-153
Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	154-160
Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut	161-163
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'	163-166
Shri Anubhav Mohanty	167-170
Kunwar Danish Ali	170-176
Shri Mohammad Azam Khan	177-178
Shri Kalyan Banerjee	193
Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	193-195
Shrimati Kirron Kher	195-201
Shri Gaurav Gogoi	202-207
Shri Sunil Dattatray Tatkare	207-209
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	209-217
Shrimati Poonam Mahajan	218-222
Adv. A.M. Ariff	223-224

Shri Jayadev Galla	224-227
Shrimati Aparajita Sarangi	228-231
Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer	232-233
Shri P. Raveendranath Kumar	233-235
Shri M. Selvaraj	236-237
Shri Hasnain Masoodi	237-239
Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan	240-241
Shri Abdul Khaleque	242-243
Shrimati Locket Chatterjee	244-247
Sushri S. Jothimani	248-249
Statutory Resolution Re: Disapproval of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance , 2019	
Resolution - Negatived	268
Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019	269
Clauses 2 to 8 and 1	286-294
Motion to Pass	
ANNOUNCEMENT RE: EXTENSION OF SITTINGS OF LOK SABHA	295

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Om Birla

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shrimati Rama Devi

Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki

Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Shri A. Raja

Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

Shri N.K. Premachandran

Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shrimati Snehlata Shrivastava

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 25, 2019/Shravana 03, 1941 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 461 Shri E.T. Mohammed Bashir.

[English]

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Sir, the hon. Minister's statement is really very satisfactory. It gives us new hopes. He said in his reply that we have entered into an agreement with USTDA with regard to modernisation of Indian National Airspace System and to prepare a roadmap for the development of our systems. That is very good. But will it be sufficient? That is my question.

It is a fact that the Indian aviation sector is showing extraordinary growth in the last few years and the report says that Indian airports are estimated to handle 100 million passengers including 60 million domestic passengers by 2020 and cargo handling also would be in the range of 3.4 million tonnes per annum. There is no doubt that we must give top priority to it. The hon. Minister's statement is a hint to that.

What I am saying is that when we give this kind of consideration, it is mainly on big or major airports in the country, but what about non-metro airports? Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you whether we will have any special emphasis on the overall development of non-metro airports in addition to major airports in the country. I want to know what exactly the position of the Government is.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I am in full agreement with the hon. Member who said that the Indian civil aviation sector is experiencing a dynamic growth. On that note, there is absolutely no doubt. With only 7 per cent penetration and approximately 17 per cent rate of growth, I think, we are beginning to see the beginning of a new era where, today, we are the third largest market in the civil aviation sector. I think, with the rate at which we are growing, we currently have 345 million passengers per annum. This could reach the figure of one billion which the hon. Member has mentioned. It could possibly be done – whether it is in 2020 or 2022, I am not a soothsayer, but all I will say is that the growth trends point to that direction.

The specific question the hon. Member has asked is about the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. It is a technical assistance programme which the U.S. Government provides to the exporters of its goods and services and we have been participating in this programme not only in the civil aviation sector since 2007 but also in the Smart Cities Project, in the energy sector and elsewhere.

In so far as the non-metro airports that the hon. Member has referred to, I would like to submit that our overall thrust of the policy is that we try and privatise the airports as we have done in Delhi and Mumbai airports. The resources that we get, we then utilise them to develop airports in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. I would like to submit to the hon. Member through you, Sir that we have in the recent past successfully pursued the UDAN Scheme and the UDAN Scheme has had three rounds of bidding, and if my memory serves me right, we have already operationalised something like 184 flights connecting regional points including in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

We have undertaken the development of a non-metro airport as a pilot project in Lucknow for capacity enhancement, and I would like to share with the hon. Member that airport modernisation, filling the gaps in the civil aviation

sector or learning through best practices followed elsewhere introducing air traffic flow management system, is an on-going process.

We are always consulting with stakeholders including the consumers and passengers to pursue this.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Sir, I thank the Minister for the proper reply for my first question.

My second question is with regard to green field airports. With regard to green field airports, we have actually decided to have 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment and we have announced PPP also. Similarly, Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) mode is also there. But according to my information, – I am subject to correction – this has not developed up to our expectations even though we have made all these efforts. Development of green field airports has not materialised as we expected. What I would like to ask the Minister, through you, is whether we will have any exclusive programme for the development of green field airports and what exactly is the programme of action the Government wish to take in this regard.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a specific question on green field airports. In cities where the existing airport either cannot or does not lend itself to expansion because of constraints of land or congested habitation, obviously we look at green field prospects. I would like to submit to the hon. Member that Delhi Airport for instance, which has been in operation for many years, currently handles something like 70 million passengers as per current load. It could, perhaps, expand with the fourth runway to take in, maybe, up to 100 million passengers per annum. But that is where it would begin to face constraints. So, we are looking at a green field airport in Jewar in Uttar Pradesh which is nearby and I would also like to submit to the hon. Member that if you look at international airports, if you look at for instance the United Kingdom,

Heathrow is the big airport, then there is Gatwick and then there is Stansted; all these three put together handle roughly 154 million passengers per annum.

So, green field airports are becoming necessary in our own country because many of the existing airports are situated in populated areas where there is no scope for expansion. I could give the hon. Member a list of the green field airports. I do not think he is requesting for that. He has some doubts as to whether we have been successful. I would say that we have been rather successful; even though I have no authorship, some of the green field airports to which I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention are Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai etc. and we have tried to pursue this policy through a single window clearance. I think, things are moving very fast and I would, of course, welcome any suggestion that the hon. Member or others might have.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question pertaining to my own constituency Sriperumbudur. The much talked about Sriperumbudur Green Field Airport is not at all seeing any development; for the past 10-15 years it is lying idle. I would like to know as to who is at fault, whether the State Government, Central Government or the Civil Aviation Ministry itself. I would like to know this so that I can take up the matter or at least come and meet the Minister on this aspect.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, it would always be a pleasure to meet the hon. Member as I have been doing for the last 20 years in different jobs I have held. A green field airport, first and foremost, depends on adequate land being made available by the State Government. Let me say, that is the starting point. When the land is available and the State Government would obviously make the land available if it has made a determination on the viability, on the kind of traffic etc. In the case of Sriperumbudur, as I have mentioned, I have just been confirmed that land is the issue. Now, once land is made available, I would be happy to put

the resources of the Ministry of Civil Aviation including the Airports Authority of India to see how to pursue it and I would welcome a discussion with the hon. Member to which I will invite the representatives of the Airports Authority of India and other concerned agencies and, perhaps, the State Government if they wish to also participate in the meeting.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister through you. Ever since he took the charge of both Urban and Aviation Ministries, he has been making a lot of efforts for the metro cities' potential and connectivity. By the way, when it comes to the PPP model, Surat is the only city for which we made our first attempt for connectivity with a deposit of three crore rupees. What is the provision for extension and modernization of airports in the PPP model? Narendra Bhai had laid the foundation for the International Airport in Surat, how much time will the Government take to extend it? I want to ask about the same through you.

[English]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I can only endorse what the hon. Member is saying that the hon. Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone and that we will now pursue this. She wants to know the specific time by which we will complete it. I am not carrying those details with me because that is an airport-specific, a project-specific issue. But I will share those with the hon. Member.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, recently the Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken a decision to privatise three airports including Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Lucknow. They have been handed over to Adani group for modernisation. This is like handing over assets built with Government money to private parties. A few years ago, there was a proposal to privatise Kolkata and Chennai airports also. This was withdrawn in the face of determined opposition by the workers and

all concerned people in the country. The Minister has mentioned that they have been preparing a master plan for developing a cost-effective way to add capacity to meet future traffic demand at Kolkata and Lucknow airports. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, if he would assure us that no further effort would be made to privatise the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport at Kolkata which has been modernised recently at a cost of Rs.2,300 crore. I would like him to assure us that this is not being privatised as it will be totally against the interests of workers and the State.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I will confine myself to saying that the Government has taken a decision to privatise six airports. This was a decision taken in November of 2018. Out of these, we are proceeding with three of them. In respect of two others, I think we have resolved all the other issues. What further programme of privatisation will we undertake etc., ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: To who have you handed over?

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: There were bids invited for six airports and one bidder succeeded in all the six bids. In respect of three airports, we have taken a decision to hand them over to that bidder. ... *(Interruptions)* It is Adani Enterprises, yes. ... *(Interruptions)* If you look at the bid document, unlike the previous period when bids were confined to just one or two bidders and we received low bids, this one received nine bids and all of them were of international class. And I can tell you that they were extremely successful. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would welcome a discussion on what was done to the civil aviation sector during an extended period of time when my friends were in office. I would be happy to have that discussion on what they did to that sector. ... *(Interruptions)* I would be happy to have that discussion in the House because we will then talk about civil aviation rights, we will then talk about. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you should give in writing.

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: What about Kolkata?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, don't give reply to him.

[English]

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: As regards Kolkata, it is not my job to give assurances on hypothetical things. If we receive a demand that a particular airport needs to be privatised, we will look at the issue on merits. I am in no position to give private assurances to hon. Members. That is not a Minister's job.

(Q. No. 462 and 477)

[Translation]

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN: Sir, my question to the Hon. Minister is whether the allocation for scholarship to be provided to the students belonging to minority communities has been increased or decreased in this budget as compared to the last budget. What are the details in this regard? If the allocation has been decreased, then the reasons therefor.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, hon. Member has asked about the economic, educational empowerment and development of minorities. I would like to tell you that the Modi Government is working strenuously and honestly for the economic, social, educational empowerment of 130 crore Indians. We have worked with a view to ensuring benefits to all sections of the society especially the backward, weak and deprived sections so that they can be a participant and partner in the journey of development. During the last 5 years, we have given scholarship of Rs. 3 crore and 18 lakh to the students to the minority communities, who are notified minorities, and these include Jain, Buddhist, Christian, Parsi, Muslim and Sikhs. There are more than 50 per cent girls in them.

Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member through you that we are working with the resolution that equal opportunity should be provided to all sections of the society development should be done without any discrimination, and empowerment without any appeasement. This has resulted in the decline in rising drop-out rate if you look at the record of the last 5 years. The trend of drop-out among students has been reduced, because scholarships worth Rs 3 crore 18 lakh have directly reached into the accounts of children through DBT mode. This work has been done without any middlemen, dishonesty and leakage.

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN: Sir, my question was whether the funds have been increased or reduced in this Budget to give scholarships to students from

minority communities. I would like to know about this and if the amount has been reduced in this Budget, then the reason for that should also be given.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Rs. 500 crores have been increased as compared to the previous Budget. This is one thing. The second thing is that it is our resolution that we will not talk of minority, or majority for educational empowerment. We are working and will continue to work for the deprived section of the society, which is backward, and to which the light of development should reach. This Government is committed to make all sections of the society the part of the journey of development and to ensure the development of the sections of the society which couldn't be the part of development for some political reasons.

HON. SPEAKER: Question number 477 is also clubbed with this question.

Dr. Manoj Rajoria ji.

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Sir, in our country under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi ji, the faith in the slogan of "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas*" has manifested. I have asked questions regarding the manner in which the Ministry of Minority Affairs has acted in the interest of minority girls. The Hon. Minister has given a very detailed answer to that.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the names of special schemes being run by the Government for the minority girls all over the country, so that they may realize that under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, the future of minority girls is safe and they will contribute to the progress of the country.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, many important schemes have been implemented during the last 5 years for the educational, social and economic empowerment of girls belonging to minority sections. I have talked about them in the first question related to scholarship. Apart from this, there are Nayi Roshni

Yojana, Naya Savera Yojana, Seekho aur Kamao Yojana etc which are employment oriented programmes. The Begum Hazrat Mahal scholarship is meant only for girls. Along with this, the areas where yet the schools are not built, colleges have not been established, polytechnics colleges have not been set up, girls hostels have not been constructed, we have worked to establish educational infrastructure in all those areas in these five years.

We have established 25 degree colleges in which one college is a girl's degree college in terms of educational development in these areas during these five years. We have built 1151 inter colleges. There was no health center in those areas, so we have set up 821 healthcare centers there. We have constructed the Anganwadi centers, where mostly women and girls work. Apart from these, we have built more than twenty thousand ITIs, and 71 polytechnic colleges. We have constructed 5 girls' hostels there. Similarly, we have created 411 working women hostels. In this very way, we have done works related to economic, social and educational empowerment.

[English]

SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Minority Affairs is giving merit-cum-means scholarship to the students who get admission to a college to pursue technical or professional courses like medical and engineering on the basis of a competitive examination. This process is being done through National Scholarship Portal and the amount of scholarship is directly being transferred to the students. For the year 2016-17, about 600 to 700 students of West Bengal were informed that their scholarships were granted and the amount had been transferred to their bank account. But the students have not got the scholarship amount till now. Will the Minister please tell us when the students of West Bengal will get the scholarship amount for the year 2016-17?

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Hon. Member is talking about merit-cum-means scholarships. Now simply, as you said, we give scholarships through the D.B.T. mode directly to the children. Earlier there were middlemen in it. They used to get this money and thereafter it went to children or not. The situation was something like that. But now, if someone has provided wrong bank account details, or if there is duplication somewhere, then all these things are on the portal. This is done by taking the State Government into confidence. This is in the knowledge of State Governments. The State Governments verify it. The students get scholarships on the basis of verification.

If there is any specific incident in your knowledge, then inform me about it.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, the Hon. Minister probably knows that the Ministry of which he has been made a minister has to focus on Minorities. At present, there are 6 centrally notified minorities, out of which the Jain community is at the forefront with regard to education and the Muslim are lagging behind in getting education.

Sir, the highest number of the Muslim in India lives in my district Murshidabad the district from which I come. In 2006, when the Sachchar Committee report came, then the 15-point programme which you have mentioned also was started in Murshidabad. A campus of Aligarh Muslim University had been set up in my Murshidabad District. See the condition of that campus now. When this campus was started, the previous Government, not the Government of your party, had sanctioned Rs 107 crore for our Aligarh Muslim University campus in Murshidabad. Along with this, the campus had also been handed over 280 acres of land. Currently, it has three departments, such as the M.B.A., B.A.L.L.B. and B.Ed. but there is no general course. For the past several years, you have not been given even a rupee. An amount of Rs. 740/- crore is pending

to be released to them. But you do not give them even a rupee and you say - '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas*'. You talk big things. Do not try to give an evasive answer as there is evidence of austerity in your Budget. Why does the campus of Aligarh Muslim University in our Murshidabad District of Bengal not get money? Why are the general courses not being offered there? *(Interruptions)*

Kerala and other states also have its campuses, such as Malappuram, Kishanganj. In this House, we want you to openly tell us about Aligarh Muslim University, will you do "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*" or not?

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, what happens in this House here, is seen by the country and the world outside this House.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQUVI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. member through you that at least he said for the first time that there are 6 Notified Minorities. Till now, they had made the Ministry of Minority Affairs as a Muslim Ministry. Till now, these people never used to understand this. We began to say again and again that this is not a Muslim Ministry, but a Ministry for Minority. Minority means 6 notified minorities. The Jainism about which you said is also there. As far as your question is concerned, this is not related to the original question. You talked about Aligarh University. *(Interruptions)* This is not related to the original question, yet I tell you about this and you yourself have reiterated that these are the mistakes of previous Governments. We are carrying the burden of the mistakes committed by the previous Governments. We will try to correct those mistakes that previous Governments had committed..... *(Interruptions)* Their purpose was not empowerment, but their purpose was the appeasement. *(Interruptions)* The work which they did was not for the empowerment, but for the appeasement. ... *(Interruptions)* If they had worked for empowerment, then by now Aligarh University would have been established there. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are a new Member. First, speak the question number.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL: Sir, will the State and Central Government consider to constitute a committee to provide sports infrastructure so that the bottlenecks in the operation of STC may be removed? Arrangement of basic facilities as well as appointment of coaches and ensuring maintenance etc. should be made there.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker Sir, we help the state Governments. Hon. Member has rightly reiterated this. We provide some help in infrastructure also but the most important thing is training. Along with arranging coach, other important things are also provided by the Sports Authority of India or under 'Khelo India'. It cannot work without the coordination of the State Governments. As the hon. Member asked the question regarding Uttar Pradesh. It has not got the support of the state Government, so the sports center that was to be opened in Allahabad could not be opened. When the state Government supports, this will be done.

SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL: Hon. Speaker, there is no dearth of talent in rural areas. To hone them up, sports activities should be conducted more rapidly in the stadiums built in rural areas.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker Sir, it is true what we call raw talents are very much hidden in the villages. At an early age, we should identify the talent as who is eligible for which sport, then provide training. Now under 'Khelo India', we are providing training to around 14,000 players in different training centers across the country. We are bringing more people from rural areas. There is already a system in cities. We are focusing on rural areas and these people will bring medals also later.

HON. SPEAKER: Question no. 466 has been clubbed.

Shrimati Kirron Kher ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, would the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of children getting training in the Allahabad Sports Center under the 'Khelo India' Scheme ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, one basic question and one supplementary question are asked.

Shrimati Kirron Kher ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Hon. Speaker Sir, Question No. 466.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker Sir, it has been clubbed.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, it has been clubbed, but the hon. Member has asked rightly. You speak to lay the question only on the floor of the House.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. [*Translation*]
Through you, I would like to ask the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports. What he replied earlier [*English*] I thank him for that, on the issue of enhancing the performance of Indian sportspersons. However, there are several cases [*Translation*] where there are poor people. I have met many people who come from villages or from small cities, there is a lot of talent in them. They have to go for the World Championship etc. Their only problem is that they do not have the money to buy basic equipments. [*English*] People have come to me and said that they did not have shoes but they were going for world championships.

They do not have money to buy air tickets. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government has funds or it is doing something so that the aspiring persons can reach a place from where they can get funding for this.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RAJJU: Hon. Speaker sir, earlier we used to get a lot of information that many talented sports persons who can play at international level, do not get facilities and encouragement. Particularly, when there is sports competition in abroad, arrangements for their flight tickets and accommodation are not made. I had a review meeting after taking over the charge of new Ministry. Any game, which is played in Olympics or which recognition has from our Ministry of sports, we do the entire funding for that and give funds to the federations. If federation can generate funds on their own, that is good. We never leave any sportsperson helpless. Even if, any competition which we have recognized, but if at an international level any other event is going on, for that also, we help by making separate arrangements. Particularly the poor sports person who performs very well, in that case, we shall extend him hundred per cent assistance. I would like to assure you this.

[English]

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: The Government may also tell us *[Translation]* what the procedure is? If someone approaches us, then to whom should we refer, to whom should we write? *[English]* It will be helpful to us.

Keeping in line with the Government's National Sports Policy to promote excellence in sports, in the last five years, in my own constituency of Chandigarh, we have built six new stadia and sports complexes of international standards. They have been made functional but unfortunately, we do not have enough coaches. Neither we have other personnels. The number of sanctioned junior

coaches is only 20. This is not enough for us. *[English]* The administration is forced to outsource coaches for the young and talented sportsmen in the city. The city holds the distinction of producing so many international sportspersons. Unfortunately, in India, I find that sportspersons do very well in individual sports. *[Translation]* Apart from Cricket, children don't excel in the games, athletics etc. There is much shortage of coaches. Will you sanction more coaches, so that those world class stadiums can be started?

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is good to hear the hon. Member Shrimati Kirron Kher, who is a great sports lover.

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): Not only sports lover, she herself was a national level player.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: She herself was a player.... *(Interruptions)*
[Translation] She herself was a player, I have also visited Chandigarh. When I was looking after the Ministry of Home Affairs, I saw a lot of talent in Chandigarh. We cannot directly select a player. There are sports associations. The National Sports Federations select the players. Making arrangements and helping with the money are different things, but we don't do the selection. If someone approaches us directly, we will not be able to do anything in it. ...*(Interruptions)*
I am saying the same thing. If there is a matter of sending any sportsperson abroad, we help him through the sports association.

Hon. Speaker sir, I informed about training at the beginning that nothing can happen without training. There has been lack of training in our India. I would like

to tell you about a very big decision. Earlier we did not give more than one lakh or two lakh rupees to the coaches. Now-a-days all those restrictions and cap have been removed to hire the best coach of the world. Now a coach charges 10- 15 lakh rupees per month, so by giving that, we are also bringing coaches from foreign countries for our players.

HON. SPEAKER: We are also clubbing question no. 471 with this question.

Shri Margani Bharat.

[English]

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Thank you, Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. We welcome and appreciate the Khelo India Scheme. How much fund has been allotted towards this in this Budget and will it be enough? What is the roadmap for 2020 Tokyo Olympics? How many medals do you expect India to win and can India be in the top ten positions in this Olympics?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, no matter how much fund allocation has been done, it will never be enough because the need is unlimited. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not disturb. He has put a very pointed question. He has asked as to how much money has been provided. That is his question. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not interfere.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I request the Hon. Minister whenever an Hon. Member asks a question while sitting, I urge you not to answer.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, We have done a lot of funding under Khelo India. The state from which the hon. Member comes has also been funded. If he needs information, I can send it separately. As far as the Olympic is concerned, no one can predict how many medals we will win. For this, we will have to prepare fully.

Hon. Speaker Sir, that day you gave us a chance to have a discussion on Sports and Youth Affairs, in which I had also explained in detail that the next Tokyo Olympics is in 2020. Now 365 days are left. Since last night we started the countdown, we will go with good hope. *[English]* This time, India is going to send a good number of contingents for Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: In the last Olympics, in the year 2016, our rank was 66th. When our country is developing and when our hon. Prime Minister is sitting on the global pedestal, is it not our pride to be in the top ten positions? Is there any roadmap for this Olympics? Can India be in the top ten positions or not? Do you have any roadmap for this? Kindly tell us.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, after Rio 2016 Olympics, we did not really perform well. We got only two medals. Thereafter, the hon. Prime Minister constituted a task force. That task force has already recommended and given their suggestions to the Ministry. Now, we are in the process of implementing those very effective suggestions which we have received and definitely, we are going to promote sports culture in the country. We will definitely perform better in the Olympics also.

SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to put a supplementary question.

Sir, 'Khelo India' is really a good concept introduced by the Government of India. India is a big country. I have my apprehensions whether this scheme is percolating to every nook and corner of the country.

Sir, there is a sports complex at Amancherla Village which is 10 kms away from my Parliamentary Constituency, Nellore. In fact, this was sanctioned three years back, but the work is still going on at a very slow pace for want of funds.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would allocate adequate funds for this project and instruct concerned officials to expedite the work? Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the total budget allocated for 'Khelo India' for this year, is Rs. 500 crore. Besides this, there are other programmes, which we are doing along with various sports bodies and the State Governments.

The specific question which the hon. Member has asked is about Amancherla in Nellore. I will get back to the hon. Member and will give the detailed status about the project.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am happy that even after discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, I can see how the whole House and Hon. Members are happy in the House towards 'Khelo India' that the sports and sportspersons in the country move forward, definitely the excitement should be maintained. I have a very long list. Hon. Members may ask the question in brief.

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE): Hon. Speaker Sir, raising hands repeatedly is painful, so just think about the Opposition who are raising their hands.

HON. SPEAKER: I never asked the Hon. Member to raise her hand. I had written her name just after she raised her hand.

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE): Hon. Speaker Sir, there are tribal children in Birbhum, where girls play football. These children are living at many different places. So, they have to be provided coaching and training. The Government has claimed so many times, but these players have not moved to the national level from the district level. Coaching, and grooming should not be done

individually but it should be imparted to the entire team. Hon. Minister, what do you think as to how the Tribal girls will be able to come out and play up to the national level?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, primarily sports is a state subject. We will cooperate with the state Government, if it comes forward to carry out any good initiative. Hon. Member has mentioned Birbhum. If she thinks that there is talent and the player should be trained, then I will definitely refer the matter to the National Football Federation. It is the responsibility of the All India Football Federation to identify where the talents are. We cannot go directly to identify the talent. She has raised the matter in the House; I will definitely tell the Sports Federation and will get information from the State Government as well as to what the state Government has done in this regard.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity during the Question Hour. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Sports Minister to the problem of Baghpat. Baghpat has been the breeding ground for the Sportspersons. Baghpat has given players of national and international level. I would like to ask specific question. In shooting, 50 percent of the country's children come from Baghpat. SAI has a center here. Earlier there were two coaches here but in the last five years only one coach is left and in the last three years, only this one has become half because he stays here for three days and for three days, he stays in another district.

Earlier there was a training center for 48 children and now it has been reduced to 20. For the last 20 years, children engaged in the shooting game used to get Rs. 600 per month as financial assistance from the Government of India. Is there any proposal to increase it? I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to when will we get coaches here?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker Sir, hon. Member has referred Baghpat area. I believe that there is no dearth of talent in this region. Shooting has been mentioned here, India has emerged as a superpower particularly in shooting in the world. It is a matter of great pride for us. In the World Championship that has concluded recently, many Indians have won medals. Our priority is that we win more and more medals in shooting in the Olympics to be held in the future, therefore, I will talk to the Hon. Member about this center separately.

HON. SPEAKER: All the hon. Members should be imparted training for shooting also so that they may aim the target successfully!

Shri Vincent H. Pala ji.

[English]

SHRI VINCENT H PALA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

The Sports Authority of India has created a huge sports infrastructure all over India. One of them is in the North-Eastern region which is in the North-East Hills University. The sports infrastructure at the North-East Hills University is not a property of the State Government. It is a property of the Central Government. It has been there for the last five to six years but its totally unattended and is not being used properly. I have personally visited the place twice.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to complete the project and start the training process in a proper manner. The climate of the place is very good for training. Will the Government complete the project and pay some personal attention to it?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the Sports Centre in the North-Eastern Hill University in Shillong, I would like to submit that I am not having the details of the status of the centre. I have not visited there yet. But I am planning to visit the place right after the Budget Session of Parliament. Since the State of Meghalaya is going to host the 2022 National Games, all the sporting facilities must be of international standards. Definitely, I will look into the matter and try to resolve the issues raised by the hon. Member.

(Q. 464)

SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, you are very well aware of the plight of the State of Andhra Pradesh post-bifurcation. Our State is suffering owing to lack of industrial growth in the last five years. There is severe unemployment problem. According a special category status to the State of Andhra Pradesh promised in the Parliament by the then hon. Prime Minister and consequently passed by the Union Cabinet is yet to be fulfilled.

Keeping all these facts in view, will the Ministry of MSMEs provide special incentives to the State of Andhra Pradesh by exempting taxes and providing subsidies for the MSMEs that are being set up in the State to promote industrial growth and thereby address the issue of unemployment in the State?

Also, the State of Andhra Pradesh has submitted 23 proposals to the Government of India for cluster development under the Micro, Small and medium Enterprise Cluster Development Programme. When will the Government of India issue approval for these proposals, which are intended for the development of MSMEs in Andhra Pradesh?

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, it is the policy of the Government of India regarding cluster development that we are constantly trying to promote it. Just yesterday, a meeting was held to clear the clusters under the chairmanship of the Secretary. The quantum of work that was not done in a year, our Ministry has done that work in the last three months to recognize clusters. We are thinking about one more thing about cluster development. Earlier there were many restrictions in it. There were provisions for charitable trusts, non-profit making organizations etc. Now, if local industry gives a new idea regarding the cluster development, we will consider that also and try to promote it.

We have made a good scheme of producing textiles from solar in cotton clusters where cotton is produced. In many places, it has received a good response. It is also carrying out export and designing work and has also held a meeting with our export-working people in Mumbai on the 29th.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, Visakhapatnam has a good cluster of medical devices. As you know that the medical devices worth fifty thousand crores of rupees are imported by our country. This cluster is doing a very good job. This will also result in the reduction of cost on our imports. As an MRI machine costs Rs. 4.5 crore today whereas our Indian scientists will be able to make it here just for Rs. 98 lakhs. In a bid to promote manufacturing of all the different types of devices ranging from Stan, Knee etc, we have sent it to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, assuming that it will be a main cluster. There is a plan to build about 5 to 6 clusters in other states and to connect them to it which will give more business to the cluster of Andhra Pradesh; the laboratories will get the job. Right now they are earning profit and giving it to the state Government. We have written to the Chief Minister for its larger expansion.

Hon. Member is talking about Andhra Pradesh but whatever policy is formulated in the country it is applicable to the entire country. Formulation of a state specific scheme, providing concession or GST is not possible in today's time. You know that there is a GST council and if any concession has to be given in the GST Council also, the finance Ministers of all the states of the country are involved. It is, therefore, not even possible at the moment rather difficult to give to a state. But, one thing is quite clear that we will give priority to whatever new clusters, schemes and proposals come up for the development of Andhra Pradesh. We will provide full support for generation of employment and growth in Andhra Pradesh. At present, I would like to assure you that we will come forward to accept more and more proposals with positive approach from Andhra Pradesh

under all the schemes we have in our hands. Besides, we will provide full support to Andhra Pradesh in its bid to ramp up employment and growth.

[English]

SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY: Sir, Andhra Pradesh needs the helping hand of the Central Government.

Hon. Prime Minister has announced two per cent interest subvention for MSMEs. I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider the same Scheme to be applied for MSMEs, which have taken credit under Andhra Pradesh State Finance Corporation also. If this Scheme is made applicable to even the companies which have taken credit under Andhra Pradesh State Finance Corporation, it would cover a large number of MSMEs which would at least provide more employment and industrial growth as well.

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is a plan to give two per cent interest. MSMEs are also getting the benefit and are also being given an interest by banks, but the financial corporation of your state is with you. I am making out the meaning of your question that perhaps it is not getting this facility. What you are saying that should not be the case. I will go into the details and verify it. If it is possible, the government will definitely facilitate in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY: Thank you, Respected Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation] Hon Speaker Sir, I have only one question *[English]* May I know, whether the hon. Prime Minister, while reviewing the Scheme, had directed the Ministry of Finance to increase the disbursal of MSME loan amount from Rs. 1

crore to Rs. 3 to 5 crore, keeping in view the rising unemployment rate which is a 45-year high, a never before situation? Has the Government taken any steps to raise the MSME loans up to Rs. 3 to 5 crore without any collateral from the present financial year itself; and if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Sir, Hon. Prime Minister has given special attention to MSMEs. *[English]* For this, 12 key initiatives were announced on 02.11.2018 to expedite the growth of MSME Sector:

- (i) Loans up to Rs. 1 crore through 59 minutes online portal;

[Translation]

Around 36 thousand loans have been sanctioned and today I have also made an enquiry. It has been informed that the loan should be disbursed immediately. Initially, it was delayed slightly, but has now been said to be disbursed soon.

[English]

- (ii) Interest subvention of 2 per cent for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans;
- (iii) All companies with a turnover of more than Rs. 500 crore to be mandatorily on TReDS platform to enable entrepreneurs to access credit from banks, based on their upcoming receivables, thus, solving the problems of cash cycle;
- (iv) All Central Public Sector Undertakings to achieve an overall procurement of a minimum 25 per cent from MSMEs;

MSMEs got projects worth Rs. 40000 crore in the Public Sector Undertakings.

- (v) Out of 25 per cent procurement, mandated from MSMEs, 3 per cent reserved for women entrepreneurs;
- (vi) All CPSUs to compulsorily procure through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal;

[Translation]

I am happy, as there was a portal called Alibaba who played a vital role in China's growth, its turnover is so big that we can't even imagine. In the US, there is Amazon, hence, we have also decided that we will develop a portal to encourage MSMEs; its tentative name has also been decided. We have had a conversation about our portal named Gem and I have also had a discussion with Hon. Piyush Goyal ji. He is guiding us and portal for MSMEs is being developed. I think it will also be launched within a month. I expect that if this portal is launched, it will have a business of about 10 lakh crore in two years. If it gets world access, a large market will be available to MSME.

[English]

- (vii) 20 Technology Centres and 100 extensions to be established in the country;
- (viii) Government of India to bear 70 per cent of the cost for establishing Pharma clusters;

[Translation] We are also doing that. As I have spoken about medical devices. It is thought and efforts are also being made that if we import, then import should go towards the substitute economy so that our clusters may bring down imports,

[English]

- (ix) Returns under 8 labour laws and 10 Union Regulations to be filed once a year;
- (x) Establishments to be visited by an Inspector will be decided through a computerised random allotment;

- (xi) Single consent under air and water pollution laws. Returns to be accepted through self-certification, and only 10 per cent MSME units to be inspected; and
- (xii) For minor violations under the Companies Act, entrepreneurs no longer have to approach court but can correct them through simple procedures.

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to tell you that the quantum of fund provided by the banks to MSMEs in March, 2017 amounts to Rs. 1,70,000 crore. It was about Rs. 10 lakh and 70 thousand crore in March 2018.

Subsequently, it was increased to Rs. 11,49,000 crore and till March, 2019, provisionally, it has increased so far. Now, it has gone up to Rs.14,97,687 crores. It means that maximum banks are financing MSMEs. It is quite true that the role of MSMEs is very important to increase the growth rate of any country and its employment potential. Furthermore, there is a question regarding Khadi Gramodyog and Village Commission also. We should try to find out how to create jobs by using new technologies in rural, agriculture and tribal sectors. It was also informed that at the Government level we will encourage MSMEs by clubbing new technologies and innovations and we will try to generate employment and contribute in growth rate also.

[English]

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I represent a constituency called Virudhunagar. Virudhunagar is one of the aspirational districts and MSME sector is the backbone of the district where Sivakasi fireworks and other industries are there. The hon. Minister has given a detailed reply to the question. I would like to say that the demonetisation has broken the backbone of the industries like fireworks, matchbox and printing. When the cluster approach programme was introduced by Dr. Manmohan Singh, there was a cluster

programme on matchbox industry in my constituency. I would like to ask the innovative Minister whether he will consider a proposal for the fireworks and printing industry to have a cluster model so that they can be protected from Chinese imports on fireworks and other printing facilities.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government's policy is very clear. We are very keenly interested to give the highest priority for the development of MSME sector, particularly in backward areas. As regards any new technology, new innovation and new research, which is going to create more market, more employment potential or which is going to add to the growth rate of the country, definitely we are not restricting it anywhere and there is no limitation. Any new idea, any new research, any new technology which you have, you can take the proposal to us, we are ready to consider, we will support it. Ultimately it is import substitute, cost effective and, at the same time, it is going to create more employment potential and contribute to the growth rate of the country. Already, particularly for village industry, our turn over is very huge. Now, our highest priority is for agriculture, village and tribal sector where we want to create more employment potential. So, anywhere any technology related with forest material for making biodiesel, now there is a possibility in India that the non-edible oilseed is available particularly in tribal areas. I have already given instruction to my Ministry to create such an industry where raw material is available there. I would like to inform that particularly the tribal areas like your district where a lot of materials are available, if you want to use any new technology to expand industry, we will support it.

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE: Sir, I had asked a question regarding the fireworks industry.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Regarding fireworks industry, I do not have the rules and regulations with me now. But as far as ecology and

environment are concerned, there are many reservations about the fireworks industry. After checking all these things, we have to find out a technology which will not create more air pollution. So, definitely, while considering your demand, we will go into the details, verify everything and on the basis of that, we will try to resolve your problem.

(Q. No. 465)

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister for giving a very detailed reply. But I would like to bring to the notice of the House and the hon. Minister that under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* (Urban), the selection of beneficiaries takes place at the Municipality or the Municipal Corporation level. What we have seen in my Nandurbar Municipality is that the selection process is not done transparently. The forms are called in from all the beneficiaries and only some forms are selected, others are rejected. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, as to what steps the Government will take to bring in transparency in the process of selection of beneficiaries.

12.00 hrs

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is being implemented within a framework of cooperative federalism. We receive a demand from the States and this is filtered through a State level Selection and Monitoring Committee.

I would like to inform the hon. Member that as against the target of one crore homes to be built initially, the revised target is 1.12 crore and we have already sanctioned 84 lakh homes. So, the scheme is proceeding very well. If there are any issues at the local level, that is at the municipality or the urban local bodies' level, she should feel free to bring those issues to my attention and I would be very happy to take these up with the State Government through the recognized machinery. The scheme is operating very well and we will have it completed by 2020, well before 2022, which is the target. But please do bring those issues to my attention.

The selection of the beneficiaries ultimately is the job of the urban local bodies, then of the State Government and then of the Central Government.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question Nos. 467 to 470, 472 to 476
and 478 to 480

Unstarred Question Nos. 5252 to 5481)

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motion on two subjects. Permission has not been granted for any notice of adjournment motion.

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now papers to be laid on the Table. Item number 2, Shri Kiren Rijiju.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 554/17/19]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 555/17/19]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 556/17/19]

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

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

- (1) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 557/17/19]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 558/17/19]

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 559/17/19]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:-

- (i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 published in Notification No.L-1/236/2018/CERC in Gazette of India dated 3rd May, 2019.
- (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fees and Charges of Regional Load Despatch Centre and other related matters) Regulations, 2019 published in Notification No.L-1/153/2019/CERC in Gazette of India dated 21st May, 2019.
- (iii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Recruitment, Control and Service Conditions of Staff)(Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2019 published in Notification No.L-2/2(2)/2011-Estt./CERC in Gazette of India dated 14th June, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 560/17/19]

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow, for the year 2017-2018.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow, for the year 2017-2018.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 561/17/19]

(3) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957:-

- (i) S.O.1236(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th March, 2019, making modifications in Unified Building Bye-Laws for Delhi 2016.
- (ii) S.O.358(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st January, 2019, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.3173(E) dated 29th June, 2018.
- (iii) S.O.359(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st January, 2019, regarding fixation of rates to be applied for enhanced FAR for residential properties, Coop. Group Housing, Mixed Use/commercial streets and commercial properties (excluding hotel and parking plots) arising out of MPD 2021.

- (iv) S.O.1237(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th March, 2019, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.3027(E) dated 21st June, 2018.
- (v) S.O.372(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd January, 2019, regarding fixation of use conversion charges for Mixed Use/commercial Use of premises and shop-cum residence plots/complexes later designated as LSCs.
- (vi) S.O.373(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd January, 2019, regarding corrigendum of fixation of rates to be applied for enhanced FAR for residential properties, Coop. Group Housing, Mixed Use/Commercial streets and commercial properties (excluding hotel and hotel parking) arising out of MPD 2021.
- (vii) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Delhi Development Authority, Chief Engineer (Civil) and Chief Engineer (Electrical) Recruitment Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.319(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd April, 2019.
- (viii) The Delhi Development Authority (Repeal of recruitment regulations for the post of Naib Tehsildar) Regulations, 2019 published in Notification No. K-11011/34/2018-DDII in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2019.
- (ix) The Delhi Development Authority (Naib Tehsildar) Recruitment Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.392(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2019.
- (x) The Delhi Development Authority (Survey Cadre) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.128(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th February, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 562/17/19]

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

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Shipping Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 563/17/19]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 47 of the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008:-

(i) Notification No. IMU/HQ/ADM/Notification/2018 published in Gazette of India dated 19th July, 2018, regarding Ordinances governing administrative and academic matters of the Indian Maritime University.

(ii) Notification No. IMU/HQ/ADM/Notification/2018/2 published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2018, regarding Ordinances governing administrative and academic matters of the Indian Maritime University.

(iii) Notification No. IMU/HQ/ADM/Notification/2018/3 published in Gazette of India dated 13th February, 2019, regarding Ordinances governing administrative and academic matters of the Indian Maritime University.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 564/17/19]

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

- (i) G.S.R.473(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2019 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2019.
- (ii) G.S.R.228(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2019 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust (Licensing of stevedoring and shore handling) Regulations, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 565/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): Sir, on behalf of General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 566/17/19]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956

- (i) S.O.2224(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National

Highway No.78 (New NH 43) (Katni-Umariya Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh on EPC mode (Package-1).

- (ii) S.O.2225(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.12A (New NH 30) (Mandla-Chilpi Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh on EPC mode under NHDP-IV(Package-3).
- (iii) S.O.2381(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.49 (Madurai-Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu under NHDP Ph-III on EPC mode.
- (iv) S.O.2382(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.45B (Trichy Bypass-Tovaramkurchi-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu as Public Funded Project.
- (v) S.O.2383(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.56 (New NH 731) (Lucknow-Sultanpur Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh-IV on Hybrid Annuity Mode.
- (vi) S.O.2384(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.233 (Ghaghra Bridge to Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh under NHDP-IV on EPC mode.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 567/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Place in Library, See No. LT 568/17/19]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2017-2018, 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 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. LT569/17/19]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 570 / 17/10]

12.03 hrs

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

- (i) “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2019, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July, 2019 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”
 - (ii) “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2019, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th July, 2019 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”
-

12.03 ½ hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 266th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in 260th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 266th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 260th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 571/17/19.

12.04 hrs

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 265th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in 259th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): Sir, on behalf of General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 265th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 259th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 572/17/19.

12.04 ½ hrs

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 293rd Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 293rd Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 573/17/19.

12.05 hrs

GOVERNMENT BILLS - Introduced

**(i) INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2019***

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 12, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): With your permission, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The motion was moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I am opposing the introduction of the Bill under the nomenclature 'The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019' under rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 25.07.2019

Sir, here Article 262 is very clear, which says:

“Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inters State rivers or river valleys:

Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter-State river or river valley.”

However, Sir, Article 252 says:

“Power of Parliament to legislate for two or more States by consent and adoption of such legislation by any other State:

(1) If it appears to the Legislatures of two or more States to be desirable that any of the matters with respect to which Parliament has no power to make laws for the States except as provided in Articles 249 and 250 should be regulated in such States by Parliament by law, and if resolutions to that effect are passed by all the House of the Legislatures of those States, it shall be lawful for Parliament to pass an Act for regulating that matter accordingly, and any Act so passed shall apply to such States and to any other State ”

[Translation]

Sir, our country follows a federal system. We all know about ongoing Inter State River Dispute. It will increase further in the time to come.

[English]

Whenever the riparian states are not able to reach amicable agreements on their own in sharing of an inter-State river waters, section 4 of IRWD Act provides dispute resolution process in the form of Tribunal.

[Translation]

I am not against this Bill and water dispute should end, but everything should be according to our constitution.

[English]

Sir, when the Tribunal final verdict issued based on the deliberations on the draft verdict is accepted by the Central Government and notified in the Official Gazette, the verdict becomes law and binding on the States and Union Government for implementation. In case the Constitutional rights of States are ingressed upon by the Tribunal Award in any manner, the Central Government, for extending purview of its enactment to implement the Tribunal Order, is obliged – Sir, I am reiterating, is obliged -- to take the consent of Parliament and all riparian states under Article 252 of the Constitution before publishing the Tribunal Awards in the Official Gazette.

Therefore, Sir, *[Translation]* Nowhere it is mentioned in this Bill that you have discussed or talked to the Government of any state. There is no mention anywhere that you are bringing this Bill with their consent. These things are not mentioned anywhere in this Bill. So, I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Biju Janata Dal and Odisha are not opposed to this Bill, *per se* as the Union Government is empowered or conferred with powers to regulate and develop Inter-State Rivers under Entry 56 of List I of Schedule VII to the extent declared by the Parliament by law to be expedient in public interest.

But my objection at the time of introduction is the same which I had raised in 2017 when the same Bill was being introduced in this House in the 16th Lok Sabha.

As Adhir Ranjan Babu has very rightly mentioned that as water is a State Subject, the respective stakeholders -- which are the State Governments -- need

to be consulted before preparation of this Bill. I am not questioning the intent of the Bill. Yes, there are many Tribunals, which are actually not functioning as per our liking and a lot of time is being wasted to give a decision. But implementation of that decision is another aspect. When this Bill will be discussed in this House later on, we may discuss on the merits of the Bill. But the question here is, whether the State Governments have been consulted when you are going to form a specific, a single Tribunal to deal with all river water disputes. But it has not been done. It has not been explained in this Bill. It is just a ditto of what had been placed in 2017. Again, that Bill has come without any correction. Therefore, I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the State of Tamil Nadu is aggrieved of many disputes. Many disputes have been addressed by the tribunals. Orders have been issued but all the orders are pending before the Supreme Court. The Central Government is just bringing everything overnight without consulting the State Governments. We do not know anything. They are just bulldozing everything day in, day out. We would only know about them in the morning when we go through the Parliamentary papers. How can you allow all these things? I want to know this. I am not asking the Government. I am asking the hon. Speaker. You are requested to advise these people to act according to the wishes of Parliament. This is the Parliament of India. We have been elected by the people. We have to work for the people. How can you allow all these things? They are bulldozing everything. The hon. Speaker is not at all asking anything.

[Translation]

HON SPEAKER: Nishikant ji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to tell the House in respect of entries, 56 and 262, as how important the Bill is under Entry, 262.... *(Interruptions)* I belong to Jharkhand. ...*(Interruptions)*

There are three dams in my state- Masanjore, Panchet and Maithon. ...*(Interruptions)*. All these three dams are located on our land. ...*(Interruptions)* The Bengal Government is using water of all the three dams. ... *(Interruptions)* In the year 1978, an agreement was signed between Chief Minister of Bengal Jyoti Basu and Chief Minister of Bihar, Karpoori Thakur. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am telling you. ...*(Interruptions)* After that they had to build two dams. ...*(Interruptions)* Since 1978, not a single dam has been built. ...*(Interruptions)*. Bihar Government is not providing water to Jharkhand....*(Interruptions)*. How will states like Jharkhand get water, if the said Bill does not get introduced?...*(Interruptions)*. Bengal and Bihar are using water even though land and water are ours. ... *(Interruptions)* That is why, this Bill has to be introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*. This entry at 262 is legitimate. ...*(Interruptions)* Government of India should bring and pass this Bill quickly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Let them go and consult the State Governments.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Senior Member, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, these are all urgent matters. These are matters of life and death. On a theory, we cannot just sit and watch the wrongdoings of the Central Government. We have been elected by the public. We come here for

doing certain things. We cannot just sit together. We have to have our say in Parliament. People have voted us only for this purpose.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed to the Hon. Member to speak though he has not given any notice.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I am giving the ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, many a time many hon. Members have raised the issue of inter-state water dispute ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister is only introducing the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* You should speak in detail in this regard when there will be a detailed discussion on it. This House belongs to all of you. Bills are being considered only with the consent of all. The Bill has never been brought without your consent.

Hon. Shekhawat saheb, please speak.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to state that hon. Members have raised objections that before the introduction of this Bill, no consultation has been made with the states. I would like to refer to the background of this Bill. The Water Disputes Act was enacted earlier in the year 1956. After that tribunals were made.

In all, nine tribunals have been established so far. Of the four tribunals that have passed their award so far, it has taken around 28 years to minimum 10 years. There is no time limit for the tribunals that are established and the tribunals which

are extended are extended indefinitely. Even after the tribunals have submitted their reports and passed the awards, there is no time limit for the Government for the implementation of such awards. The tribunals that have worked, have taken time from 10 years to 28 years .

For the information of the hon. Members, I would like to state that this Bill had earlier been introduced in the year 2017.

When this Bill was introduced in the year 2017, it was referred to the Standing Committee with the permission of the then Hon. Speaker. I would like to inform all the hon. Members that even before the introduction of this Bill in the year 2017, this Bill was brought after proper consultation with the states in the year 2013. The draft Bill was introduced in the House only after consultation. After the introduction of the Bill in 2017 when the Standing Committee presented its report, the tenure of Lok Sabha had lapsed when the Government wanted to reintroduce the Bill on the basis of the report of the Standing Committee. Therefore, we have introduced this Bill again for the consideration of this House.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI GAJENARA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: I introduce* the Bill.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President

12.17 hrs

(ii) Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 13, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Ji.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments.

Sir, I seek your kind indulgence to introduce a Bill for repealing and amending nearly 58 legislations of the country. One of the keen objectives of Shri Narendra Modi Government was to repeal all the old Acts which are 100 years or 150 years old. ... *(Interruptions)*

Till date, we have repealed about 1428 Acts. Today, 58 Acts are sought to be repealed by this Repealing and Amending Bill. We have also conveyed to the State Governments; about 229 old Acts belong to the realm of the State Governments. They are also taking steps.

[Translation]

Sir, we have tried our best that all the laws that are 100-150 years old... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You should say the British era legislations.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Yes Sir. We have the laws of the year 1875 even today. In this House, I would like to talk about the initiative of our Prime Minister that we have repealed 1428 Acts and today we are going to repeal 58 Acts more.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.07.2019.

I hope that it is a new beginning and we should repeal those old Acts which cause discomfort, upset people and have no relevance. Hon. Prime Minister has given us one more direction. We should also consider those identical laws which can be subsumed into one. In this connection, today, I beg to leave to introduce this Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and amend certain other enactments.”

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, please speak.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I do regret to oppose it because we all support the objective of repealing the enactments. But the fact is, this Government has got a very bad habit of rushing Bills through without enough time for the MPs to have a look at them.

Direction 19B of the Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha, which I have in front of me, says very clearly: “No Bill shall be included for introduction in the list of business for a day until after copies thereof have been made available for the use of Members for at least two days before the day on which the Bill is proposed to be introduced.”

Last night, they came and gave us this Bill. Many of us got it today morning. ...*(Interruptions)* The fact is, when 58 Acts are involved, the Members have a right to study these Acts, to see whether all of them should be included, whether some more should be added or some should be subtracted. This is a serious exercise. We need two working days to do our work.

There is one more reason. You could say, you have granted them permission. But you cannot give permission without their citing special reasons for violating the Speaker's directives to the House.

So, my first objection is fundamentally procedural. We have seen it many times in the course of this - incredibly hasty, rush-through legislation being pushed into the House.

Secondly, I also have a substantive objection, which is that as far as I can see, the Statement of Objects and Reasons here says that it is a periodical measure, but it does not indicate which Bills have come through where. There is a pre-legislative consultative policy, which has not been resorted to. So, no one can give ideas or suggestions to the Government.

On top of that, if you look at 'Exception 2' to Section 375 of the IPC, the marital rape exception, Justice Verma's Committee recommended the repeal of that 'exception' so many years ago. Still, so far, this Government has ignored it. There are many other archaic provisions that can easily be dealt with. You are rushing through the Bills without consulting the MPs. Here is a matter where the MPs want to help you. We also want to get rid of old laws, archaic laws and obsolete laws. Marital rape is a very good example of this and deleting 'Exception 2' to Section 375 of IPC is necessary. But my concern is not that only. When you are doing something which, we agree, is in the national interest and is not even a political exercise, why do you not take us all along? Why do you want to present us with a *fait accompli*? [Translation] You take us all along. We are with you on this subject but give us a chance at least. ... (Interruptions)
[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Sir, I am supporting this. It is useful. So many statutes are not necessary.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Kalyan Banerjee saheb, all the hon. Members and all the Members of Lok Sabha should reconsider such Acts.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: I request you to consider new enactments. For example, the Indian Penal Code was enacted long back. What is the need for pre-British laws? There are many new changes. Therefore, you should bring new laws.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I agree with you. The House should make efforts to reframe the legislations of British era .

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: In addition to what Mr. Tharoor has said, I wish to add one more thing. We are now getting these parliamentary papers at around quarter to nine or nine 'o' clock. Earlier we used to get these papers early in the morning. If we get the parliamentary papers at nine 'o' clock from Parliament, when will I read those papers? I think this is a general problem. Kindly give the instructions to the office that these papers should reach our residences early in the morning. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am giving you a ruling.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon Member, with regard to the objection that you have raised, I will try that if any Bill is to be introduced in the next Session, you will get it two days before in accordance with the rule, but it will be from the next session.

.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have given the ruling now. I have given ruling as per your feelings. Now nothing will go on record except the statement by the Minister.

.... (*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Hon. Speaker, they are taking undue advantage of this. Please take note of this. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: This House is being run as per the wishes of all the Members.

[*English*]

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): Sir, whatever items were there in the BAC, let us exhaust them first. They were already approved by the BAC. ... (*Not recorded*) ...(*Interruptions*) What has happened to the Surrogacy Bill? ...(*Interruptions*) Order should not be changed.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, the Law Minister is so clever. ...(*Interruptions*) He brings every new legislation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I have a suggestion here ... (*Interruptions*) [*English*] Sir, your Office has empowered all Members to utilize Internet and the speed of internet has also increased in due course of time. Every Member, who is conversant with the Internet, can find out what is tomorrow's agenda, at around 8-8.30 p.m. in the evening. ...(*Interruptions*) You may have your own opinion. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, every Member is provided with a supporting staff. Mr. Premachandran is very much aware of the provision that has been made. We, perhaps, are more accustomed to the hardcopy but Internet is also available; and the entire agenda of tomorrow is provided to us by

* Not recorded

this evening. Sir, when the Internet is not working, we can lodge a complaint before your office. ... (*Interruptions*) Please allow me to say.

Hardcopy, of course, is necessary. Sir, you have said you will be providing it from the next Session as early as possible. I do not know whether Mr. Kalyan Banerjee has shifted his house or not. But the issue is regarding whatever Bills that are being brought here, unlike the previous Governments where suddenly the supplementary agenda used to be circulated in this House and the Bill was discussed and passed, this has not happened in this Session yet. Whatever is being listed is as per the provisions of the Business Advisory Committee. One hour has been given for this Bill. Until and unless this is recorded in the Business Advisory Committee, how can a Bill be piloted? That was our concern earlier but now it has not happened yet.

What Mr. Raja has been saying is to go as per the Order Paper. I think he was a Minister earlier and he can very well explain whether it is the prerogative of the Government or not. Sitting in the Opposition, I know it. I have been sitting in the Opposition for the last 20 years.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I want to tell the House that the Government had proposed two hours time for discussion on this Bill. But after discussion you said that you already have knowledge about this Bill, and asked that the time for discussion on it should be reduced to one hour. Accordingly, hon. Speaker Sir allocated one hour. Now you are saying that it was not discussed in BAC while it was discussed in detail. If it is listed, then how are we rushing? We are not rushing.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Ravi Shankar Ji, do you want to say something?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

Sir, as regards the objection of hon. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, I wish to convey to him that two days in advance the notice has been given. ... (*Interruptions*) Did I disturb you?

Now when there is a consensus in the House that the step we are taking is the right step, as the hon. Speaker also rightly pointed out, then, is it a new thing we are doing? I think hon. Dr. Shashi Tharoor is a Member of this House for some years now. We came with the Repealing and Amending Act No. 17 of 2015, No. 19 of 2015, No. 22 of 2016, No. 23 of 2016, No. 2 of 2018 and No.4 of 2018. ... (*Interruptions*) Now, when these six Bills became the Acts, you were present in the House. We had discussed it *ad nauseum* and we will do it again. We are only introducing the Bill. I think, being wise and experienced, you are aware that this is just the introductory stage. When the time for debate will come, you can raise all the questions and I will be willing to answer them.

As far as hon. Baalu Ji's observations are concerned, we have worked in the Vajpayee's Government. I am neither clever nor cunning. I work properly and with determination. I hope you know that.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and amend certain other enactments".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

12.30 hrs

(iii) Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 2013.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend The Companies Act 2013.”

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I am not opposing the introduction of this Bill because I have no opportunity. The Agenda 13A was circulated while we were sitting in the House. As per Rule 72, any opposition to introduction must be made by 10 o'clock that morning. So, if I even give a notice for opposing the introduction, I have no scope to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat for a minute. I will allow you as per rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

** Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.07.2019.

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you by calling your name. Please, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, now you can speak

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Speaker Sir, thank you. You are very kind. I am grateful to you.

Sir, no notices was given about the Bill that Hon. Finance Minister has brought. Mehtab ji is in favour of your ruling. (Interruptions) He is saying that next day. ... (Interruptions) internets do not work. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member are in favour of the order in the House. The whole House is in its favour.

..... (Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Hon. Speaker Sir, somebody says that internet is available very late in the morning. But the fact is that Hon. Finance Minister had never expressed her intention to bring this Bill at any point of time. Therefore, we have not opposed the Bill at the time of introduction. You can see how important and difficult questions are raised at the time of opposing of the introduction of any Bill. Therefore, it should not be done, due to which we are deprived of our rights to oppose. It is our right to oppose the introduction of a Bill. So, I would request you because you talk about strengthening this House and you talk about *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*, please give a ruling that Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji must withdraw this Bill and we may please be given a chance to give notice tomorrow, and after that this Bill may be introduced.

Sir, you have the supreme authority here. Functioning of this House is under your control and it is also your goal to maintain its dignity. I want you to direct them to meet this goal, by circulating the Bill again, but not at 12 O'clock.

When we oppose to the introduction of this Bill, then you may give them right to introduce the Bill. I want this ruling from you.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): I also strongly oppose the introduction of the Bill brought in by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

[Translation] I would like to refer to directions No. 19 A and 19B of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. I don't need to read it; you have all the information. I have to say that in the House, whether it is a Minister or any other Member or anyone else, it would be better for everyone that if one does not do anything in violation of the rules and procedure of the House otherwise it would be a big encroachment and interference over the authority of this House. I want to draw your attention by saying, that even during the discussion on the last Finance Bill, our Hon. Minister had brought such amendments suddenly. She replied that day. We said okay, when she is bringing such a voluminous finance bill, we are giving her this opportunity. But we cannot give such opportunity again and again, because if we continue to give such opportunities, then the dignity of our House will diluted.

Sir, I would also like to mention one more thing in this context which I consider to be very important. Beside me, there are so many other Members over here, who have been the Members of this House since long. We have a custom to refer the Bills which are going to be passed here to the Standing Committee and Select Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please give me one more minute...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, we have discussed it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, Rajnath Singh ji is sitting here. Therefore, I also want to draw his attention...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given his reply yesterday.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Speaker Sir, this is a different thing. 102 Bills were referred to the Standing Committee during the 13 Lok Sabha. ... *(Interruptions)* 147 Bills during 14th Lok Sabha, 146 Bills during 15th Lok Sabha and during the 16th Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have not finished yet. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have said it two-three times. I will give you opportunity separately for this.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I will expect a reply from the Government. You may raise your point separately.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Nirmala Sitharaman ji, please do not get this Bill passed here like this. I support the point made by Sougata Ray and request you that this Bill may be withdrawn.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you have already read rules and procedures, I must tell you that there are clear instructions in 19(B). But keeping in view of your feelings, I have made it clear about this that the point you have raised will particularly be kept in mind from the next Session.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Sir, if Bills are introduced like this, no Bills will be left for next session. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please wait for a minute. Hon. Member, whole country is talking about the functioning of this House that Parliament Session is running smoothly this time. It is running smoothly with the help and cooperation from all Hon. Members and 130 crore people are thinking positively that Parliamentarians come and have discussions in the House. A good message should be sent across. I thank you especially for this.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, you have very important role in this and that's why we present all the matters before you. Please keep hearing our matters and the House will run smoothly, we want you to emerge as the best Speaker among the Commonwealth countries.

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Minister *ji*.

... (Interruptions)

HON SPEAKER: Dada, you are not so older but we are still calling you dada. You are just 72 years old. There are much older people than you here. Hon. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have come here for the first time, please do not speak while sitting. Hon. Minister.

.... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Member, do not comment like this. Hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, before I take the opportunity to lay an explanatory note as to why it is important to have this Bill here, I would just like to remind, in response to Prof. Sougata Ray and also Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, that this is not a Bill which is coming without a background.

I want to draw the attention of all the hon. Members to the fact that on 2.11.2018, the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated by the President of India. The Ordinance was promulgated in November, 2018 because at that time, the House was not in Session. Then, on 5.11.2018, a public notice was issued and so on, but following all that, post consultations with the stakeholders, on 4.1.2019, the replacement Bill was considered and passed by the Lok Sabha as the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019. This House has passed that. Therefore, on 4.1.2019, the Companies (Amendment) Bill was passed as a replacement Bill of the Ordinance which was earlier passed.

The Bill was transmitted to the Rajya Sabha and was listed for consideration and passing from 7.1.2019 to 9.1.2019. So, it was listed from 7th to 9th January in the Rajya Sabha, but could not be considered and passed by the Rajya Sabha. Then on 12.1.2019, the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated again. So, that was the second Ordinance on the same subject. On the same subject, the Second Ordinance was promulgated on 12th January 2019. On 31st January, 2019, the replacement Bill, namely the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019, as passed by Lok Sabha and lying in Rajya Sabha could not be passed during the Budget Session. Then, approval of the Cabinet was obtained again. Therefore, a replacement Bill to replace the Companies Ordinance, 2018 was passed by the 16th Lok Sabha on 4th January, 2019. Now, therefore, this Bill is being introduced only because we are continuously moving from one Ordinance to the other, like the Ordinance of 12th January and the Ordinance of 21st February as the Session has recommenced.

Therefore, the necessity for bringing this Bill now is only because this House has considered, passed and then sent this Bill to Rajya Sabha where it could not be cleared. Again an Ordinance was promulgated. Then, a second Ordinance was promulgated. When the House was reconvened for the Interim Budget, we had to bring the Ordinance all over again by the very rule. So, it is just the same Bill. ... (*Interruptions*) I will answer you. Would you please give me a chance? Prof. Saugata Roy, I am answering you. So, I am only trying to say that this House has considered it earlier and passed it, but Rajya Sabha could not pass it. Then, an Ordinance was brought. An Ordinance was brought again. So, we are coming with what is otherwise a best practice, get the Bill in the place of an Ordinance, which I am sure the Opposition will support.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 2013”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I introduce the Bill.

12.41 hrs

**STATEMENT RE: COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)
SECOND ORDINANCE, 2019***

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 13B. Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by promulgation of the Companies (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019 (No. 6 of 2019).

* Laid on the Table and also placed in the Library, See No. LT 574/17/19.

12.42 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, please submit the matters under Rule 377 on the Table of the House within 20 minutes personally. Only those matters will be treated as laid on the Table for which text of the matter will be received within stipulated time, remaining matters will be treated as lapsed.

(i) Need to take steps for overall development of Musahar caste in Rewa Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA): In my Parliamentary Constituency Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), the people belonging to Musahar caste who work in the wedding ceremony to pick left-over leaf plates and eat the fried chapati left in those plates by drying them. They depend on such food during the rainy season. They belong to a very poor caste. Their children are malnourished and deprived of education. These people end their lives fighting against hunger. No attention is paid to them. The Government of India is requested to make plans for the overall development of the Musahar caste.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

**(ii) Need to expedite doubling of railway line from Jhansi
To Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Doubling work of Jhansi to Kanpur railway line is being done in Jhansi division of North Central Railway. Its completion target was set for June 2018. But this doubling work has not been completed even after an additional year. The total distance of this doubling is 206 kilometers between Jhansi and Bhimsen. Three companies had undertaken work to complete it, but even after the completion of the deadline, this work has not been completed.

Therefore, I request to the Union Government that this work should be completed soon and action should be taken against the companies which have not completed the work within the stipulated time frame.

(iii) Need to relax qualifying marks for recruitment of Urdu teachers in Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Bihar Government had conducted special T.E.T Urdu Teacher Examination in 2013 so that sufficient number of primary Urdu teachers could be recruited and the children studying in Urdu could study properly. It is worth mentioning here that Urdu language is the second state language of Bihar.

Incidentally, in candidates of Urdu language got relatively less marks in the Teacher Eligibility Test, 2013. Due to this, a large number of candidates (about 12 thousand) remained below the minimum eligibility marks. That is why out of 24,000 (twenty four thousand) vacant posts, only about 12,000 (twelve thousand) Urdu teachers could be recruited, and about 12 thousand posts are still vacant. For this reason, in view of the need of teachers, it seems necessary to relax the qualifying criteria of the teacher eligibility test so that some more candidates can be appointed.

On 07.02.19, a letter to this effect has been written by the Education Department of the State Government to the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Union Government, wherein it was requested to allow 5 percent relaxation in the prescribed 60 percent score for qualifying eligibility. On 26/06/2019, the Education Department of the State Government has, through a letter, reminded the Ministry of Human Resource Development in this regard.

It is to be noted that the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Union Government, through its letter dated 10/01/2019, has permitted the Education Department of the Tripura Government to allow such relaxation in recruitment of teachers.

My request to the Union Government is that the Department of Education, the Government of Bihar may also be given permission to allow such relaxation so that the study of the students studying Urdu does not get affected. It should also be noted that in recent times, the Union Government has given permission

to the students studying Urdu to appear at the examination in Urdu language in many competitive examinations, which never happened in the past.

**(iv) Regarding alleged fraudulent scheme of Adarsh
Credit cooperative society**

SHRI DEVAJI PATEL (JALORE): Adarsh Co-operative Society is allegedly misleading the poor farmers in the name of beneficial schemes and asking them to deposit money with the said credit society in the entire country including my Parliamentary Constituency. Instead of paying the amount on maturity, they have refused to pay. In such a situation, people have lost crores of rupees in Adarsh Credit Co-operative Society. Whether or not this amount will ever be received, there remains a doubt. According to a rough assessment, about 8 thousand crore rupees have been invested by about 10 lakh Investors in 309 branches of the said society in Rajasthan, Now due to helplessness being shown by the society, the money deposited by the people got stuck in the society. By imposing ban on such credit societies and by selling their movable and immovable property, every penny of the investor should be returned and the personal properties of the Chairman, Managing Director, and Board of Directors should also be confiscated and punishment should be meted out to them.

(v) Need to renovate Maldaha Airport in West Bengal

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU (MALDAHA UTTAR): My Lok Sabha Constituency Maldaha Uttar (West Bengal) is a border district. It is an economically backward region. There is an airport in my Lok Sabha constituency which is in a bad condition. It is an airport for the name sake only. There is no operation of passenger flights from here. The building and the campus of the airport are also in dilapidated condition. Due to non-operation of passenger flights from here, people have started farming activity on the airport land which is very sad. Sir, the operation of passenger flights and the smooth functioning of the airport in my district will increase employment opportunities there. Along with this, there will be a steady increase in business and trade as well. Along with it, the trade will also increase. In addition to this, the revenue of the Government will also increase significantly. The smooth functioning of this airport will also have strategic importance. The commencement of flights from this airport will also benefit the traders and farmers of my area.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to renovate the Maldaha Airport and build an International Airport there as soon as possible. The construction of the said airport will provide convenience to the traders, farmers, youth and common people of my area and it will also create employment opportunities.

(vi) Regarding release of required funds to Maharashtra under PMAY-Urban

[English]

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): Hon'ble Prime Minister envisioned Housing for All by 2022 when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence. In order to achieve this objective, Central Government has

launched a comprehensive mission called Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Urban. The mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor by 2022. The Government has sanctioned 9,86,933 houses & central assistance of Rs.14,292 crore in the last three years for the State of Maharashtra under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). Out of the sanctioned amount under Central Assistance only Rs.743.65 crore has been released to the State of Maharashtra. The delay in disbursement of funds under Central assistance by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs hampers the pace of construction of houses under PMAY. I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly look into this matter & take necessary action to expedite the release of required funds to Maharashtra.

(vii) Regarding talks with Gorkha representatives

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The people of Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars have long struggled for a separate state which we know as the Gorkhaland agitations of 1986-88, 2007-11, 2013-14 and again in 2017.

Two failed experiments in the form of stop gap semi-autonomous bodies like DGHC and GTA, have failed to address the demand for a permanent political solution to this problem.

From the perspective of national security, a permanent solution will check cross-border illegal infiltration and help to secure our borders at the critical “chicken neck” region; the region today severely lags behind the rest of nation in terms of development and economic progress.

I request the central government to initiate tripartite talks involving the Centre, West Bengal government and Gorkha representatives. In case of a refusal by the WB Govt. for tripartite talks, I request the Union Government to appoint an interlocutor and start bipartite talks with Gorkha representatives at the earliest.

(viii) Need to establish a Rice Research Institute in Bhandara-Gondiya Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA): My Parliamentary Constituency, Bhandara-Gondiya is called the Rice Bowl of Maharashtra. Rice is produced in about 70 percent of the area there and the farmers produce mainly rice here and being a backward district, rice is still sown and grown with the help of traditional methods. Therefore, there is no other main crop, but there is no rice research centre, which is very much needed.

I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that a rice research institute may be set up there, which will provide appropriate benefit to the famers of Chandarpur and Gadchiroli near Bhandara-Gondiya districts and will help in increasing the production and quality of rice, resulting in increase in the income of farmers.

(ix)Need to give recognition to Electropathy as a branch of medical science

SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR): Electropathy is also known as Electro homeopathy. It is completely a herbal medicine system. Only vegetation is used in it. This method is fast effective, inexpensive and safe. Many states have been demanding from the Government of India to grant recognition to this method. Several High Courts as well as the Supreme Court have also given orders to enact laws for this system.

Keeping in mind the increasing demand for its recognition, the Government constituted an 'Inter Departmental Committee (IDC) on 28-07-

2017. This committee has not yet submitted its report. Whereas the final proposal for recognition to electropathy has been taken on 6-8- 2017.

I request the Government to direct this committee to submit its report as soon as possible so that the Government may take a decision regarding granting the recognition to electropathy.

(x) Need to provide appropriate compensation to people whose lands have been acquired for construction of NH-527C in Muzaffarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFARPUR): The acquired land along the Mauja-Bhusra-Hasna main road under my Parliamentary Constituency Muzaffarpur has been notified as commercial land for the construction of NH-527C (Majhauri-Charaut section) but the land owners are being forced to accept the compensation against residential land which is being opposed by the landowners, while the district administration is compelling the land owners with this argument that until the Government takes the policy decision to provide compensation as per the commercial land, they should accept the compensation as per residential land. It is neither justifiable nor practical. It is worth mentioning here that for the sale and purchase of the land which falls on this route registration office charges stamp duty at commercial rate. The registration office earns 2800 rupees per square feet for Pucca Bhawan RCC Roof property situated on the main road and these land owners are being forced to accept 630 rupees per square feet for the said land acquisition. Bhusra - Hasna is currently a developing market and here the market value of land is Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs per Kattha. Due to this type of impractical compensation, there is a lot of discontent and resentment among the land owners there, which if not taken seriously, the land owners may hold agitation and the construction work will naturally get interrupted.

I would like to urge the Government that in view of the interests of the landowners, policy decision may be taken first for classification of the said land as commercial type and the compensations may be provided at commercial rate for the said acquired commercial land.

(xi) Regarding utilization of funds allocated to District Mineral Foundation Trust

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): The Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana in mining affected districts. Under this scheme, development works are being carried out through District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT). Under this scheme at least 60 per cent of the amount should be used in high priority areas like drinking water supply, pollution control, health, education, sanitation and the remaining 40 per cent in irrigation, power and water conservation development etc. An amount of Rs 400 crore is available under DMFT in Chatra district alone in my Lok Sabha constituency. It should be used for water conservation, ponds, deepening of reservoirs.

The Government of India has announced the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan. This campaign will be run for water conservation and water security. This campaign will be carried out during the monsoon season from 1 July to 15 September 2019 with public participation. For some states, the second phase of the campaign will run from 1st October to 30th November, 2019, where monsoon rainfall will occur during this period. In this campaign, emphasis will be laid on water scarcity districts and blocks. Hon. Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said that the Jal Shakti campaign will bring a positive change among the people for water conservation. The recent letter written by hon. Prime Minister to more than 2.3 lakh Sarpanches will help people to work for water recharge, maintenance of ponds and rural tanks and water conservation.

I would like to urge the Government to issue orders to utilize the DMFT fund on old water harvesting means like ponds, reservoirs and for water harvesting etc. Along with it, water bodies should be linked to geo-tagging.

(xii) Regarding participation of Members of Parliament in implementation of development schemes in LWE affected districts

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Sir, Aurangabad and Gaya, both the districts of my Parliamentary Constituency Aurangabad (Bihar) are in the list of Aspirational districts. Both the districts are badly affected from left wing extremism (naxalism). Both the districts are included in the list of 34 LWE districts of the country. To control extremism, the Government of India runs Additional Central Assistance (ACA) scheme. For the selection of schemes under this scheme, there is a committee consisting of officers only, headed by the district magistrate and the members of the said committee are the Superintendents of Police and District Forest Officers of all the identified districts. The suggestion or recommendation of the public representatives has no importance. So that this committee is free to take decisions. But the fact is hon. MPs are better aware of the problems in their areas.

I would like to urge the Government that the participation of hon. MPs in the said committee and selection of schemes on their recommendation should be ensured for inclusive development of the region. In the left wing road construction schemes by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for elimination of naxalism and regional development has become very slow which needs to be carried out at fast pace.

(xiii) Need to include Pawanagar in Uttar Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan scheme

DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI (DEORIA): The nirvana of Mahavir Swami, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism occurred in Pavanagar (Fazil Nagar). Mahavir Swami preached his last sermon there itself. Since it is associated with Mahavir Swami, it is an important place. Not only the people of Jain religion from our country but also from abroad visit this place, but after seeing the plight of this place, they are disappointed and sad. The place associated with Mahavir is an most sacred place among the Saint traditions in our country. I would like to urge the Government to develop this place too as an international tourist place by including it in the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

**(xiv) Need to develop historical temples in Gadchiroli-Chimur
Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra as tourist places**

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI- CHIMUR): My Parliamentary Constituency Gadchiroli - Chimur is a tribal dominated area. Markanda (Dev) Tehsil Chamorshi, District Gadchiroli, Kachargarh, Tehsil Salekasa, District Gondia and Ramdegi, Tehsil Chimur, District Chandrapur are the cultural heritage of this region.

The holy Markanda (Dev) situated on the banks of Wainganga, river flowing in the north of Gadchiroli, has the Hemupanti temple of Lord Shankarji and it is sanctified by the penance of Sage Markandeya. This land is also called Kashi of Vidarbha.

Kachargarh Hemadpanti temple located in Salekasa tehsil of Gondia district is famous as Kuparlingo and Mahakali Kankali. It is a place of reverence for the tribal society all over the country. Lakhs of devotees visit these two areas, during the seven-day four of Mahashivaratri.

Similarly, there is a temple of Lord Rama in Ramdegi (Chimur), District Chadrapur. Religious tours take place here in the month of Paush (January). Thousands of devotees from the surrounding areas visit this place. But due to lack of public amenities and the lack of Pucca roads, they have to face many problems.

Hence, by declaring the said sites as historical sites and by granting these places the status of tourist destinations, it is very important to allocate funds for repair of roads, strengthening, construction of toilets and, *Dharamshalas*, construction of cultural buildings for development art-qualities of tribal people and, for providing drinking water facilities.

(xv) Need to ensure smooth implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Burhanpur district, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN (KHANDWA): The electrification work of electric poles and wires approved under Deendayal Gram Vidyut Yojana is being stopped by the Forest Department in several forest villages like Mandwa, Bakdi and Sagfata in Burhanpur district. Construction of accommodations under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in several forest villages of Burhanpur district is being prevented. Guidelines may be issued to Madhya Pradesh Government for grant of lease of forest land to the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional forest Dwellers under Recognition of forest Right Act, 2006 to the eligible Scheduled Tribe people who are living there for years prior to 2006 in forest villages of Burhanpur district after getting the occupied land surveyed.

(xvi) Regarding change in the present education system

[English]

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): As the world evolves and practical knowledge is considered vital, India's education system continues to stress on pure theoretical mastery and success is measured in terms of marks obtained in examinations. In order to reform the lacklustre system, I propose to ensure a system wherein internships are made mandatory from high school to college. Every student must have the freedom to choose his/her career path after significant experiential knowledge. At the university level, every student must have hands on experience with the industry they are dealing with, for smooth transition to the working environment. To ensure that this arrangement is a mutually beneficial one, the industries may receive tax exemption for assimilating this arrangement into their framework. A change of approach in the way education is imparted is imperative and a system that supports both the employer and student is the key.

**(xvii) Regarding rail facilities in Attingal Parliamentary
Constituency, Kerala**

ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH (ATTINGAL): There are 10 level crossings in my parliament constituency which require Rail Over Bridge. Passengers are facing acute difficulties at level crossing at Chirayinkil. Land acquisition has been completed but the works have not started. Construction of a Railway Overbridge at Edava in Varkala is a long pending demand. The alignment for the same is yet to be finalized, ROBs at Punnamood, Kaniyapuram should also be considered. The demand for construction of a foot over bridge at Varkala Maithanam Level Cross is a genuine demand from the local residents. Thousands of people including children are facing difficulties at this level cross every day. A lot of representations have been submitted for allowing stoppage for Maveli Express (16603/16604) and Parasuram Express (16649/16650) at Chirayinkil and Kadakkavoor stations. Considering the difficulties faced by thousands of passengers, Railway authorities should take a favourable decision in this matter.

(xviii) Regarding construction of Overbridges in Karur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): Overbridges along the national highways in Karur Constituency around Manmangalath, Vaangaampalayam Circle, Semmadai, Periyar Circle, Kodaangipatti, Veerakkiyam Circle and Kodutnbaalur need to be constructed with utmost urgency to prevent the unfortunate accidents in future.

**(xix) Regarding addressing the problems of plantation
Labourers of Tamil Nadu**

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): The plantation labourers of Valpaarai of Tamil Nadu who work in the nearby estates and in dense forest areas have to travel a lot to have access to ATM facility to withdraw their salary. Moreover at times such ATMs are out of cash adding to their woes. The Union Government should ensure that labourers of Tea Estates in that area are paid their salaries well in time in cash by the estate authorities concerned. As the professional tax deducted as TDS from the salaries of the plantation labourers affects their livelihood, they should be exempted to pay tax up to an income limit of Rs. 5 lakh per year. Plantation labourers working in Malukkappaarai of Kerala get a daily wage of Rs. 386/- and there is a possibility of this wage being revised. On the contrary, plantation labourers from Valpaarai of Tamil Nadu get a daily wage of Rs. 312/- which is Rs. 74 less than that of paid in Kerala. It amounts to a loss of Rs. 1350/- per month. The livelihood of labourers is affected. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to ensure that Welfare Acts are adhered to by estate authorities strictly besides enhancing daily wages and a minimum of 20 per cent bonus and gratuity for 30 days per year, to the plantation labourers of Tamil Nadu. Moreover, the demand from labourers for two fold daily wage for work on holidays should be fulfilled.

(xx) Regarding construction of railway platform shed at Canning railway station, West Bengal

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): I would like to inform the hon'ble Railway Minister that construction of Railway platform shed at Canning Railway station is a long pending issue. I would be highly grateful if you kindly take necessary steps for the same and instruct your good office for taking earliest action accordingly. Thousands and thousands of daily passengers have been suffering a lot during summer and winter season so it would be a boon for them.

(xxi) Regarding setting up of a Welfare Commission for Fishermen

SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI (KANTHI): Geo-cultural region in the Indian Subcontinent spans the entire coastline of India of about 7516.6 Km including 6100 km of mainland coastline and coastline of 1197 km of Indian islands touching 13 States and Union Territories. Centrally Sponsored Schemes and department of the Fisheries have different developmental projects on fisheries and aquaculture. However, there is no commission or board in the country to regular follow-up or to meet the practical problems of the Fishermen and their family including their livelihood and social security. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is engaged to enhance fish production, productivity and development. All the components of CSS are very limited and the budget for the welfare of Fishermen is very less compared to their job status. Almost 18 million people in the country are fishermen/women and India is the second largest fish producer in the world where more than 70 percent have to work on deep sea water and their life is always in nightmare and filled with uncertainty.

Keeping in view real benefits and welfare of the fishermen and their family, there is an urgent need to constitute a commission for fishermen welfare with all members of the Parliament, who are directly involved with fishing community and representing coastal constituencies of the country. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately set up a 'Welfare Commission for Fishermen' of the country.

(xxii) Regarding subsidy to farmers by the National Horticulture Board subsidy scheme

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Under the National Horticulture Board Subsidy Scheme, in the financial year 2014-15, 40 percent subsidy is given to fruit growing farmers and 50 percent to green house (vegetable and flower) farmers. It is mandatory for farmers to take loan from bank to avail subsidy scheme.

For the last two years, farmers are not getting the benefit of this subsidy. For the year 2018-19, the board had got a budget of Rs. 775 crore and the scheme was scheduled to start from April 2018, but this budget scheme was launched by the Managing Director of Board in December 2018 and the budget cut to just Rs 300 crore and the remaining budget of Rs. 475 crore was sent back to the Ministry of Agriculture, due to which only 281 farmers in the country could apply for the benefit of this scheme, out of these 281 farmers only 12 farmers got approval, but till date. These 12 applicant farmers have not received subsidy and nothing has been utilized from the budget provision, whereas for the last three years Rs. 250 crore rupees out of the said amount of 300 crore rupees were approved for projects lying pending for the last three years.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, I would like to request the Union Government to issue necessary instructions to the officials concerned to do away with impractical Rules being implemented by the Board and restore the subsidy for the farmers.

**(xxiii) Need to construct a level crossing at Bagaha in Valmiki Nagar
Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

SHRI SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHTO (VALMIKI NAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government in respect of the three railway level-crossing projects approved by the Government in the 15th Lok Sabha in Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha constituency. In the 15th Lok Sabha, many times I had raised demands for three railway crossings in Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha constituency namely Harinagar level crossing No. 31, Narkatiaganj level crossing No. 22 and Bagaha level crossing No. 50 respectively, which was also approved by the Government as well. But even after being approved, the work was not started after this, a Dharna was staged under my leadership. After that, the DRM and the RM were asked to start the work soon, but the work was not started even after a month, then the operation of the train was stopped for some time under my leadership. Apart from me, cases were registered by the Government against Shri Khurshid Alam Minister in Bihar Government, MLA Shri Vinay Bihari, Ex. MLA Pradeep Singh, Ex. MLA Prabhat Rajan and Murli Manohar. We are all now on the bail.

I request the hon. Minister of Railways that the case filed by the Government should be withdrawn or terminated and I want to say that only two railway crossings have been constructed out of the three sanctioned in the past, but one level crossings No. 50 Bagaha whose construction work has not been started yet, the construction work should be started at the earliest by providing resources for the construction work.

(xxiv) Regarding Development of Ramayan Circuit

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BEHRAMPUR): Two years ago, Central Government launched a tourism project Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan scheme. In this circuit, Ministry included 15 tourist spots in the country having importance of Ramayan era. Out of 15 sites, Mahendragiri in Odisha's Gajapati district was one of them. Odisha Government and our dynamic Chief Minister hailed the decision and a person of Paralakhemudi was happy. But unfortunately, the project is yet to be implemented at Mahendragiri though two years have passed. Recently Hon'ble P.M.'s visit to Sri Lanka had given much importance to Ramayan sites. Meanwhile, some of the sites out of 15 have been developed. Mahendragiri in Eastern Ghat has mythological importance. Legends revealed Parsuram performed his Tapasya there. There are five temples dedicated to Yudhishtir, Bhima, Kunti etc at the top of the hill. There is a Sita kunda and a water body is also there. With the limited resources, state government has developed infrastructure there. Lakhs of people gather on the eve of Shivaratri festival. Though ASI has taken up the protection of temples located at hill top, the condition of these temples is in dilapidated situation. So through you I request the Central Government, Tourism Ministry to develop Ramayan Circuit at Mahendragiri so that it could be one of the best tourist spots and a mythological site in Eastern Ghat.

(xxv) Regarding setting up of National Prison Academy, Telangana

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY (CHEVELLA): Prisons in our country continue to follow archaic practices and prison officials quite often have been found wanting in dealing with criminals from different backgrounds. Not only this, the jail

officials need to think with a different perspective or in a different fashion. Now-a-days, jails are not meant for punishment, but to reform prisoners and make them good human beings before they leave prison.

It is with this sole objective, the Government of Telangana has decided to set up National prison Academy, which is first of its kind in the country, and also allotted 100 acres of land at Vikarabad. The Ministry of Home Affairs approved the proposal and also allocated Rs. 320 crores for this purpose.

The main objective of this Academy is to train prison officials from all over the country, since there is no National Academy to train prison officials, although there are academies set up by some States. But, there is no National Academy for prison administration.

Vikarabad has been aptly chosen by the Government, since there is National Police Academy and also training academy for CISF in and around Hyderabad. The proposal was approved in 2012, but since then gathering dust in the Government. I understand that the work has also been allotted to NBCC.

In view of the above, I request the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to allocate sufficient funds and direct NBCC to complete the project by fixing a time frame.

**(xxvi) Need to construct railway line on Chandausi-Sambhal-Gajraula
section in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (SAMBHAL): The proposal of Railway regarding constructing Sambhal-Gajraula rail route is under the consideration of the Government of India. If it is constructed on Chandausi-Sambhal-Gajraula route instead of Sambhal-Gajraula, it will be in the welfare of the public of the area.

To include Chandausi in the above proposal, only 15-16 km of additional rail route will have to be constructed but the railways along with the residents will have a lot of benefits including facilities and income.

Chandausi railway junction is a very old station of the British era including Malgodam, wherefrom there are direct trains to Bareilly-Lucknow and Aligarh-Allahabad. After being linked to Chandausi Junction, Sambhal district will be directly connected to Delhi-Lucknow-Allahabad.

Sambhal is a big market from Commercial point of view where varieties of food grains are produced. And it is also a very big potato market. Apart from this, it is also the largest market of Mentha Oil in Asia. Thousands of truckloads are transported to and fro other parts of India. And this is also a very big market hub of handicrafts.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to carry out the above work especially in the interest of farmers, traders and common people. I will be grateful for this.

**(xxvii) Regarding problem of land erosion in Kokrajhar Parliamentary
Constituency, Assam**

SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA (KOKRAJHAR): My Parliamentary Constituency Kokrajhar gets flooded every year because all the rivers come down from Bhutan's mountainous area, so they have a high water flow speed which causes massive erosion, and due to erosion the agricultural land, forest land, houses, roads, bridges are also badly destroyed, which is never compensated. Here volume of water gets high during the rainy season and there is acute shortage of water during the drought. The Government of India and Bhutan have plans to generate lakhs of MW of hydropower in these rivers which will further deteriorate the condition. Therefore, through the House, I would like to urge the Union Government that the silt at the bottom of the rivers be removed. Arrangements may be made to store water along and plant trees the banks of the river. At the time of Commissioning of the hydropower project, the safety of life and property of the people may be ensured, flood barriers should be set up along the banks of the rivers.

[English]

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): The SBI has conducted a preliminary examination for over 8,500 posts of Junior Assistants in the clerical cadre. The DMK leader, Shri M.K. Stalin, has pointed out that the cut-off marks for the General Category is 61.25 per cent; for Backward Classes it is 61.25 per cent; for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes it is 53.75 per cent; but for the Economically Weaker Sections the passing percentage is 28.50 per cent. It is just 28.50 per cent.

This fails any logic. How is the qualifying mark for them is substantially lower than that of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also? We had warned that this would happen when the economic criterion was brought in for reservation. This has usurped the opportunity of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This is a brutal form of social injustice against the Constitution. This is against the protection Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had promised to us.

12.44 hrs

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF MUSLIM
WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON MARRIAGE) ORDINANCE,
2019
AND
MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON MARRIAGE)
BILL, 2019**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 15 and 16 will be taken up for discussion simultaneously.

Shri N.K. Premchandran ji, you may please move the motion.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): I beg to move the following resolution:

“That this House disapproves of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019 (No. 4 of 2019) promulgated by the President on 21 February, 2019.”

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Act to protect the rights of married Muslim women and to prohibit divorce by pronouncing Talaq by their husbands and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto may be taken into consideration."

HON. SPEAKER: Do you want to say something?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Yes Sir....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him speak first.

Shri N.K. Premchandran.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I want to move my amendment to the motion moved by the hon'ble Minister.

I beg to move:

“That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 23rd October, 2019”

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I would like to humbly and briefly tell about the background of this Bill in the House.

Sir, some of our sisters who have been victims of triple talaq had approached the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said a very important thing in its 2017 year judgement delivered by a bench of five judges. We have come here because this Bill was first passed in this House and after that it was sent to Rajya Sabha. Since the House was dissolved, we have to come here again, other Ordinances have also met the same fate. We have to bring ordinance for it, but why, I will also answer it for Premachandran ji.

Sir, since many hon. Members are new, so I want to take a little time and talk about it. The hon. Supreme Court pronounced three Judgments. A verdict was delivered by Justice Nariman and Justice Lalit. They said *[English]*—"Triple talaq is arbitrary, unconstitutional and, therefore, is invalid". *[Translation]* They said this. The second judge was the hon. Justice Kurian. He said that the triple talaq has been declared wrong practice in the Quran Sharif itself,*[English]* what

is not right in the Sharia, cannot be right in law, *[Translation]* so he found it wrong. Two judges, the then hon. Chief Justice Shri Kehar and Justice Nazir found that it is the integral part of Sharia, but a law should be made in this regard and they referred to around 20 Islamic countries of the world also in detail where Sharia has been changed, triple talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat, has been changed, and the following countries are included in the said countries - Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia.

Sir, I would like to quote one point of Justice Kehar. When he said that a law should be made by the House, I would like to quote him in the beginning. This is in para 199. *[English]* I am quoting: "We would, therefore, implore the legislature to bestow its thoughtful consideration to this issue of paramount importance; we would also beseech different political parties to keep their individual political gains apart, while considering the necessary measures requiring legislation."

[Translation]

Sir, we felt that this case would come to a halt after such scathing remarks by the Supreme Court and bringing the law, but it is very painful and I need to inform the House that 574 cases of triple talaq have come up since January 2017 till date and out of these, 345 cases have come after the decision of the Supreme Court. Let me tell the date for it, it is 24 July 2019 i.e. two to three days ago. This is the information we have been able to gather from the newspapers.

Sir, I would like to submit few things in the House with great pain. This newspaper is of 15th July 2019. In this case - 'After twelve hours of Nikah (marriage), Shauhar (husband) said - Talaq, Talaq, Talaq'. What was the reason?

The wife used to use toothpaste having tobacco as its ingredient. It is called Gul. She was given triple talaq. Look at this - "Wife demanded 30 rupees for vegetables. So the husband said - Talaq, Talaq, Talaq. Its date is -29 June 2019. this ...it is *25 July 2019.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do not put anyone's name and newspaper's version here.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, but it is important to mention.

HON. SPEAKER: You should not name the newspaper.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I got it. Media has even reported such a case wherein a mobile operator was trying to make obscene videos of his wife. When she opposed, he said - Talaq, Talaq, Talaq.

Sir, there is a question, what should we do in such a situation? Should the daughters, sisters, women of our Muslim society be left to their fate? Sir, three questions arise. The first question is that if more than 20 Islamic countries have banned triple talaq, then India is a secular country, why can it not do so? It should do so. This is the first question. The second question is very important. The Supreme Court has said that this is wrong. The Chief Justice said that Parliament should enact a law. When we enacted the law, then it is being opposed. Should our victim sisters keep the verdict of the Supreme Court in their homes only for record? should any action not be taken in this regard?

Sir, it has been almost 70 years of our Constitution. Today when the opposition raises any issue again and again, they talk about Constitution. They talk about the decision of the Supreme Court. What is the decision of the

Supreme Court? I have read that. I am talking about third point the core philosophy of the Constitution of India. Gender justice and justice to women is the basic philosophy of the Indian Constitution. We need to understand this. Irrespective of their society, and their religion or faith, the daughter of India is the daughter of India and the Constitution of India treats all daughters equally.

Sir, today I would like to congratulate our hon. Prime Minister for this step. Gender justice is a very important issue of our Government. I would like to point out some issues. We launched '*Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*' programme. Our Postal Department has launched Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana. About 1 crore and 26 lakh daughters have deposited 28,000 crore rupees in it. It is a step meant for their welfare. The Ujjwala scheme is also meant for women. I see the work of Digital India. Our Common Service Center is run by 73, 000 women and I feel happy to see their empowerment. The provision of capital punishment has been made by this very House for a person raping a minor. The POCSO act has been passed just two days ago. You too must have seen the day before yesterday. You must have seen that the same Government has allowed the daughters of India to fly the Air Force fighter planes. You must have seen that today be it Chandrayan or Mangalyan, our women scientists are leading them. Today, since I am in this House, I am most satisfied that for the first time in this House, 78 of our sisters have become hon. Members of the Lok Sabha. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am also fortunate this time that the people of our Patna Sahib have elected me as a Member of this House for the first time. When I have become a Member of this House, I wish to say one thing that there is a silence too, a voice is silent, I will tell that story some other day but the voice of this House will not remain silent in the case of triple talaq, rather Justice will be done. I am saying this for the reason and I would like to appeal to this House. Rest I will answer it in detail when the discussion on it takes place. This House functions at a higher

pedestal. Its 70 years old tradition stands testimony to the fact that it has operated at much higher pedestal in several instances. What is my request to this House today is that please, do not look at this matter with political lenses, and do not view this matter with the prism of religion and faith. This question is related to justice and humanity and it requires to be seen only through these lenses. This is a matter of neither politics, nor religion, nor faith, nor worship, nor prayer, rather it is a matter of women's justice, women's dignity and women's respect.

Sir, let me submit only one last thing, then I will definitely listen to the debate and answer it. When we brought it, there were some apprehensions. We have addressed those apprehensions. The first apprehension was that some other person could give first information to harass the neighbour. We felt that this is right, that is why we said that now this case will be registered only when the victim daughter or sister or any family relative will file a case related to her marriage. Secondly, it was said that the scope of the agreement should be maintained. Now that too has been done. Third, it is also said about bail that the magistrate may grant bail after hearing the victim wife.

These three safeguards, which were discussed repeatedly, have been provided in it. I would urge this House today to pass this Bill unanimously so that a message is sent to the daughters of this country..... (*Interruptions*) We are not as intelligent as you but what to do? We just make an effort. [*English*] I am not a Barrister from England. [*Translation*] I studied from Patna Law College. As I said, even after the Ordinance, even after the Supreme Court's verdict, women are suffering. What would we tell them that we cannot do anything for them, because Premchandran Saheb is a good friend of mine, and he will bring the resolution of disapproval. The country is not run like this. If the women were being given honour through the Ordinance [*English*] then it is the best use of Ordinance provision as far as this law is concerned.

[*Translation*]

UP has the maximum 74 cases. Today I welcome the U.P Government because they have taken action, filed a charge sheet. I would like other states to do the same. We should move forward in this direction, so that we may provide them justice.

HON. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

“That this House disapproves the Muslim Women (Protection of Marriage Rights) Ordinance, 2019 (No. 4 of 2019) promulgated by the President on 21 February 2019. ”

“That the Act protecting the rights of married Muslim women and to prohibit divorce by pronouncing Talaq by their husbands and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto may be considered.”

“That Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 23rd October, 2019”.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My Statutory Resolution is there; my amendment to the Motion moved by the hon. Minister regarding the consideration is there; and the discussion on the Bill is there. So, my humble submission before the hon. Speaker is that I may be permitted some more time since I am the mover of the Resolution.

Sir, I rise to oppose both the Ordinance and the Bill which has already been introduced or taken for consideration by the hon. Minister. Hon. Minister in his opening remarks has made an eloquent and elaborate speech regarding the necessity for promulgating the Ordinance as well as taking up the Bill for consideration. I would first like to dispute the arguments advanced by my very learned Law Minister of this country, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad *ji*. He has stated

in the House that it is necessitated only because of the Supreme Court judgement. The Supreme Court judgement is a five-member judgement. It is a 3:2 judgement. You may please note that Justice Nariman and Justice U.U. Lalit had held that the 1937 Muslim Personal Law, that is, *Shariat* Application Act, insofar as it refers to Triple *Talaq* violated Article 14 of Indian Constitution, that is, the right to equality. Justice Kurian instead argued that Triple *Talaq* was not a valid practice in Islam, and was, therefore, illegal. Sir, it is 2:1:2.

Sir, the minority view was held by Chief Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, and Justice Abdul Nazeer was of the opinion that Triple Talaq was undesirable, and the court could not strike it down and only Parliament could legislate on the matter. So, the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court is 2:1:2 in actual figures and terms. Now, the Government is coming up with a legislation on the basis of a minority or dissent judgement. The hon. Minister was arguing his case that they are legislating because of the directives of the Supreme Court.

If that is the case, then, I would like to ask a simple question to the hon. Minister regarding Sabarimala issue. What is the legal and political position of the BJP-led NDA Government in respect of Sabarimala issue? What had the Prime Minister stated during the elections in Kerala, in Chennai and in south Indian States? So, I would like to seek the clarification from the hon. Minister on the fact that the Supreme Court has never directed the Government to make a legislation to ban the Triple *Talaq*. All India Muslim Personal Law Board has sworn in an affidavit before the Supreme Court that it is not the court but Parliament to make a law on this issue. Based on that, the minority or dissent judgement had come. Only two Judges have suggested to have a legislation.

13.00 hrs

If the Government is so pertinent and significant in promulgating an Ordinance and to make a legislation so as to protect the Muslim women in the

country, then, Sir, mob lynching is also there in the country. Last week also, three persons were killed by the mob and the hon. Supreme Court has already specifically directed the Government to have a legislation on it. Why is the Government not ready to initiate a legislation on mob lynching? I am not going into the history of this case. This is being done with a clear political motive – to target a particular community in the country and there is no doubt about it.

Three Ordinances have been promulgated. The first Ordinance was promulgated on 19th September, 2018, the second Ordinance was promulgated on 12th January, 2019 and the third Ordinance was promulgated on 21st February, 2019. Consecutive Ordinances have been promulgated so as to ban *Triple Talaq*. I cannot understand what was the necessity and emergency for promulgating an Ordinance. There is no justifiable answer.

Sir, continuous promulgation of Ordinances one after another is lacking bona fide; it is with a political motive – to target a particular community. This is a specified targeted agenda of the BJP-led Government in the country. That is the first point which I wanted to make.

13.02 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

Sir, you are very well aware that article 23, a well-established constitutional position, can be invoked only under extraordinary and compelling circumstances. No extraordinary and compelling circumstances are prevailing in the country so as to promulgate this Ordinance. Sir, the seven-judge bench of the hon. Supreme Court on 2nd January, 2017 in the case of Krishna Kumar vs. State of Bihar held, “Re-promulgation of an Ordinance is impermissible and is a fraud on the Constitution”. Sir, it is a big dictum on the part of the Supreme Court. Consecutive promulgation of Ordinance is a fraud on the Constitution. Further, it says, “The Ordinance-making power does not constitute the President or the Governance into a parallel source of law-making authority or an independent

legislative authority”. So, here in this case, this is an abuse or misuse of Constitutional provisions under article 123. Hence, I oppose the Ordinance route of legislation.

Sir, I am coming to the contents of the Bill. The contents of the Ordinance and the Bill are against the interests of the Muslim men and women. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Bill is intended to prevent discrimination against the Muslim women and for the empowerment of Muslim women. The Supreme Court Judgment in the case of Shayara Bano vs. Union of India which was held on 22nd August, 2017: *Talaq-e-Bidat*, i.e. an instantaneous and irrevocable divorce by a Muslim husband on his wife is null and void. This is the Judgment of the hon. Supreme Court on 22nd August, 2017 which means an instantaneous and irrevocable divorce given by a Muslim husband on his wife is null and void. It means that it is *void ab initio* –the marriage has no legal sanction; no legal sanctity; and the marriage status is still subsisting. That is the position. I would like to know, what is the need for a new law on *Triple Talaq* when the hon. Supreme Court’s verdict is the law of the land?

I would like to quote one of the fundamental maxims of criminal jurisprudence, “*Nullum crimen sine injuria*”. That means, no person shall be punished for an attack that does not prove to be significantly harmful to anyone. Here, Sir, after 22nd August, 2017, i.e. after the pronouncement of the Judgment, an act of *Talaq-e-Bidat* does not in any way harm or violate the rights of a Muslim wife unless the husband refuses to perform the conjugal responsibilities or duties upon him or the wife is forced to leave from the residential place of the husband. Only in these two circumstances, you can invoke it. If these two circumstances exist, we have Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code which can be invoked and we also have the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. You can very well invoke it. What is the necessity and need for another law? Sir, I am moving the Resolution, please give me some more time. Section

498A of IPC as well as provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 are applicable here. So, what is the necessity of having such legislation?

Secondly, this is about criminalising a civil wrong. At the time of introduction of the Bill a very detailed narration has already been given. It is absolutely a personal law. How can a wrong arising out of a personal law be treated as a crime under criminal law? A dispute arising out of a marriage has never been considered a crime within the purview of the criminal law. Marriage disputes in all religions are covered by personal laws and are treated as civil wrongs. Matters of marriage, divorce, succession, etc., are considered as civil wrongs.

Imposing the punishment of imprisonment for three years for divorce is not applicable to any other community. Why are you not imposing imprisonment for divorce in the Hindu community? Why are you not imposing imprisonment for divorce in the Christian community? Why do you want to have it only in the Muslim community? That is why I say that this is a discrimination against the Muslim community. This is violation of Article 14, violation of Article 15, and violation of Article 25 of the Constitution.

The provisions of the Bill contradict each other. Clause 3 says that if instant talaq is pronounced by a Muslim husband upon his wife, it will be null and void. Clause 4 says that the punishment is imprisonment for a period of three years. Clause 5 says that the wife is entitled to claim maintenance from the husband. My simple question is, how can a jailed husband provide maintenance to his wife? Is this protecting the rights of women? If a wife is claiming compensation or maintenance or subsistence allowance from her husband who is in jail, how will he be able to give it? And it says the wife is entitled to the custody of children. If talaq is void and illegal, why are you separating the husband and

wife from cohabitation under a single umbrella? Why are you separating them? Why are the children being separated from their father?

As per the CrPC, police is the complainant and prosecution is initiated by the police. Here, the woman upon whom talaq is pronounced shall be heard for granting bail. They are also not to get bail. That provision is also there.

The Bill is not intended to protect the rights of Muslim women but to harass the Muslim husband. Three-year imprisonment of husband while the marital relationship is subsisting, such a provision in legislation is never even heard of. This lacks bona fides. This is brought in with the ulterior political motive to target the Muslim community and violate the basic principles of criminal jurisprudence, and hence I oppose it.

With these words, I conclude, Sir. Thank you.

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY (MALAPPURAM): Sir, I would like to endorse the views expressed by Shri Premachandran here. The hon. Minister has very skillfully argued his case. Unfortunately, that is not at all convincing for the stakeholders of this country, that is, the major minority community of India. Why is the Government not at all bothered about that? According to the hon. Minister, this maybe a very genuine case and it is very beneficial to the relevant minority community, the Muslim community. But why is he not having even one consultation? Has any Muslim organisation, minority organisation, ever supported him on this? If it is so beneficial for them, why is it not at all convincing to the major minority community of this country? What is the need for you to make it an issue?

It is discriminatory as Shri Premachandran told here now. Generally, you are not doing this discrimination with any other community on any other issue. This is the only issue. I do not think that the statistics establish your argument. Of course, the Supreme Court has given its judgement that the triple talaq has come to an end. Where has the Supreme Court told that the Government should bring a law? You are saying that it is reported in this or that paper. So many such arguments are there. That is what the hon. Minister is saying here. That is the reason for bringing this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I have sacrificed two minutes for the Congress Party. That is why you have given me permission.

I do not think the statistics establish your argument. As per the last census, the percentage of divorce among Muslim communities is very minimal. No statistics establish your argument. I should bring to your notice that it is only 0.56 per cent, whereas, in other communities, it is much higher. So, what is the reason for you to bring this Bill? Major minority community of the nation as well as the whole country knows that it is nothing but your political agenda. Now, the election is over and you have convincing majority, absolute majority. So, what is the need for you to pass such a legislation in a hurry? What you are doing here is

you are going ahead with your political agenda, nothing else. That is the reason for this discrimination.

Sir, we are a minority party. We have supported the Sabarimala issue. We are believers and you are also believers. Shri Premachandran was talking about that. So, why is this double standard? Why is this discrimination? Are you not ashamed? Is it not shameful to have discrimination and make the argument so convincingly? Any lawyer can make a bad issue a good issue. That is what I should say to our hon. learned Minister. So, you have to withdraw this Bill. Since you are having a convincing majority and the election is over, political agenda can be set aside. At least you should have a reconsideration about that and withdraw the Bill. That is what I say and you should consult others on this issue.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Thank you Hon. Chairperson Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I was hearing whatever has been voiced by the hon'ble Members and all of a sudden I recalled Nehruji to jog their memories what they tend to forget. As regards the struggle made by J.L. Nehru, I would like to refer to an episode. Once a French Journalist called Andre Melrocks asked him. *[English]*- “What has been your greatest difficulty in independent India?” And his answer was, “To make a just society on the basis of just laws.” And not just this, he also said, “...perhaps to create a secular state in a religious country.” *[Translation]* Is the Prime Minister Modi not facing the same problems today? *[English]* Creating a secular state in a religious community *[Translation]* and all the speeches that had been made at that time and whatever questions had been raised, since this Bill has been placed twice in the House earlier, all sorts of controversies like it is the divine law, without it the whole world will be in danger and it is a question of the rights of Muslims etc. had been triggered. Exactly the same types of arguments had been put forward earlier with regard to Hindu Code Bill. Reportedly the same kinds of debate have surfaced now. It is during the same course of Debate that we come to know about the formation of a body called All India Muslim Personal Law Board post 1986 and the formation of another body namely All India Anti Hindu code Association as its paradoxical institution was done. The same thing we heard also when we were debating on NIA and other issues.

My friend Pinaki ji is not here, he had raised an issue that people of a particular community stuck more, and its reason is the economic system. *[English]* I want to tell that it is not just economic backwardness, but the backwardness of mind and thought and that needs to be corrected. The thinking that religious law is immutable is wrong. People, who think that religion will control every aspect of social life, are wrong in their thinking and this is what needs to be corrected. When the Hindu Code Bill, which was a difficulty, was brought. *[Translation]*

Ambedkar ji had to resign from the Congress because it was his wish that Hindu Code Bill may be passed. There were many reasons for this, but the main reason for bringing the bill was that even the Hindu laws on different types of marriages etc were framed on the basis of castes and as such these could never unite the society. So, in order to stop all these things, he brought the law and he himself chaired that committee. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru was also instrumental in creating and introducing the Hindu Code Bill. Today I think of these people. I think about justice Chagla, who was an excellent Muslim. He said that the law of the constitution is not for a single community. It is for the people of India and one cannot do away with Article 44 and cannot make it a dead letter. *[English]* You have to get out of this problem. *[Translation]* This law is for the entire population of India. It is for every person in India. Its protection should be available to everyone. *[English]* I can use the phrase for Justice Chagla that he must be turning in his grave. People like Nehru and Ambedkar must be wondering as to how such sort of people that succeeded them, because their dream of making India as one nation, their dream of ushering in equilibrium and equality amongst people seems to have been consigned to oblivions. This entire book is about the kind of difficulties that existed in post-Independence India. *[Translation]* What were the problems that arose in making that law, what Ambedkar ji had to say in the House and what kind of disputes were raised, like religion is in crisis. Even if a person like Dr. Rajendra Prasad opposed it, even then that law was introduced, and today we have the results of introducing that law before us. The changes have taken place in the society and the rights have been provided to women. We too had basic things like polygamy. All were not gentle people. The fear of law made them gentle. Coming to the Succession Act debate, Ambedkar ji had to say that one fourth of minority section follows succession, when you give one fourth, give equal rights to girls as well. *[English]* That is how the succession law changed. *[Translation]* In Dalit community, there was a law that divorce may be given. The rest of the society did not believe in divorce *[English]* It is a sacrament

[Translation] you cannot take divorce, no matter how cruel a man is, how bad a woman is. *[English]* divorce is an impossibility. *[Translation]* On the basis of the law prevalent in Dalit society, the right was accorded to all that everyone has the right to seek divorce. ... *(Interruptions)* you sit down. You are talking about the Hindu Mahasabha. I am talking about the Congress. Learn something; I am talking about Jawaharlal Nehru ji..... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, I am standing in the Parliament of India and I am an MP. I am talking about women's rights. If it was the fault of the Hindu Mahasabha, I am mentioning that as well, by misusing the same mistake today, if things go against Muslims, I want to stop it also. I would like to tell in this Parliament that this country has only one religion and that is the Constitution of India. Your religious rights are confined to your home. The Constitution of India works outside the home.

The Constitution of India works outside home. *[English]* No area can be away from constitutional protection. That has been repeatedly given colour by the Supreme Court's enactments and orders. Somebody was talking about Sharia courts. I think, Shri Premachandran mentioned that in Uttar Pradesh those courts exist and must continue to exist. This has been the observation of Supreme Court in Raghunath vs. Union of India in 1994 on what the State's role is, could there be a parallel judiciary in the country, how could a parallel judiciary exist when judicial role is assigned to Judiciary under the Constitution of India; probably he chose not to quote it but I am just quoting it. The Constitution of India is a paramount document because of which each person needs to be granted protection under laws.

[Translation]

Now what is Narendra Modi's Government doing? Sometimes it makes 100 crores toilets, sometimes it distributes 12 crore gas cylinders to women and when

nothing is got, how can a Hindu person like Narendra Modi be the brother of Muslim sisters, these people think only this. They forget that there exists Constitution of India and he is the Prime Minister of India and is discharging his duties as the Prime Minister of India. The role that Rajiv Gandhi could have played after Jawaharlal Nehru ji and he did not play. I would also like to tell that history. I would like to inform that in 1984-85 when the Shahbano case came, such cases had taken place earlier as well, in the case of Shahbano, the Supreme Court gave you the same opportunity, that was given to the Bharatiya Janata Party led Government in the case of Shaira Bano. It said that by enacting a law, all the controversial matters should be disposed of. Who opposed that? What did you bring in the year 1986? Protection of Muslim Women on Divorce Act. They talk about divorce, we talk about marriage. They talk of breaking relation; we talk of protecting relation. I remember a couplet... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Diwali and Ramzan. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I will also talk about Diwali and Ramzan.....*(Interruptions)* I am talking about everything....*(Interruptions)* Akhilesh Yadav can talk about Diwali and Ramzan, because if he had closed down the Sharia courts in Uttar Pradesh in his tenure, there would have been no injustice to the women there.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: The main reason for that injustice is the Sharia courts, which continued in their time... *(Interruptions)* He was the Chief Minister there. What kind of Chief Minister he was that he did not want to protect the rights of Muslim women. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You may speak only when your turn comes. Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): Sir, she is speaking as if he were not entitled to defend himself. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Akhilesh ji, sit down. Please sit down.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Akhilesh ji, no, you are not allowed, please sit down.
...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, sit down. She is not yielding. You sit down.
....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can speak only when your turn comes; not now. She is not yielding. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can speak only when your turn comes, do not speak now.

... *(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You will be given an opportunity. She is not yielding. Please cooperate. You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Hon. Chairperson, I would like to say:

“Nikah nikah na raha, majak ban gaya.
Talaq, talaq, talaq aur talaq ho gaya.”

There is no need to do anything. One said and it finished, a helpless woman with children stays out of the house at night. Is a woman just a wife? Doesn't she have any parents, she has no family, is she not someone's daughter, is she not someone's sister, is she not anyone's mother? Those who want to justify it in the name of religion, I want to tell them that this law is blind to religion.

... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Hon. Chairperson, Akhilesh ji is a very senior Member, he is also the former Chief Minister, when a female hon. Member is talking about the justice to women. ... (Interruptions) You will also get time, you must speak when your turn comes, but do not interrupt... (Interruptions) It is not sending a good message all across. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: How many Members from the Ruling party will speak like this? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Meenakashi ji, you may speak up

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down, you are a very responsible person. You all please sit down. He will speak when he will be given opportunity. Now, only what Meenakashi ji is speaking will go on record.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: The Hindus were singled out, partly because they were the largest community, and also because there were vigorous reform movements among them. Mahatma Gandhi, in particular, had challenged the discriminations of caste and gender by seeking the abolition of untouchability and bringing women into public life. *[Translation]* All these reasons brought transformations in the society and because of that country also transformed. Some people remained backward. *[English]* Some people lived in the past, lived with the medieval mindset. Those changes need to be brought forward and those changes are called for. It is a very simple thing. I talked about monogamy being mandatory, Succession Act, giving equal rights to girl child, and abolition of caste system. *[Translation]* Inter caste or Intra caste marriages were also prohibited. There were two systems in the country-Mitakshara and Daaybhaag. A lot of varieties were there in that system too. All these systems have been changed by codifying them. *[English]* Towards the end, even the Britishers brought the Shariat Act *[Translation]* So that Muslim women and others can get their right of divorce. It is a wrong theory to say that it is immutable and there is no scope of any change. It is a wrong theory because society and laws and ways to cope up with new problems are also changing but I have to say that problems are same that existed before and after the 1947, it is only the area that has been changed. There is a need to rectify that area under the jurisdiction of the Constitution and our courts are constantly making efforts in this direction. This question has been asked in the court, *[English]* “What is it that is missing? Why are we unable to implement these judgements?” The Court said, the answer is, ‘political courage’. This is a judgement. I am not saying it myself. This is a judgement of the Court

that it is the political courage which is missing out and it is for this reason that we are not able to settle this. This political courage is sought to be shown by this Government for the simple reason because earlier Governments were trying to appease certain sections to get their votes. We are trying to bring everyone together, and bring everyone on the path of progress. The path of progress is important.

If you look at other countries, 22 Muslim countries have given up this practice. *[Translation]* Pakistan and Bangladesh - two countries that were part of India and divided after the independence, they were not secular Nations because they were formed on the basis of religion. Rest of the people from Muslim, Hindu and other religions, who stayed here are seculars. People, who believed in their own religion only and wanted a religion-based society, have gone to other countries. *[English]* They, who wanted a religion-based society, have gone to other countries. The basis of a religion-based society was two-nation theory. If we go by this thought, this is nothing but a remnant of an old thought, which is that religion is the basis and communities cannot live together. We have proved that this is wrong. We have shown that religion cannot be the basis of social interactions. To amend that thought, to get out of the thought process that religion can be the basis of any society, we built a secular India - secular India, which protects the women, takes care of the Dalits, where men and women are equal, where there is gender justice, and where there is justice for everyone. Why should a section of society be neglected and left to the *quam*?

[Translation]

Community will decide what they have to do. Was any law ever passed without any resistance? Was the Hindu Law passed without any resistance? Do you think that people wanted to abolish their right of polygamy; I do not think so. It was stopped with the enactment of law. I do not think that any male dominated society would like to give equal rights to women and daughters in the Succession Act. These are the rights which are not given easily but are acquired diligently.

[English] These laws have given us the right to be equal and these are the laws which can give right to the ones who have been left out. Who were left out? The Muslim women were left out of the process of changes which happened in the Hindu society.

[Translation]

Sir, there was no law for divorce in Catholic Christian but now it is there. When it comes to Hindu Code Bill, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist are also included therein.

[English] The law can precede the changes. We have seen that 70 years have not been adequate time to bring those changes. Somebody has to initiate those changes. Somebody has to show that political courage, which this Government has chosen to showcase.

I come back to the area of Quran. *[Translation]* I will talk about versus from the Quran later but there is a basic statement of the Quran--"Sinner will get result of his sin, injustice will not be done to anyone." You tell me whether the injustice is being done with Muslim women or not? It is noticeable that the people who themselves victimize, exploit the others or who themselves are the victims of that victimhood, they decide the definition of injustice. Victims of that victimhood moved to the courts. Those who exploit in the name of laws and on the basis of religion, are debating here. Quran does not allow this. It is not me; it is Quran which says that injustice will not be done to anyone. Similarly following is for the Hindu society.

"Ramrajyavasi tvam, Prochchhrayashva teshiram.

Nyayarth Yuddhasv Sarveshu Sam char

Paripaalay Durbalam Vidhi Dharamam Varam

Procchhra Yasv teshiram, Ramrajyavasi tvam."

[English] It means that you live in Ram's Kingdom, hold your head high, fight for justice, treat all as equal, protect the weak, know the rule of law is above everything. *[Translation]* The Ramayana says that. Whether you read Quran or Ramayana, you get the rights from them as to how to live in the society. The Constitution teaches you what is *Raj Dharam*. *[English]* Everything which is contrary to that is propagated in the name of religion. This is the tragedy of this country. I genuinely fail to understand this. *[Translation]* If I say in a simple language-- 'God will awake those who are sleeping but what would happen with those who are sleeping with open eyes.' All are educated in this Parliament and sitting here to give equal right to the people. Very educated and competent people are sitting here. If these people are not being able to understand these rights, then, who else. *[English]* Somebody has to come forward to bring a change I genuinely feel this *[Translation]* When we go into constitutional debate and read about erudite Muslims then we feel where the people like Meenu Masani and many such other people have gone. They are not in independent India. They were the believers of secularism *[English]* this has changed and we are becoming more orthodox by the day. Why should we be orthodox? All of us are liberal people. All of us need to understand this aspect that women of this country are the biggest minority in this country. Let us give them gender justice. We can only afford that gender justice once all of us work together to achieve that target.

Sir, the argument has been to scrap it. That is the first argument which is going on. I must say the only way to do that is to amend the Constitution. *[Translation]* The Constitution has provided Right to Equality. Unless you amend the Right to Equality, such law would exist and litigations would keep taking place. No one here is competent enough to obligate the court to put up his point. *[English]*

So, you cannot scrap it, you cannot wish it away. Shri Premachandran talked about the aspect. *[Translation]* That it is 3:2 judgement, the judgement of

2:1:2. *[English]* law has already declared it invalid: women continue there and that is why you need not make the law. Why should we not make the law? Is it not the duty of the Parliament to make the law even if there is something wrong? This is the case in which a Supreme Court judgement exists. Even if the judgement did not exist, will you take away the right of the Parliament to make the law? Who will do that? You cannot take away that right. This is my duty and not just right. It is my duty. I got elected because I was supposed to make the law. I am a law-maker *[Translation]* Hon. Chairperson Sir, there have been talks which I have heard that the Muslims are in danger or Islam is in danger. I must say for them, I have already expressed that view before you, *[English]* Relic of the past; relic of two-nation theory just cannot go on Preamble to the Constitution talks about fraternity, talks about universal fraternity.

[Translation]

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there are talks about fraternity and communalism free society. We have to boost fraternity keeping aside the communalism and communal forces. It is only possible when we will rise above the castes and religion. Some people will come forward and say that their constitutional rights are being snatched and their religion and culture are in danger. I must remind them that rights of religion, language and culture are safe under Articles 26, 29, 31 and 31A. Nobody can put them at risk. Changes are not possible unless Muslims want to do so. Therefore, I placed Hindu Code Bill before you. Hindu did not want any changes, but changes came after the enactment of laws. If law is there, society would change itself and it should be started and tried right from here *[English]* Nowhere does the Constitution say that consent is imperative. If they want to come together, so be it. Otherwise, the duty is on the State. *[Translation]* There is no imperative to make law rather it is a duty of the State. The Government of the nation would make a law. Someone said who will decide that who is going to get benefit out of these. We all do believe that Constitution of India has been implemented for the betterment of all of us.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, you please conclude

.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, I am concluding, I have to express my points because my speech will remain incomplete without these points. All these points were discussed in Constituent Assembly and Houses. If the people engaged in that discussion are against the women's rights, then whose opinion you are going to seek? Would you ask from those people who are against the women's rights? It is the women who will decide, not them. Would you listen to those who are the victims! Would you listen to the poor? [*English*] You are supposed to work for the weak and not for the ones who are exploiters. These are the people who are exploiters, who are exploiting religion and casting aspersions on women. They cannot be protected under the law.

[*Translation*]

Hon, Chairperson Sir, I will give you two examples. If a woman wants to be a *Sati*. Let her do so and do not make any law in this regard, [*English*] is that allowed? No, it is your duty to stop the wrong [*Translation*] Is it possible that Government does not enforce Article 45, if illiterate parents do not want to send their children to school,? [*English*] You have talked about Fundamental Right to Education. My insistence is that it cannot be left to the people who are the basic problem. We have to work towards the solution and listen to the ones who are actually being exploited in the name. ...(*Interruptions*) I will talk about Sabrimala another time. It is not about same religion. The Constitution talks about ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please address the Chair.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, I am addressing the Chair. Uniform Civil Code is about uniformity in civil laws. It is not about uniform religious code. [*Translation*] Everywhere there is an attempt to spread misconception that religion is in danger. Religion is not in danger rather it is protected. The question

is why did the Governments remain silent for a long time? Governments were silent because of their vote bank.

I want to quote a finding of a Commission of Pakistan:

[English]

“Report of the Commission on Marriage and Family Laws, Government of Pakistan in 1955 - whether Sharia is immutable or not.”

This question was also before them. They were of the view that reforms are a must. There is nothing called immutability of Sharia and they changed the law. And after they changed the law, 'Islam is capable of evolution' is the verdict. Islam is capable of evolution. *[Translation]* Law Commission of Pakistan believe that but Indian Muslims believe that Muslims are in danger *[English]* It is shocking to know that we have such people who want to mislead the society in the name of religion.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken enough time. Please conclude

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Those who are talking about reforms cannot re-write the divine law in the name of reforms. *[English]* I have quoted many instances where divine laws have been re-written *[Translation]* If I say that I am ready to follow the laws of Manu and Yagguvalkyia which existed in 750 B.C., can these laws be implemented in 1950 A.D. and 2019 A.D.? *[English]* if that law is not divine and it is not away from immutability, it is capable of being mutated and evolved, how can the same be not applied to the Islamic law in the same country?

Necessity to promulgate was there because it is about public community and it is not the agenda of the BJP This is the agenda of this nation...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

On behalf of oppressed women,

"Today morale of all the women is very high, everyone likes this decision. I hope it is not unparliamentarily. All the mediators who used to mediate in the name of religion are mute, "

Thank you very much

[English]

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ): Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill. I would like to put forward few facts in this august House.

The instant Triple Talaq has already been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and is therefore non est.

As per this Bill, a Muslim man can be jailed for upto three years along with a fine. This provision has the potential to destroy a marriage because of a false complaint by a scheming relative.

As per this Bill, the Magistrate will grant bail only after hearing the wife. This provision has far-reaching consequences as a man may get bail only on the conditions imposed by the wife.

This Bill is in violation of article 14 of the Constitution as it discriminates Muslim women and women of other religions Section 498A of IPC, Domestic Violence Act and Dowry Prohibition Act already apply to Muslims too. Therefore, there is no need of having an additional law to protect only Muslim women.

There are several contradictions to the Bill. Section 3 of the Bill says that Talaq-e-Biddat is void but in Sections 5 and 6, it discusses post divorce issues such as maintenance allowance for women and custody of her minor children as if marriage is dissolved through.

The Ordinance also provides for maintenance of the wife. However, if the husband is in jail, how will he be able to provide subsistence allowance over and above the maintenance he has to provide under other laws applicable?

[Translation] Sir, how can a husband give maintenance when he is in jail, it appears to be baseless *[English]* The Supreme Court, in the Triple Talaq Judgment, nowhere said that Triple Talaq should be a criminally punishable offence.

We have to understand what this Government wants to do through this Bill. Imprisonment, not for abandoning his wife but merely for chanting Talaq three times, for three years. Considering the punishment for causing death by negligence, which imprisonment is only up to two years, I think, the present one is much more than what it deserves. This is more than rioting as well. This Bill is introduced with a political intention to harass the Muslim community and to portray Islam, the religion of peace and equality, in bad light. *[Translation]* The speakers before me, who have spoken before me, have quoted about the Quran. *[English]* It is practiced by more than 14 per cent of Indians and about 1/4th of the human race. *[Translation]* This Bill is being introduced with the intention to distress the Muslim women and to exterminate the Muslims.

[English] This Bill will cause distress to the familial ties and matrimonial relationships. And the only option available to the aggrieved Muslim husband

would be to walk out of marriage and abandon his wife. *[Translation]* This is the trend. If you look at the Census 2011, more than two and a half lakhs of women are separated, out of which more than two lakhs of women are Hindu Sisters. If you want to bring new law, then bring it for them.

[English] As per a report in 2006, the separation cases in Muslim women were 4.8/1000) compared to 55/1000 in Hindu women. *[Translation]* Are they not concerned about our Hindu sisters? Should they not think about them?

[English] Sir, if the present Government is serious and sincere towards Muslim women empowerment, *[Translation]* if they are worried about them, they should think over their jobs. They should also look upon as to how they would get Government jobs, education, technical skills and seats in local bodies, Assembly and Parliament on the basis of population? There should be quota for our Muslim sisters in Parliament and Assembly like SC, ST quota. Therefore, I must say, if they had their intention, at least one Muslim would have surely been elected out of 303 seats. A Muslim has also been elected out of 335 NDA Members and they have not even given him ministerial berth. Their intention is clear from this. If they were genuinely worried, they would have felt the pain of 19 year old girl Shaista whose husband Tabrez was lynched and killed in Jharkhand. If they were worried, they would have given justice to Akhlaq's wife, Junaid's mother and Jainuel's daughter, but they do not want this. Our esteemed Prime Minister had expressed great regret over the incident in Jharkhand... *(Interruptions)* Sir, you have given me only five minutes out of twenty minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are so many speakers from the Congress and there is restriction of time. The House is governed by the rule. Time is allowed according to the time allotment.

..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please try to conclude

[Translation]

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED: Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Prime Minister has also expressed concern but nothing has come out of it. The outcome is that four people were killed again in Jharkhand in mob lynching. Four non-Muslims have been killed. If the Prime Minister really wanted it, then he would have taken action last year when his own Minister had honoured convicted persons of 8 murders by garlanding them.

Sir, anti-Muslim atmosphere is being created today. The atmosphere is being created not only against the Muslims but also against the weak, dalits, minorities and tribals. New laws are being made, RTI is being weakened and UAPA is being strengthened. I want to quote a line on the atmosphere that exists today that a famous pastor, Martin Niemoller, said about 80 years ago that -

[English]

‘First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist, then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionists, then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew, then finally they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.’

[Translation]

Hon. Chairperson Sir, exactly the same atmosphere is being created. We would have to avoid it. In the end, I would like to conclude that the Bill that has been brought in, is a new way of sending Muslims to jail... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have a very long list.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED: Hon. Chairperson Sir, new law has been made to send Muslims to jail. It has been made to declare any Muslim either a terrorist or kill him by lynching like Tabrez or send him to jail for speaking Talaq thrice. The Government want this(Interruptions) How many new ways Government will devise to destroy Muslims? ...(Interruptions) [English] Therefore, I oppose this Bill and request the hon. Minister, who come from Patna, my State, to send this Bill to the Standing Committee for review and make laws for separated women of all communities, not just Muslims,

[Translation]

Sir, they have given number of 345. They have told that judgement over divorce of 345 Muslim women has come. 353 people are showing their pain for 345 Muslim women(Interruptions) This is an appeasement. These people denigrate congressmen that to do appeasement of Muslims. But they want to show that in reality these people want to do an appeasement of Muslims women. But their intention is not clear, as we have said that their intention is to crush and push aside the weaker, minorities and Muslims so that they can rule properly. I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of *Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam*, I rise to express my deep reservations, complete opposition and total disappointment with regard to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019.

I begin by questioning as to why this Government is in such a hurry to bring this Bill. What is the signal we are trying to send to this nation? Why are you in a hurry to pass Bills that arouse communal passions and divide our people? Is this the message that you want to give this country?

Sir, there are so many pressing issues. We are passing Bills here without enough representation of women. It is in your own Election Manifesto that you would pass 33 per cent Women Reservation Bill.

One term has passed and the second term has started, it has not even been listed. This Bill, you claim, is to protect the women's rights. Why can women not be here to participate and be a part of this dialogue? Let us decide what is good for us. We do not want a man to tell us what is good for us. So, please pass the 33 per cent Women's Reservation Bill before you talk about women's rights.

Have we even thought of bringing a Bill to end honour killings which happen in the name of caste and religion? What sins have these young people, women and men, done in this country other than being in love? They are being killed. Everyday there are news reports. What laws are we bringing in to stop this? Nothing.

The Member from BJP spoke here very eloquently and she spoke about freedom. I would like to ask, what freedom do we have here? We are not allowed to choose what to eat, who to pray to and if we want to refrain from praying. Have we brought a law to punish people who indulge in mob lynching and mob

violence in the name of religion? This is the need of the hour and there is an urgency to bring Bills like this. When she spoke, she spoke about property rights to women. I would proudly like to say it here that Tamil Nadu was the first State to bring laws on property rights to women and that was because of our great leader Thanthai Periyar who insisted on it. Then our leader Dr. Kalaignar implemented it as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. But when Dr. Ambedkar wanted to make it a part of the Constitution and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was supporting it, who were the people who opposed it? These are the same people who opposed it and made sure that you have to leave the Cabinet.

This law is short-sighted, discriminatory and divisive. Many people have pointed to the controversial history of this Bill. It was passed in Lok Sabha because you had a majority and it was sent to the Rajya Sabha. It was stalled there because it was against the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*). Yes, I was there to stall the Bill. But then again you are bringing it back here. It has been twice promulgated. As many people have quoted the Krishna Kumar Singh vs. State of Bihar case, where it was held that re-promulgation is a fraud on the Constitution. This is what the Judges said there. But I think, we have to be quoting it every day because you are doing this again and again and again. When the Supreme Court, in the Shayara Bano Vs. Union of India 2017 case has outlawed the triple talaq, talaq-e-biddat, then what is the need for this Government to bring in this legislation? Under the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has said:

“In spite of the Supreme Court setting aside *talaq-e-biddat* and the assurance of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, there have been reports of divorce by way of *talaq-e-biddat* in different parts of the country. It is seen that setting aside *talaq-e-biddat* by the Supreme Court has not worked as any deterrent in bringing down the number of divorces by this practice among certain Muslims.”

If this is the basis for the present legislation, then the Government must explain to the House as to how many reports are there. When the Minister introduced the Bill, he said 477 cases, but what is it based on and where did he get the statistics from? He has to explain this to the Parliament.

14.00 hrs

There are blatant deficiencies in this Bill. One is the penal provision in the present Bill under Section 4, which provides for imprisonment of up to three years and a fine.

I want to understand: how does this become a crime? When it is under a criminal law, then it is a civil issue. Why are you sending the husband to jail for three years?

What is more interesting is this. Clause 7(c) of the Bill prescribes preconditions for the bail, which are not in accordance with the legal principles of this country.

Clause 7(c) says:

“(c) No person accused of an offence punishable under this Act shall be released on bail unless the Magistrate, on an application filed by the accused and after hearing the married Muslim woman, upon whom talaq is pronounced, is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail to such person”

Sir, is it fair and just in any country to bring a law like this? I am not supporting men here; I am proud to say that I am a feminist; and I stand by women's rights. But will there not be an opportunity to use it against a husband? Is it fair to a man? I think, the Minister has to consider protecting men also because women's rights include men's rights also.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I will reply to it.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, give me just a few more minutes.

I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that he only cares about Muslim women in this country? Does he not care about Hindu women, Christian woman? There is no law, which says, when you abandon a Hindu women or a Christian woman, that you would be sent to jail and there would be no bail? Why is that only Muslim woman have to be protected and the Muslim men have to be targeted while Hindu men or Christian men or men belonging to any other community are allowed to go scot-free?

Mr. Minister, do you not think that our domestic violence laws are stronger than your Bill, which you have brought in here today? The domestic violence laws are stronger and they protect the Muslim women also. Our domestic violence laws do not leave the Muslim women out of it.

If they are really interested in going by what the Supreme Court says and carrying it out in letter and spirit, I would like to ask the Government that when the Supreme Court said that women can be allowed to enter Sabarimala Temple, why were the BJP and its Government silent on it? Why did they oppose it? Why should those women, who believe in God, who believe in that religion, who want to enter the Sabarimala Temple, be stopped? What is their answer for that?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, within a minute, I am concluding.

Many people have asked this. Once you send a husband in jail, who is going to provide for his family? Who is going to maintain his family? What would happen to his kids' education?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, with your last sentence, please conclude.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, I am concluding. There is just one more point.

Let me now talk about rights of women, about their marital relationship. This morning, even our hon. Member, Dr. Shashi Tharoor had mentioned it. What is your stand on rape laws within a marriage? Under Section 375, it provides a very shameful exception to a husband raping his wife. To a question, which I had raised in Rajya Sabha to this Government, there was a reply, which says:

“It is considered that the concept of marital rape, as understood internationally, cannot be suitably applied in the Indian context due to various factors, including level of education, illiteracy, poverty, myriad social customs and values, religious beliefs, mindset of the society to treat the marriage as a sacrament, etc, ”

Sir, if the Government holds marriage, religious laws, beliefs and social values so high, then why have they suddenly become so progressive in regard to one community while in regard to other religions, they go back to their own values. The statistics prove that there are more Hindu women, 2.37 million Hindu women, abandoned in this country as against 0.28 Muslim women. Should this Government not reach out to those women for protecting them? What are you doing? You are doing nothing.

This Bill is brought entirely to target one community, one religion and the DMK will oppose it. We will not allow the minorities of this country to feel insecure.

Thank you Sir.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019, was discussed last on 27.12. 2018. I took part in it.

It appears sometimes that the Government is being run through Ordinances only. In this case also, Ordinance was promulgated by President on 19th September, 2018. First of all, we want to say that we are totally in favour of empowerment of women in this country. India is a country which is a firm believer in secularism and communal harmony. All sections of women should be kept protected. That is beyond doubt.

14.07 hrs

(Shri A. Raja *in the Chair*)

Sir, when the hon. Supreme Court delivered its judgement, then nobody has any doubt about its implementation. I am telling you about my Constituency, which I represent, Kolkata. I have been here from 12th Lok Sabha. My Constituency is Muslim dominated including linguistic minorities who can read and write Urdu language only. They are known as Urdu-speaking Muslims. They are a little bit tough as far as their religion is concerned. Many sensible Muslim people feel that triple talaq is sinful. They do not support this triple talaq. I sometimes become surprised to hear when they make such comments. It was the time when the entire community was against any interference as it was their personal law. Why was the Government interfering? Why were the people interfering? But, now, the situation has changed. There is no doubt about it. There cannot be any dispute about the need to protect not only married Muslim women but unmarried Muslim women also. They need to be protected from triple talaq. They should be given health education, etc., as has been discussed a few minutes back by others.

According to us, divorce by triple talaq is a threat to social security and well-being of a society as a whole. We are opposing the pronouncement and implementation of triple talaq.

We have some strong points against this Bill. We are yet to protect the married Muslim women who are, really, facing difficulties with the pronouncement of triple talaq and the way they are being divorced.

So, on this part which has been introduced by the Government, we have nothing to say. But, regarding the question of punishment, this is excessive, arbitrary and irrational according to us. There is three years of imprisonment to husband; we do not support that part of the Bill. He is being asked to look after his family. Once a person will go to jail, how will it be possible? How will it happen? A man who is imprisoned cannot look after his family. So, the question of giving maintenance by the husband will be moot if the person is in jail. He will find no scope and opportunity to provide her any financial support. There can be little question of maintenance as the person will not be in a position to earn money. The only women, who could be truly benefited under this law are those, whose husbands have significant estates and incomes. That will permit their husbands to make payment of maintenance even if they are not working.

This is the problem. So, if this provision of imprisonment persists, then the said Bill would lead to injustice and make a woman's life deteriorate further. The divorced women would suffer and justice would be denied to them. We, therefore, propose that this Bill should be referred to a Joint/Select Committee. We think that this is not a battle of war. Very firmly, we are for empowerment of women. We have very categorically said it.

In our Party, 22 MPs have been elected and certainly about 40 per cent of the women MPs are there in our Party. So, we have of course crossed the figure of 33 per cent and it has reached up to 40 per cent.

Our demand is this. By pronouncing ‘talaq’ three times consecutively, the lady is divorced; we do not support it. I would have been happy if I could have heard this from Members like Dr. Farooq Abdullah sitting in the House. I think, he will also agree with me that this portion should be immediately abolished. There is no doubt about it. This message should go to the country that our objection is very firm. If you withdraw the portion: ‘punishing a person with three years’ imprisonment’, from the Bill, the whole nation and the whole country, including the responsible Muslims and Imams of masjids, will welcome it. I have discussed with the Imams of very important masjids of Kolkata like Nakhoda Masjid and Barri Masjid. They are also of the opinion that if you communicate their sentiment and their feeling also, they will not oppose it.

It is because, nowadays, empowerment of women is most important. We are also in a State where a woman Chief Minister is heading the State. We can see how courageously she is implementing the orders. Our political party, Trinamool Congress is making this statement by supporting the attitude of the Government and the Bill so vocally and so firmly. Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad *ji*, you may not have taken degree from London or America, as you were telling that you are an Indian lawyer, but we have our respect for your lawyer-ship.

You are a very good lawyer. You have introduced a Bill. You are trying to pass it. It will go to Rajya Sabha. Again, there will be blockage. Why should it not be passed with some modifications? Women upliftment is our principle. We want to see that women’s problems are sorted out, whichever community they may belong to – Muslim, Hindu, Jain or Christian; Muslims alone are not the minorities. There are six other groups who belong to minority groups. If this idea is decided in such a manner that it is accepted with unanimity as you are asking for, that will be a good thing. If this punishment portion can be withdrawn, what are the difficulties over there? We want to know it from you. If you imprison someone for three years, what does it give to you? You are putting somebody

behind the prison. Do you expect that, that man will send financial assistance to the divorcee? Is it possible for him? So, we believe that we are for the empowerment of women. We are the firm believers in the principle of secularism and communal harmony of the country. Let it continue with united efforts if it can be implemented, everyone will be happy – even if it is Hindu, or even if it is a Muslim. The whole nation will feel satisfied that a disputed question after long time has been sorted out very nicely. I hope this will be done and it will be accepted with unanimity.

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET) : At the outset, I would like to thank you for permitting me to talk on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 popularly known as the ‘Triple Talaq Bill’.

Sir, I would like to reiterate that our Party is for gender equality; our party is for the empowerment of women; and our YSR-Congress Party is for the upliftment of women. All our schemes which our hon. Chief Minister has started is for the upliftment of women and he advocates communal harmony in a big way and we are for the empowerment of women in each and every possible way. But I would like to start by saying that we strongly oppose this Bill in the present form. We are not in a position to support this Bill. We are ready to support any Bill, which is in the national interest – be it NIA or UAPA Bill - which were taken up recently. We strongly oppose this. We have our objections. I would like to put forth my objections.

In August 2017, the Supreme Court has clearly declared the pronouncement of Triple Talaq as unconstitutional. Where is the point of criminalising this offence? There is no point in criminalizing this offence and it does not carry any value and that to a three years jail term is totally uncalled for. It is not at all required right now. As we all know that the Supreme Court in Shayara Bano case had held that the practice of *Talaq-e-biddat* is manifestly arbitrary and unconstitutional. An act that has no legal consequence being punished or are being made a criminal offence and that too with non-bailable cases is violation of Article 14 of our Constitution. It is not a fair thing since Muslim marriage is a civil contract between two people. So, the procedure for the break-up of the marriage should also be civil in nature. It should not be criminalized. There should not be criminal cases booked for a simple civil procedure. No country in the world penalizes for the plain divorce. I think the Government should reconsider this.

The Bill is discriminating in the sense that only Muslim men are penalised whereas the men of other religions are not penalised or no action is taken against them. So, I think the Government has to look into this. This is a serious objection we are raising. The law should be equal for all. Be it Hindu, be it Muslim, be it Christian or be it anybody, the law is law for everybody. That is what is our demand. Though the Hindu Marriage Act does provide for a one-year jail term in case of harassment and in case of desertion, here just a plain divorce is being given a three-year jail term without any case of cruelty and desertion. If there is a violence within the marriage, we already have enough provisions. As the other speakers have spoken, there is Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, 2005; and also, we have section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

In the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, 2005, section 20 clearly states that maintenance amount should be paid to the woman. Section 21 clearly states that the woman can have possession of the children. So, it is very clear that we have options which encompass both criminal and civil procedures. We have existing laws which are there for all religions; and no law should be based on a particular religion. We object to this. The law is law for everybody.

There is also no clear mention of the economic, social and legal support which they get when the husbands are in jail. We would like to know what support was given to those families of men who are being jailed like the hon. Minister was saying that a number of people were jailed in Uttar Pradesh. We want to know this because highest number of cases was there in Uttar Pradesh. What kind of support was given to those families? It is because already the women are suffering from divorce and in spite of that, they run into financial problems. It is a big problem for the women more than the men in jail. So, the term of imprisonment for three years is highly objectionable.

If you see, various serious crimes are having much lesser jail terms. For example, causing death by rash and negligent act comes under IPC section 304-A, rioting comes under IPC section 147, injuring or defacing places of worship with intent to insult is coming under IPC section 295, which is a serious offence— all these are punishable with imprisonment for only two years in jail and all these have lesser punishment than pronouncing triple talaq. We object to this.

I would like to recall what the Government is saying – “*sabka saath sabka vishwas.*” With this sort of laws, the *vishwas* part is not possible. If *vishwas* has to be there, the law should be equal for everybody. That is our request.

To sum it up, I would like to say that yes, we do not have a majority in the House. The Ruling Party has a huge majority in the House. But what we have to object, we are objecting. I want to tell the people of our State that yes, we are understanding your concerns; you do not feel insecure; and our Party is there with the minorities of the State.

I would like to make one more point. If you see the world, the world-wide phenomenon is that terrorists are taking advantage of all these insecurities. If such Acts are there or even if there is a small insecurity, they will make use of it as they have made use of it in Sri Lanka and other countries where they have motivated the youth to join terrorists. All these Acts are going to motivate the youth to join terrorists in one way or the other. These are serious things and our country has to take care of it. I request the Government to re-consider our objections, clear them and then pass the Bill.

At the end also, I would like to reiterate that we are for the upliftment of women; and we are for the empowerment of women. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the Hon. Minister, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi wants to make his intervention.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important and historical Bill, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019.

[Translation] Sir, I will put up my point with a Gazal:

“Na hamsafar na kisi hamnashin se niklega
Hamare paon ke kaanta ham hi se niklega
Mere junu ka nateeja jarur niklega
Isi se aaj samundar se noor niklega”

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go in record except what the Hon. Minister is saying.

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

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I am on a Point of Order. ...(*Interruptions*) If the translation is correct, the hon. Minister is saying that we ourselves will resolve our problems. We would like to know whom does the Minister represent? ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What is the Point of Order?

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Premachandran ji, you are a senior Member. When you raise a Point of Order, you have to first tell the Chair under which Rule you are on a Point of Order.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am talking about the conventions and ethics of the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Premachandran ji, please sit down. After the hon. Minister finishes his speech, I will give time to you to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

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

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, you may continue your speech.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Hon. Chairperson Sir, today is a historic day. On 5 May 1986, Supreme Court's very important judgement on the rights of Muslim Women came in for discussion in this very House. The Government brought law in this House on 5 May, 1986 to nullify the said judgement. The present Government is bringing legislation to give effect to the judgement of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's judgement on constitutional rights of Muslim Women was nullified in 1986. Today, the Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji and respected Ravi Shankar Prasad ji have brought legislation to give effect to the judgement of the Supreme Court and decision regarding rights of Muslim Women.

* Not recorded.

Sir, sometimes mistake of the moment becomes a punishment for ages. At that time, Congress Government had made mistake of the moment to appease some people and since then it is considered as a punishment. The Supreme Court gave its decision, and whole country discussed over the decision and then this House passed the law related to women's rights. The Lok Sabha elections were declared and Ravi Shankar Prasad ji had to bring the Bill again here due to the election.

Sir, I would like to say three things prominently. It is not that we are bringing a law for reform for the first time. Our country is a witness to the fact that social evil and mal- practice like Sati system was abolished. This country is witness to the fact that agitations were held to eradicate social evil and mal- practice like child marriages. At that time too, some people gave it the colour of religion and said that this is an interference in religion and Sati Pratha and Child Marriage practices should not be abolished. It is the constitutional, cultural and democratic thinking of the people of this country which has eradicated all these evil practices. Today Triple Talaq is also a similar mal- practice and social evil. Now, people are arguing on this social evil and mal- practice by saying that if the husband goes to jail, then who will look after that woman? Then, why do you indulge in such a thing that would land you in jail? This argument is such that who will look after the family when one goes to jail for terrorism, so don't make such laws? If we commit murder, then who will take care of our family?

[English]

I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* If we commit murder, steal and commit a heinous crime, then who will take care of our family? This is not logical, it is sophism. Therefore, questions regarding social reforms cannot be

answered on the basis of these illogical things. We know that most of the Hon. Members sitting in this House, *[English]* I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: I request you not to club the issue of terrorism with Triple Talaq. Please let it be Triple Talaq....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: There was an Hon. Member from Bengal Shri Saifuddin Chaudhary in this House, I wanted to mention about him later. On 5 May. 1986, Shri Saifuddin Chaudhary had said about the Muslim Women in this House....*(Interruptions)*

"It is a testing time for all those who talk about secularism and equal laws for all the citizens of our country".

We have not said that, it is said by the Member of Parliament of Communist Party Shri Saifuddin Chaudhary who was from Bengal. Please listen-

"Today is the time of testing for our conscience. Today whip cannot be issued on the same. Today I read in the newspapers that a Minister of State has issued a time whip for the environment and said that all people will have to support this Bill which is going to crush the rights of Muslim Women".

I am quoting this because you have considered it important- I must say that a whip has to be issued for women community to support this Bill but still there is time. I cannot tell in Urdu, I am quoting four lines written by Faiz Ahmed Faiz. My pronunciation may be wrong. He said therein that-

"Bol Ye thoda waqt bahut hai,
jism-o-jaban ki maut se pahle,
bol ki sach zinda hai ab tak,
bol jo kuchh kahna hai, kah le".

This was stated by Saifuddin Chaudhary saheb at that time, that means mood and atmosphere of the House was different at that time. At that time, Rajiv Gandhi ji was the Prime Minister of this country and today Narendra Modi ji is the Prime Minister. Today we are with the reforms and only those people will tell with whom they were at that time. Today we are bringing legislation to provide social and constitutional rights to Muslim Women. At that time, that Bill was brought to crush the constitutional rights. Many things have happened now, there are many scholars of Quran and Islam here. They will put their points. But, I must say that our country is run by the Constitution, not by any Shariat, religious laws, Islam, Hindutva or any other religion. The issue of Gender Equality has been stressed repeatedly in the Constitution, can we forget and ignore that?

Today is a historic day and I know that on this historic day there can be pressure on many people, many people can also oppose it and many people might not support this even if they wish to because they feel that if they do, then there may be a loss of votes of certain people to them. But, you should come out of this misconception. Today, all the sections of India, including Muslim Society, are with reform, not with your credit.

Ravi Shankar ji has mentioned just a while ago that there are many Islamic countries, which have labelled Triple Talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat both illegal and un-Islamic.

There are many countries which have banned it. In 1929, Sudan banned triple talaq. In the year 1956, our neighbouring countries Pakistan and Bangladesh banned it. Iraq banned it in 1959. In the year 1953, Malaysia ended triple talaq. Further, many Islamic countries like Cyprus, Jordan, Algeria, Iran, Brunei, Morocco, Qatar have done away with triple talaq. But we took 70 years to

eliminate this malpractice and social evil and want to end it after 70 years, then you are raising questions. This is not a logic but sophism. Our point is just that today Ravi Shankar ji has brought the legislation, which is purely related to the values of the Constitution and constitutional protection. It has nothing to do with the religion and Islam. Now, some people will say that it is interference in Islam. Three important issues emerged at the time of debate. The first one was that the Government have made it non-bailable. The second one was that provisioning of compounding has no scope in it. The third one was that if any FIR is filed, then the husband will go to jail, then on the basis of the suggestions made by you and all the people, the Government has reconsidered these three points. After considering over them, the first amendment was to make it bailable, secondly the provision of agreement has been placed therein and third amendment was that only blood relation can register an FIR and no other can send someone to jail by registering an FIR. These were your three concerns, now if you have brought any new concern, then I cannot do anything. How many arrows are there in your quiver that you have, you can tell in the discussion that you are going to shoot a new arrow out of your quiver..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: We are giving you suggestions ...(*Interruptions*) You cannot change it without our suggestion(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Thank you very much for your suggestions. The country is still paying the price for what you did in the year 1986. You kneel down under the pressure of handful of people, you committed sins and mistakes for which the country is paying the price even today. There was no need to bring this Bill. It is needed now because you nullified the judgement of the Supreme Court. I think you paid the penalty for the mistakes you have made. You don't make that mistake again ...(*Interruptions*) I am saying not to do that mistake again because there would not be any benefit out of this. You just

rectify your mistakes. Do not get into the issue of borrowing votes. I will conclude by mentioning one last point.

This Bill is definitely in tandem with constitutional commitment. This Bill is for empowering Muslim Women. One of our friends was saying now that these are 6 notified minorities and they will all be covered under the ambit of the Bill. We have also been with you in the Lok Sabha. The meaning of this Bill [*English*] The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill is not a Minority Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, [*Translation*] Therefore, it means it is not a Minority Bill but a Muslim Protection Bill. So there should be no confusion and there should be no attempt to create confusion. I will appeal all of you to support this Bill honestly and without any pressure and pass this Bill. There should not be a misconception that the other House will not pass it. With your blessings, other House will also pass it.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you. I rise to support the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill that has been introduced here.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, history is going to be created with golden letters in the history of Parliament today. All the Members of the 17th Lok Sabha are fortunate that we have got the opportunity to witness such a revolutionary decision.

I remember that the Supreme Court had twice directed Parliament to do so. The first time, it was the Shahbano case and now it is the Shayara Bano case. The emergency was imposed in the entire country after the Shahbano case and the sisters of this country got freedom after the Shayara Bano case. This is the difference between two Governments engaged in politics. I say with confidence that if our *Hindu Hriday Samrat* Balasaheb Thackeray ji had been alive today, he would surely have come and honoured the great son of mother India Hon. Narendra Modi ji and the Minister of Law of this country, Ravi Shankar Prasad ji. On behalf of Shiv Sena Party Chief Uddhav ji Thackeray and entire Shiv Sena, I thank the sons of mother India who work for the development of the country.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, seven years ago, if 125-130 crore people of the country would have been asked whether there should be any effort to enact a law against triple talaq in this country, then countrymen used to say that there is no one to dare this. But, Ravi Shankar Prasad ji, the Minister of Law in the Government of Hon. Narendra Modi ji proved that they are competent to make law against triple talaq to grant freedom to the sisters of this country after 72 years of Independence and today is that day. That is why I said earlier that this day will be written in golden letters in the history of India.

Unity and equality should have been provided to all the people of this country when the Constitution was written under the leadership of most respected Baba Saheb Ambedkar ji. It was incorporated in to the Constitution, but unfortunately those who ruled before, did politics during the tenure of Congress, they considered Muslim Society as a vote bank and worked towards handling this vote bank. Whether they were poor, illiterate and far away from the development, those rulers never paid adequate concerns towards them. They thought of these people as their vote bank, asserted the right of the votes of these people, and after getting their votes once in five years, they used to throw them away, such was the tradition of politics during the tenure of Congress, but now for the first time it has happened that, the way Lord Krishna came to protect Draupadi from Duryodhana and Duhshasan in the Mahabharata, in the same way, today Muslim women have got a brother like Hon'ble Narendra Modi ji and Muslim sisters today have really got justice. It is not just about the vote bank, he does not know how many votes they have got. Even if we do not get their votes, it is our duty to put forward the spirit of unity, equality and sense of duty and efforts are being made today to give justice to all Muslim sisters. For this, I would once again thank the Government(*Interruptions*) But the development that is taking place during the tenure of BJP and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra will not happen during their tenure and it did not happen even during the tenure of Congress....(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Supreme Court too has used the term unconstitutional for this. Therefore, such a practice needs to be done away with the help of Law, if not through society. The Constitution has stated that this should have been the responsibility of the politicians. Unfortunately, the earlier ruling political party was Congress but what happened during its tenure? They made big statements to alleviate poverty but it was never alleviated. All of them while ruling the poor removed the poor and became the emperor themselves. Today's politics is not like that. Today, the schemes which are to be implemented

for the benefit of the poor have been implemented efficiently. All the people of India irrespective of any religion, caste or state, the whole of India is united today. All Indians living in India should be one, all of them should progress through their belief, the Prime Minister of the 16th Lok Sabha, Shri Narendra Modi ji has taken care of all this. Even today, the whole country has vested its future in his hands. They are confident that when hon. Narendra Modi ji takes over the responsibilities of the post of Prime Minister as a general worker, he fully takes their happiness and sorrow into his account. The belief that we can benefit through him, is in the heart of the people of the whole country, and the work of justifying their belief is being done through such law.

I support this Bill and I congratulate them. The entire United India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is in front of me, the dream of this India which was cherished by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji, freedom fighter Veer Savarkar ji and respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji should come true as now the Congress party which dreamt of creating distance and hatredness among people of this country, has lost the power.

Therefore, through you, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji that the dream of United India cherished by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji should be made reality today. Therefore, please repeal Article 370 and create a United India. I conclude by making a request for the same.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN', (MUNGHYR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, our party Janata Dal (United) is with the National Democratic Alliance. We are with the National Democratic Alliance since 1960. Our friend and hon. Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad ji knows this. We have been together since 1996, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee and respected Lal Krishna Advani ji used to lead the Bhartiya Janata Party. We were not together for three-four years in the midst,

since then we have been together consistently. The Hon'ble Minister knows that we have been consistent since 1996 on this commitment that we are not in the National Democratic Alliance with any controversial issue. The National Agenda of Governance was prepared during the respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji's tenure, three things are written therein and that is on record even today. It has been written that there will be no tampering with controversial issues and Article 370, the dispute of Ayodhya issue will be resolved either by the Court or with mutual consent.

It is written there that there will be no tampering in the Common Civil Code, and we have been together since then. Our party Janata Dal (United) does not support this Bill because we believe that it will cause mistrust in society. A different kind of feeling will arise in the minds of a society, so we do not support this Bill. Nobody wants that relationship between any husband-wife gets disturbed. No one develops these feelings. Husband-wife relationship grows with mutual consent and mutual trust. The relationship between husband and wife cannot be decided by enacting any law. Nobody wants that relationship between a husband and a wife gets spoiled. If the Government tries to stop it by enforcing a law, mistrust will arise in the minds of people belonging to a particular community. It is true that no one will like divorce and discordant relationship between husband and wife but instead of making laws, let the community decide and the Government should try as much as it can to create awareness amongst them. There is a need to create awareness among the people. The Hon'ble Minister is aware that when the trial was going on in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Muslim Personal Law Board also assured the Supreme Court that we will cooperate in creating awareness among the Muslim society. ...*(Interruptions)* Listen quietly. We have fought a very long battle. You were somewhere else at that time. It was necessary to create awareness in the society regarding people of that community. Make that society agree that they can do it. You are running a

cleanliness drive. Why don't you make cleanliness drive a law? If a person throws out garbage from his home, will you put him behind the bars for five years? You are creating awareness for the cleanliness drive that do not throw out garbage in front of the house in the society and do not make the roads filthy. There is a need to create awareness. Our society does not run only on the basis of Constitution. It also runs on traditions and rituals and that community has a tradition. You will have to take a historic step to abolish that tradition. You made a law, it is a very good thing(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI R.K. SINGH): The Supreme Court has nullified it.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (MUNGHYR): Rajkumar Babu, you have been a high ranking bureaucrat. I will let you know what your experience has been as a senior bureaucrat. We want to say that there is no need to enact laws in haste today. The Government should work towards progressing this law by creating public awareness. Rajkumar Babu is saying that the Supreme Court has abolished Triple Talaq. It is a good thing that it has been nullified. Now, if someone goes to jail due to pronouncing talaq thrice. An FIR is lodged against the person alleged to have said talaq thrice and he is saying that he did not pronounce the word talaq thrice, who will prove whether he has said talaq thrice

or not? The Government has enacted prohibition of Dowry Act in the country. It has enacted 498 Acts.

Rajkumar Babu was speaking just now and he has been a very strict administrative officer. The Hon'ble Member sitting next to him, has also been a police officer. The Government has enacted the law but is it being misused in the country or not? Many people are misusing it. If such a law is enacted, it will be misused*(Interruptions)* Giriraj Babu, we know what your agenda is. ...*(Interruptions)* You continuously pursue it, you pursue it*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I am asking the Government not to do this kind of work. Section 4 of this Bill is not in public interest in any way. Today, I would like to urge the Government to not to do this kind of work. These people have given you mandate and you have to do a lot of work. You should work and all these works can be done later at the time of elections. Is there any need of this now? Now please, do the pending work now.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to say that Janata Dal United does not support this Bill. We boycott it, we will neither participate in it, nor support this Bill. Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Anubhav Mohanty.

[English]

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I rise to support the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 which is in favour of the Muslim women.

The modern era is an era of women and, as parliamentarians; it is our duty and responsibility to ensure the empowerment of women not only in the present but for decades to come.

Sir, our Odisha's Chief Minister, hon. Shri Naveen Patnaik Sir, our Party Leader, has always been a champion of the cause of women through many State Government schemes like Mission Shakti, Mission Khushi and Mission Pari through which lakhs of women have been empowered and lakhs of girls are being encouraged to move forward in their lives. He has also set a precedent of nominating 33 per cent of women candidates in the Lok Sabha Elections and I am proud to say that Odisha has sent 33 per cent women to the Lok Sabha for this term.

Sir, now I will come to the Bill. The Government has decided to support the Supreme Court Judgment through this Bill and this is an admirable cause. The hon. Law Minister has pointed out that more than 200 cases have come even after the Supreme Court's Judgment which is really alarming. After the hon. Supreme Court says and makes a law, it should not happen. The idea is to remove an age-old practice of some Indian Muslim men and provide relief and justice to the Indian Muslim women from a constant threat of instant divorce through pronouncement of *Triple Talaq*.

Sir, the Bill has undergone a few changes over the past few iterations and in its present form, it seeks to deter Muslim husbands from whimsically divorcing their wives. If passed, the Bill shall provide equality to women that the Constitution of India mandates and the hon. Supreme Court recommends.

14.58 hrs

(Shrimati Rama Devi *in the Chair*)

Madam, correct me wherever I am wrong or if I am wrong, no other country having a majority population of Muslims has such a law, then why India has it? It is not in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq or Iran. Then why are we so far behind? So, my stance and my Party's stance on this Bill is that we are in complete agreement with the Government as far as the letter and intent of the Bill stand.

Now, I wish to point out certain issues that should be addressed in the Bill and I would request the hon. Minister to consider these certain suggestions from our side.

15.00 hrs

My respected senior and a former Member of this august House, esteemed Shri Tathagata Satpathy Ji spoke on this Bill in the 16th Lok Sabha. Mr. Bhartruhari Mahtab Ji has spoken on this and moved five amendments. I am happy and glad to say that the Government has almost accepted all the amendments. There are just one or two suggestions, which I would like to make.

Tathagata *babu* had said, "The Triple Talaq Bill criminalises a civil wrong done by a particular community. As marriage itself is a civil contract, we feel that divorce-related offences under it should not be criminalised unless they can be linked to domestic violence or other criminal law issues." Since the Bill proposes that the act of triple talaq will result in imprisonment up to three years for the husband, there is no clear provision as to how the incarcerated person will provide maintenance to the wife.

Madam, these are generally poor people like rikshaw pullers, those working in hotels, etc., and they depend on their daily wages. They work every day, they earn every day, and they feed themselves every day. So, if such a poor

person is sent to jail, how is it possible for him to pay maintenance to his wife? This is really complicated and this has to be clarified by the Government.

Also, as the triple talaq is void and the divorce would not have taken place, an incarcerated man may be coerced to provide subsistence allowance to a woman who is still his wife legally. When we say triple talaq is considered illegal and void by the Supreme Court law, how is it possible that the husband in jail will have to pay the maintenance to his legally-wedded wife? We have to think about that also.

The Bill should include a provision giving women the option to ratify a marriage annulment and claim the maintenance under this Bill. The wife has to be empowered and given a choice to elect whether she wants criminal consequences or civil consequences. Let her take the decision, let her take the power to take whichever one she opts for.

Moreover, society today is moving towards decriminalising certain things and improving inter-personal relationships. Section 377 has been decriminalised. So, let us think beyond party lines, beyond political agendas. If we can think on those lines and consider it on a wider basis, it will be more helpful for the Indian Muslim women. Of course, it will be an honour from our side to those women and will empower them to move forward.

Madam, I would like to say that declaring the practice of triple talaq as void and illegal and providing for punishment as well as subsistence, acts as a sufficient deterrence to potential perpetrators of instant divorce and will go a long way in empowering Muslim women in this country. I am very happy today that I have been given this opportunity to speak on this wonderful historical Bill. I feel really privileged to be a part of this historical debate. For this, I would like to thank my party Biju Janata Dal, my leader Navin *babu*. And of course, Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I believe the Government will definitely accept my suggestions and the hon. Minister will kindly address them during his reply.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Hon. Chairperson, thank you. I rise to speak on Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 that is being discussed here. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): Danish Ali ji, please support this.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: If you had brought a Bill that deserves our support, we would have supported it. We are still giving you opportunity to bring in a Bill that deserves our support. The entire House will unanimously support that Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*. The hon. Minister has asked the question, so I am replying. He has asked the question while sitting.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Danish Ali Saheb, you please submit your point.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, it seems that as if only they have the right to empower women and rest of the people sitting in the Opposition have no concern for women. ...*(Interruptions)* We would like to tell them that they

have never talked about giving rights to the women. ...* I just want to tell them.

...(Interruptions) I am not yielding.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please expunge this.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: If I have said something like that, then please

expunge it(Interruptions) I have said nothing like that. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has been expunged from the record. Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: I have said nothing. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please take your seats. It has been expunged from the record.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please take yours seats.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, your time is being wasted. Please raise your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon Chairperson, I have a humble request that a good topic is being debated and it is not right to allege personal allegation on the whole party. This is unfair and should be expunged from the record.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has been expunged from the record.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Raise your point, don't make allegations personally on anyone.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: I am not accusing anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Raise your point.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Madam, I want your protection. I rise to speak and the entire Cabinet is standing, it is not appropriate. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Don't raise such points here.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: You are not doing justice in the House...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Don't waste your time, I am reminding you time and again.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Madam, I just want to say. ... (Interruptions) Madam, I have been reminded that my time starts now.

I just want to say that our party is at the forefront as far as the empowerment of women is concerned. Our Bahujan Samaj Party believes in the ideology of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and follows his principles. My leader Bahan Kumari Mayawati ji has worked a lot for the empowerment of women and shown what a woman can do. She has been the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for four times. ... (Interruptions) She has proved in Uttar Pradesh. ... (Interruptions) The status of law and order today is in Uttar Pradesh. ... (Interruptions) People remember the tenure of Behan Kumari Mayawati ji (Interruptions) There was complete law and order. ... (Interruptions) You talk about the empowerment of women.

I want to come to the subject. When the Hon Minister brought this Bill, he said that the Bill was being brought as per the directions of the Supreme Court. In the Supreme Court a proper. ... (Interruptions) Hon. Chairperson, when the Hon. Minister placed the Bill here, he said that he is presenting this Bill in the light of the order of the Supreme Court. The Hon. Supreme Court has quashed talaq-e-biddat, triple talaq. Now in this country no one can give triple talaq, it is null and void. That chapter has been closed there. Chapter is closed there.

Why is this Bill being brought now? What is the need of law? Whatever he has said. ... (Interruptions) Hon. Chairperson, please bring the House in order. I would like to say through you that they are talking about the law, they are talking about the Supreme Court. A five-judge bench has said in its verdict that triple talaq is not allowed. In that two of the judges have said that there should have been some law regarding this. ... (Interruptions) I have not even started yet. It is...* (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should make your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, through you I would like to ask as to why this civil offence is to be converted into a criminal offence. You have said that if someone gives triple talaq, on the one hand, the Supreme Court has already made it null and void that it will not be treated as a divorce. On the other hand, you are sending her husband into jail even when her husband will be in jail, you are also abolishing the clause of negotiation in it when she comes back after release. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to say only this to you *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, just give me two minutes more...* Do not do this. *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now. You are wasting your time on unnecessary things. You should have spoken about your point ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, he has disturbed....
(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You had been given time. You should have made your point. Why are you quarreling with him? *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, I am putting my views by addressing you. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Chairperson, he has said about the Speaker that you.....* Don't do it. (*Interruptions*) The word.....* has been used for the Speaker, it should not go on record. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If a law is formed, then the word...* does not come.

.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The word... *be expunged from the record.

... (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, I seek your protection. I am putting my views while addressing you. ... (*Interruptions*) Through you, I just want to say that according to a survey, the number of divorces is 0.56 percent which is less than half percent. The percentage of the number of Talaq -e- Biddat in it, is the question of debate. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please tell me as to why you are looking there while speaking.

... (*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, being a Minister, he is disturbing. (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Express your point while addressing me.

... (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, I just want to say to you that. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon Member of Parliament, Azam Khan ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, this attitude of Government side is not good. The way the Minister is disturbing, he does not want to hear.
...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should tell me. Why are you entrapped in other things? You should tell me. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time has been over now.

... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson, there are so many laws in our country. There is 498 IPC which is the dowry act, should be implemented. Don't convert this civil offence into a criminal one..... *(Interruptions)* This is the stand of our party.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)* *

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All this will not go in record.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN (RAMPUR): Hon. Chairperson, Mukhtar Saheb has left but he recited some good 'couplets'. I would like him to listen to this wherever he is now:-

"tu idhar udhar ki na baat kar, yah bataa ki kafilaa kyon loota."

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair while speaking. Don't look elsewhere.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: Madam, I would like to look at you until you tell me to look elsewhere. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You need not to look elsewhere, speak while addressing me.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: Madam ... **(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am younger...*, therefore?

*Not recorded

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: Hon. Chairperson ... **(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is not the correct way of speaking in the house. All this should be expunged from the record.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: You are the Speaker, you are respected person. You... * (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): I would like to say two things here. Apologies should be tendered for making such comment. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM

MEGHWAL): You have had a lot of experience. Please withdraw these words. This is not right. The words that you have spoken are not right. Please withdraw them. ... (*Interruptions*)

SADHVI PRAGYA SINGH THAKUR (BHOPAL): It has been said for you. I oppose this. ... (*Interruptions*)

* Not Recorded

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This has been expunged from the record. Let the Hon. Minister speak.

..... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister is saying something, please listen.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have just heard the Hon. Member of Parliament. He has a long experience of that House and of this House. He has an experience of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly also. He has served as a Minister also there. He has enough knowledge how to address the Chair. He should apologize for the words he has used against women and against you. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should apologize

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: He has used abusive words. The language used is unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should apologize.

.....*(Interruptions)*

15.17 hrs

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

HON. SPEAKER: Take your seat, please take your seat. Hon. Members, I am requesting you, you all are senior Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, wrong. The language used here is wrong, so I have interrupted. This is wrong.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not use such language. Madam, no, please this is the House. You have no right to speak such words like this against any hon. Member. Hon. Members, please sit down. Hon. Members, it is your duty to maintain the dignity of the Chair. Speaking politely in the House is also the responsibility of all Hon. Members. Please express your views while maintaining the dignity. You have the right to freedom of speech but I urge that I will see to it myself and if any such thing is found, if there is anything objectionable in it. Then I will expunge all from the proceedings.

Hon Member, please express your views.

...(Interruptions)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): He should apologize first. That is my Point of Order. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I and other hon. Members have a long experience of this house and that House. Till date, in the history of the last 19 years, no Member has made such comment against the Chair, that too against a woman in the Chair. The hon. Member is presiding, such words should not be used. Sir, he should apologize. I would like to make this appeal. This is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please speak.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Speaker Sir, the rule is very clear in this. Rule number 10, page number 7, clearly provides:

[English]

“The Deputy Speaker or any other member competent to preside over a sitting of the House under the Constitution or these rules shall, when so presiding, have the same powers as the Speaker when so presiding and all references to the Speaker in these rules shall in these circumstances be deemed to be references to any such person so presiding.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member please sit down. Does anyone have any objection? When the Chairperson is in the Chair, he has full authority as a Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AND DAIRY

(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): He should apologize. *...(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH

SHEKHAWAT): Sir, whatever has been said, has been said about you.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am giving you the ruling.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, please give the ruling...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please be seated. I'll listen to you too.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, You may, please speak. What are you willing to say?

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I have to say only two things. I am present in the House. Danish Ali, a Senior Member has spoken prior to him. ...(Interruptions) Everyone, including 3-4 Ministers of the Ruling Party caused ruckus in the House. They are Members of the Ruling Party. ...(Interruptions) Danish Ali ji was speaking about the Bill. ...(Interruptions) Thereafter it was Azam Khan ji's turn. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let him conclude first.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, then Azam Khan Saheb stood up to speak. There was an uproar caused by the ruling party Members when hon. Azam Khan started speaking. Madam Chairperson, who was presiding over the proceedings.
...(Interruptions).

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, he is not speaking the truth.
...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Once I have given the ruling that you will speak after him, then why are you interrupting?

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, the Hon. Chairperson asked him to look at her while addressing. Azam Khan said that I would like to look at you, but...
*...(Interruptions). you see what is happening? ...(Interruptions). There is not even a single Muslim woman Member out of 78 women Members in this House.
...(Interruptions) The moment 2 Muslim Members rise to speak all the Members of ruling party start creating ruckus. ...(Interruptions). We seek your protection, only then the Opposition Party Members can speak...(Interruptions).

*Not recorded.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I was in the House at that time and what Sougata Ray ji is saying, is not correct...(Interruptions) He is raising the point by giving the reference to Danish Ali Ji. ...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seats. Dada, please sit down. I have given you full opportunity to speak.

....(*Interruptions*).

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, now you can speak.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I was in the House at that time. I would like to say one thing that the Members from the Ruling Party got agitated. Sougata Da is deviating, that is not the issue. The matter raised by Danish Ali ji was different. It was a matter related to interruptions. However, the matter related to Azam Khan saheb is full of cunningness and even the intentions are not good....(*Interruptions*) The attitude towards the Chair is also not good. ...(*Interruptions*) The use of words is also not proper. ...(*Interruptions*) First of all, he inquired about Naqvi Saheb as to where he has gone? He spoke about other things. The Chair asked him not to look here and there and to address her only. This is what the Hon. Chair usually says. But he cited the second couplet which was not appropriate. So, he must apologize for showing disrespect of the Chair.

HON. SPEAKER: Supriyo ji, now you can speak. Please speak only if your point of view is different from theirs. You should not repeat the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Sir, I am

not repeating. I listened to what Danish Sahab said. I feel ashamed to repeat the words, but I am saying just for the record, because it was said in front of everyone.

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't repeat that matter.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: He said that...* About this we said that these are wrong words. This is my point number one. Point two is that when Azam Khan Sahab spoke, as pointed out by Nishikant ji in his point of order. First the hon. chairperson Madam told him to address the Chair while he was speaking. The two lines he uttered after that were so absurd that I do not want to repeat...*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have given you an opportunity to speak. Now, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, I am speaking the last line. The thing what Sougata Dada is saying, is completely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* He has changed the quote of Azam Khan Saheb and said it...*(Interruptions)* He has also made a mistake, he should not have done that....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): Hon. Speaker, the whole country witnessed what hon. MP Azam Khan said. You should look into it and verify the record and then decide on it. Thereafter, you should conduct the Business of the House and then seek sense of the house. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please listen. The House is not going to be adjourned. It will be in the history that there was no adjournment during this Lok Sabha.

Hon. Shri Akhilesh Ji.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Hon. Speaker Sir, when the hon. Member of Parliament, Azam Khan Sahab uttered two lines of his couplet during his speech, he was instructed by the Chairperson Madam to address to the Chair. I believe that there is nothing in those words or emotions expressed by him which is intended to denigrate the dignity of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon Speaker, if he says..... *then no one can be more than... *what he is talking about....*(Interruptions)* No one can be more than him. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Akhilesh Ji, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Hon. Speaker Sir, such language cannot be used
If he is saying... * he is insulting the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Hon. Speaker Sir, you have given me an
opportunity to speak. All the hon. Members from that side.....* What would they
say?...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, ... * that cannot be spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I am giving the ruling. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: How can they say this? Are they so well mannered
people?...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Akhilesh Ji, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are a senior Member and have also been
the Chief Minister of a State. But, the words you have used are unparliamentary

and do not go down well with the parliamentary democracy. Hence hon. Member, first of all apologize for the words you have used.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No, it is wrong.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you speak first. Once I am giving the ruling, let me give the ruling.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am again urging the hon. Members. Once I have asked Akhilesh ji to speak, let Akhilesh ji speak. You too sit down. When the discussion is going on in the House, I expect from the hon. Members that they should listen to the hon. Member completely whom I have called to speak. If something has come up in the House, there should be a debate on it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Hon. Speaker Sir, I was putting forth my point. I am speaking about what I have heard and seen and as you have directed me.

Hon. Speaker. Sir, I am of the opinion that there was nothing wrong in his language and intentions. If they were un-parliamentary, please expunge those words from the record. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, is the word.....*. appropriate in the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, any such words have been spoken from this side, and even if the hon. Minister has spoken it, I will speak in the same language in which I am speaking to you. My point of view has been very neutral. You cannot see my language in a different light. If you see any difference in my language then you tell me. Whenever even a senior Minister speaks such language, I interrupt. For example, an hon. Member said while sitting, I immediately said to the hon. Member that it is not proper to use this word in this House. The entire country witnesses this House. That's why I would like to request you in this House.

I come here at half past nine in the morning and stay here for half an hour after the House is adjourned. I leave the House due to some engagements. I apologize for this also. I will try to sit in the House for the maximum time, but there is an arrangement of the Chairman's Panel, due to which I leave the House.

Hon. Member, you are a big hearted person. You said or some other hon. Member has stated any such thing, if you want to take name of any Member who has said like this, then he will also express regret. You tell me the names, if any of them has spoken.

....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You tell me the name. I will tell them and they will express regret. You tell me who has said this.

....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do you have the habit of speaking while sitting? You may be more in number but the House functions with everyone's support. That's why no hon. Member should pass any comment while sitting.

*Not recorded.

Hon. Member Azam khan ji, if everyone thinks that this has been spoken, then put your view that you did not make such a statement. Please stand up first.

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: Hon. Speaker, I said that you are my* and you are*Saying again and again that very..... *(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you think that some unparliamentary word has been used, then I would like to apologise for that.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: Sir, I have had a long political career. It is not possible for me to use such words which may hurt somebody(*Interruptions*). If I have spoken even a single unparliamentarily word to the woman in the Chair then, Sir, I declare my resignation in the House just now.

HON. SPEAKER: You may start your speech now.

... (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Speaker Sir, we were not given the opportunity to speak by the ruling party. That's why we boycott.(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded

15:32hrs

(At this stage, Kunwar Danish Ali and some other hon. Members left the House.)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please speak.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN: There is no point in speaking after getting insulted like this(*Interruptions*). Sir, what would I achieve by speaking after such humiliation?(*Interruptions*)

15:33 hrs

*(At this stage, Shri Mohammad Azam Khan and some
Other hon. Members left the House.)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Kirron Kher:

.... (*Interruptions*)

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: Sir it's not good. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Sir, those who want to go, let them go.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri Kalyan Banerjee, you wait a second.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I was not interfering in anything. I was listening to the views expressed by various Members. Hon. Member Shri Danish Ali was leaving the House and you had just before that criticised that words like ... * are unparliamentary. You yourself have said this. I am a neutral person. He was going out, comments have come from that side, I do not know exactly who has said that ...* what you are doing, leave the House by this side... *(Interruptions)* It has been said just now. I am not speaking any untruth. You want to speak, What is this behaviour? He was walking out and such comments are being passed every time. This should not also be allowed. Maybe, when you are allowing me to speak, if I use any unparliamentary word, then that is bad. Similarly, I am sitting and I am not speaking but just passing certain comments which are parliamentary, then that is also bad. Therefore, this is also not fair and this is not good. I was sitting here and these comments have come from that side. I do not know who have made these comments. But this is improper and this should not be done.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Adhir Ranjan Ji you speak in brief.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, this House is run with a set of rule books, procedure and with the directions of the Chair along with many books and especially our Constitution. If anyone feels good or bad, then we will put our view before you as you are the Head of the House. You

* Not recorded.

will decide what to be removed or expunged from here and what to be kept. I like it very much when you say that I don't.....* to anyone, whoever he may.

HON. SPEAKER: I have not spoken*word.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: No, whether it is ruling party or the Opposition, we* Sir, we also want that be it anyone you* if anyone makes a mistake or commits a crime, then you cannot*we have received this message. That's why I put every issue before you with courage and perseverance.

You allowed him to speak after everything was settled and ruling was given by you. If someone gets upset on someone's remarks and leaves the House and that too when the discussion on Triple Talaq is going on and two- three Members of minority community leave the House, then it's a disgrace for all of us. I think that it will give a wrong message in the masses. I would like to say that the Ruling Party should have more patience. You should not be impatient

* Not recorded.

like us, you should have more patience because you are in the power. You have more responsibility because you have 353 Members in the House. We have

such a nice Speaker in the Chair who is trying to do justice to everyone. It is my opinion that we should co-operate with him.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Adhir Ranjan Ji has just finished his speech. I want to make a clarification. We expunge it from the proceedings but it's not appropriate that anybody use such language and then ask for its expunction, I don't consider it appropriate. Once that kind of language reaches the people then a wrong image of the Parliament is formed in the public. I suggest that hon. Member should maintain the dignity of the parliament while speaking. Such an occasion should not arise in the House where there is a need to expunge even a single word.

Shrimati Kirron Kher.

[English]

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I rise to support the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill that makes the retrograde and archaic practice of instant Talaq a non-bailable offence.

Our country has over 17 crore Muslims, out of which more than eight crore are Muslim women. If you analyse the Census 2011 data, you will find that for every one divorced Muslim man, there are four divorced women. That means, 80 per cent of divorced Indian Muslims are women. But logically, if ten cases of divorce take place, there should be ten divorced men and ten divorced women.

Right? This data implies that four times as many Muslim men as women remarry after pronouncing divorce. It is not just this but these men dump their wives through a simple proclamation of ‘Talaq, talaq, talaq’. Muslim women have, so far, had no say in the Talaq-e-Biddat practice of divorce in Muslim personal law. This Bill seeks to change that, and I extend full credit to this Government for taking heed of this very important issue.

Four decades have passed since the Shah Bano case, a woman whom the courts provided maintenance after her husband divorced her by triple talaq but her grievance was side-lined and her struggle was disrespected when the Congress Government of that day enacted a law and restricted Muslim women’s right to claim maintenance beyond a period of 90 days after divorce. It was a travesty of justice, and with one stroke they destroyed the future of many Muslim women and their children. Ironically, the Act was named as Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act.

I want to ask some questions to the Members of the Congress Party. Which rights were they protecting by leaving the woman vulnerable to the whim of her husband? Why was triple talaq not banned then? *[Translation]* Why did they not call triple talaq illegal or banned it then? *[English]* Why had their Governments always pledged loyalty to protection of minorities but turned a blind eye to the Muslim women of this country? Was their Government only for protection of minorities as long as it constitutes Muslim men who controlled the vote banks?

I am extremely happy that this Government does not indulge in this kind of hypocrisy. We have unequivocally condemned the practice of triple talaq. We have unequivocally stood for the Shah Banos of the country. After the Supreme Court judgement till July, 2019, as the hon. Minister of Law was telling us, hundreds of cases of triple talaq have been reported from various parts of the country.

Imagine the number of cases that go unreported because *[Translation]* Muslim women find this practice normal. They don't even know what has happened with them legally. *[English]* Our legal system provides a fair and efficient system of divorce to women. This practice is an insult to our legal system also. *[Translation]* Instant Triple talaq is banned in all Muslim countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. *[English]* The *Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan* conducted a national survey in 2015 and found that 92.1 per cent of Muslim women backed a total ban on oral or unilateral divorce. It is now time for India to take this step.

[Translation]

Many hon. Members talked about this issue and all their speeches, *[English]* unfortunately, with due respect to everybody, I found that they lacked any substance. *[Translation]* They only talk about legal matter and before doing that, they say that *[English]* we stand for women empowerment. What kind of women empowerment are you talking about? You are paying lip service to the Muslim women of this country who need their legal rights to be taken care of and those women need to be given the same rights as all the other women who belong to any religion in this country. So, don't make an argument just to appease vote banks. Let us be real, let us be truthful and let us stand with the Muslim women of this country.

Sir, a lot of people have contended this Bill, saying if 'talaq talaq talaq' does not mean anything and does not legitimize a divorce, why criminalize it and

why criminalize a void verbal statement? I want to tell these people that it is important to send a message that a wife is not a disposable commodity. Even if the utterance is null and void now, the idea of it still symbolizes a one-sided end to marriage. Penalization of the word itself is the first crucial step towards curbing the power they once held.

I want an India where no woman in a Muslim household is scared of those three tragic words any more. I want an India where every Muslim man sees the wife as an equal, not as a commodity he can discard in such a callous fashion. The Supreme Court has said before and I would like to reiterate it: "A women is not mortgaged to her husband after marriage. Her individual identity remains intact. We cannot put her through injustice claiming that her religion allows for it. *[Translation]* She also has a heart, a life and children. She is a living human being. Here somebody was telling the percentage that it is point one percent, point two percent. Even if one percent women are unhappy then it is very necessary that the Government should provide her protection through the House. You cannot calculate it in figures or in percentages.

[English]

Sir, a woman after marriage is still a citizen of this country and this Government will protect her rights even if her religion cannot. Divorce is being given by husbands over Skype, over Whatsapp, over Email and SMS and phone calls. What kind of institution of marriage is this? If divorce becomes a mere whim, do the vows taken during marriage mean anything? Imagine the distress

and uncertainty this creates, imagine the injustice. We have to realise that this practice is an easy bail out for all other evils too, such as dowry, domestic violence or even infidelity. *[Translation]* When a husband does not want to continue the relationship he simply utters the word Talaq, Talaq, Talaq. Many a times there's no domestic violence and nothing else happens like it is being told. Despite having Domestic Violence Bill and Dowry Bill in the country, they immediately marry another young girl leaving that woman to suffer with children. Her brother and father do not want to take her back due to poverty. Often there is a lot of problem in the family and that is why these women have approached the Supreme Court. *[English]* This current system ensures no accountability on the part of the husband.

[Translation]

They utter the word 'Qubool Hai' thrice while accepting the marriage proposal. This proposal lasts only till they utter the word 'Talaq' thrice over Skype. *[English]* I want to ask this House today. How long is the validity of this *qubool hai*? The Prime Minister has said this before and I urge everyone again that this Bill and this issue is about women's rights. Do not make it about religion. Yet everybody who has spoken has spoken about religion.

[Translation]

We said – *Sabka Sath Sabka Vishwas*. We believe in those women and those women believe in us and that is why we are standing here for them.

[English]

We should condemn this practice unanimously. That is why, a uniform divorce law becomes important, so our women are not left at the mercy of their religion or their husbands after marriage. I would also exhort the Minister to hold nationwide campaigns and spread awareness about the practice of triple talaq being null and void now for the uneducated Muslim women who are still tied by this archaic practice.

No law which brings injustice to women and children can be considered an intrinsic part of any religion which preaches compassion and it cannot be part of any country which is civilized. There is nothing anti-Muslim to stand up for the rights of women.

I would urge all Muslim men to be part of repealing this capricious practice from the society and their families.

The institution of marriage is an institution of mutual respect. It is an institution of equal power, and any practice that intends to challenge that is derogatory and should be challenged. Marital relationships cannot be allowed to be patriarchal institutions driven by power vested in a male. *[Translation]* Men alone cannot hold power. Every wife and woman should have an equal right in it. *[English]* A wife is a partner in the family. She is not cattle to be herded anyhow. *[Translation]* They utter the word Qubool Hai thrice while accepting her and when they have to end the relationship they utter the word Talaq thrice. How can it be allowed? She is a living human being, a woman of the country and our sister. *[English]*

The dignity of the Muslim wives needs to be upheld and if their husbands cannot do it, then the State will step in, our Government will step in.

With this, I congratulate the Government for taking this great step and I again extend my full support to this Bill. I respect this Government, my Prime

Minister and the Law Minister for bringing it in. I am sure that it will bring justice to my Muslim sisters.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR) : Hon. Speaker Sir, first of all I want to express here that I have a lot of respect for the hon. Minister of Law Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad ji. Time allotted to my party is short so whatever the hon. minister had said last time in the House in the context of the Bill and at present and in media channel and during the introduction in Lok Sabha, I want to reply the same. If I make a mistake or misinterpret, I would request you to correct me.

Sir the ruling party says that the Congress does the mixed talk, and has a mixed voice. Sometimes the party speaks in the favour of the Bill and sometime against the Bill. It is a trick of the government to show that the Congress is confused. The Congress is not confused. The position of Congress party is very clear. The day the judgment of the Supreme Court came, that very day the Congress party was the first party to welcome the judgment. The Supreme Court's Judgment stated that Talaq-e-Biddat is unconstitutional and the Congress party accepted it. If you go through the judgment of the Supreme Court, it has termed Triple Talaq sinful. It is a kind of sin. We have accepted it. Talaq-e- Biddat is against the Article-14 because women don't have the right when their husband dissolve the marriage by uttering the word 'Talaq' three times at a time. It is against the spirit of Article -14 of the Constitution. We are in favour of it and have welcomed it. The former Finance Minister, Former Minister of External Affairs and former law Minister also welcomed it. The position of the Congress

party is clear on it and the ruling party should not try to tamper with the position of the Congress in outside media and in election speech.

Sir the law Minister says that the Supreme Court has given directions to bring a law. We have also gone through the Supreme Court's Judgment. Justice Khehar has stated -

[English]

“This is for the Parliament to bring a law.”

“We, therefore, hereby direct the Union of India to consider appropriate legislation, particularly with reference to ‘talaq-e-biddat.’ *[Translation]* You should listen here, Meenakshi ji should also listen. *[English]* “We hope and expect that the contemplated legislation will also take into consideration advances in Muslim Personal Law, ‘Shariat’, as have been corrected by legislation the world over, even by theocratic Islamic States”

[Translation]

The supreme Court states that you must bring in a law but should check whether the law you are going to bring is in accordance with the Shariat or not and should also study other 22 countries where Talaq-e-Biddat is banned. Now I would like to ask the Minister of Law as to where the Supreme Court has stated in its present judgment that Talaq-e-Biddat is a criminal offence. It is not written anywhere. The Supreme Court has not stated it in its judgement. The judgement of the Supreme Court opposing Talaq-e-Biddat is not the first of its kind. Many

judgments have already been pronounced earlier as well. Sadly the media has not given as much attention to old judgment as to the new one. There is a judgment of the High Court of Guwahati that Talaq-e-Biddat cannot be enforced. It ought to be preceded by reconciliation. There is a case of Manzoor Ahmed is lying pending with the High Court of Delhi that if we utter Talaq-e-Biddat three times, it should be counted as one time. There have been judgments of the Supreme Court and high courts in our country at various points of time where Talaq-e-Biddat has been held to be unconstitutional. I am neither a scholar nor a student of Law. You should show me a single judgment where it has been said that Talaq-e-Biddat is a criminal offence. The Government says that it is banned in twenty two countries. Why is it not banned in India? We welcome it and are of the view that it should have been done earlier itself but you must clarify in which of the 22 countries it is a criminal offence? Is it a criminal offence in Tunisia, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria? It is a criminal offence only in Bangladesh and that too there is an imprisonment for just one year. The Bill the Government is introducing criminalizes Talaq-e-Biddat with imprisonment for three years. It is being introduced only by your Government. It means that your sole purpose is 'to demonise Muslim and to penalise Muslim men'. It is your objective. The law Minister says that even after the Supreme Court's judgment there have been more than 200 cases of Talaq-e-Biddat. What will the Government should do? Should the judgment of the Supreme Court be kept in a police station? I would like to ask as to why our Muslim women have not made aware about legal aspect or about

the provision of the Domestic Violence Act 2005 and section 125 of the CRPC for maintenance. Today there is no meaning of Talaq-e-Biddat but if the harassment and domestic violence is being done, then Muslim women have the same right as a Hindu woman to go to the Police and complain under Domestic violence Act, 2005. Meenakshi ji it is a secular Act. Why don't you bring it under Domestic Violence Act, 2005? There are major lacunae in this bill presently. You talk about gender justice and gender equality. We welcome it. When a Hindu man leaves his wife, is he sent to jail? When a Parsi man leaves his wife at home, is he sent to jail? Why is your Government bringing a law with regard to the fact that if a Hindu woman suffers, she cannot demand divorce until the period of two years of desertion. When it comes to the case of a Parsi woman, she can only file a divorce petition only after she is left by her husband for the period of two years. Why have you brought such a law which is not in favour of Hindu and Parsi women? I would like to ask the law Minister. Is it not against the spirit of Article-14 of the Constitution? Article -14 of the Constitution states that every citizen should be equally protected before the law. Whatever protection you want to confer to a Muslim Woman, we request you to give it to Hindu and Parsi women as well. Change the name of the Bill into 'Indian Women Marriage and Protection Act'. Why has the word Muslim been written? It means your intention is not right. You talk about gender justice.

Marital rape is not a crime. If marital rape is made a crime, then the institution of marriage can be dissolved. It means when a Muslim man utters three words, which has no constitutional meaning, and no power, he is sentenced to three years of imprisonment. But when a man coerces his wife, it is not against the law for you. What kind of gender justice and gender equality is this? The Law Minister says that they have political mandate, they have 350 Members. Does the political mandate mean that we should do away the existence of Standing Committee? Has the Standing Committee also become anti-national? Has referring of the Bills to the Standing Committee also turned against Muslim women? We demand that you should correct this Bill at once and bring it into the constitutional framework and should listen Muslim women side.

Sir, just one minute more. Why don't you spread awareness among Muslim women and get Talaq-e-Biddat mentioned as illegal in the contract of marriage at the time of Nikaah after consulting the All India Muslim Personal Law Board? At last, I would like to say that you raise the slogan of '*Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas*' and after 5 years you added '*Sabka Viswas*' in it, you had to add it because even after five years of development you could not win the trust of the people. That's why I suggest(*Interruptions*). If you want '*Sabka Viswas*', then bring in law on mob lynching as per the Supreme Court's direction. If you want '*Sabka Viswas*' then retired (*Interruptions*) in Asam. Sir, I am concluding, give justice to the wife of Mohamed Sanaullah who is not in NRC. ...(*Interruptions*).

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, the time of members of your party will become less.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: If you really want to win everyone's trust, just don't send two Ministers of State to the site of sexual assault of a girl child at Kathua.

....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing shall go on record except what Sunil Tatkare is saying.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE (RAIGAD): Thank you very much, Sir. I am happy that nowadays we are talking more about women empowerment. I am proud that the first Women Policy in the country and the first women reservation in the local self-Government was given effect to Maharashtra. Maharashtra was a pioneer State and my mentor Shrad Pawar ji was heading the State at that time.

Since morning, I talked to many of the Muslim families, who are renowned and highly reputed families and who work in various sectors of my Raigad Parliamentary Constituency. They expressed their feelings that there is no such law in Islam. It is not written in Quran and Hadees that one can give the triple

talaq at once. It is a wrong interpretation. If there is fight happening in a marriage, the first solution is that the husband should try, explain, and solve the problem. If still it is not solved, they should sleep separately. And the third solution is that their families should involve and try to solve the problem. After doing all this, if still they could not solve the problem, then they have to go to the Sharia Court. The solution of their problem will be given according to the Quran and Hadees. The whole procedure is very long and it takes time to understand the husband and the wife.

Sir, the criminalisation of talaq under Sections 3 and 4, while intending to protect the married Muslim women, face some legal and operational challenges. Since marriage under Islamic law is a civil contract, the Bill must follow the civil procedure. The current criminal nature of offence is, in this respect, inappropriate given the nature of the subject. Moreover, the scholars suggest that the legislation should have included the offence under the ambit of this Domestic Violence Act instead of complete criminalisation.

In this manner, women would receive many more benefits such as protection against violence, right to residence in marital home, which are not available under the current provisions.

16.00 hrs

If you go through the survey and remove the percentage of triple talaq, it is hardly one per cent in India. The Government is passing the Bill and is assuming that they are only favouring women, but the man of the house goes to

jail and he has to face punishment. There will be more hatred among the married couples. After he goes to jail, who will take the responsibility of his wife, his kids and the rest of his family? Who will feed them? If fact, they will suffer more after he goes to jail.

Nowadays, the Muslim community is facing mob lynching in the country. So, we oppose the provision of punishment in this law.

Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let me make you aware of the situation that all the Hon. Members should be brief. I am not just telling you. I am saying to all hon. Members. In the BAC also, all the hon. Members were of the view that all the Members are taking more time in the House than the time allotted. Therefore, everyone has decided in the BAC about speaking on every Bill. So, everybody ought to speak briefly.

Shri. Asaduddin Owaisi.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir.

I rise to speak against this Bill. This is my consistent approach. For the third time, I have opposed it and Inshallah, I will keep on opposing this Bill as long as I am alive.

Hon. Speaker Sir, this Bill violates Articles 14, 15, 21, 26 and 29 of the Indian Constitution. This is against the fundamental rights provided in our Constitution. Now you see that triple talaq has been made a criminal offence. I want to ask in this scenario when the Supreme Court has decriminalized homosexuality, and adultery and you are criminalizing triple talaq, then you are really going to create a new Hindustan, I congratulate you.

Thirdly, the Supreme Court says and this Bill also says that marriage is not dissolved, if a Muslim man mistakenly calls three times talaq to his wife. You are saying this in the Bill. The Supreme Court is also saying that marriage is not dissolved. As many people are here, I would like to tell them that there are nine types of talaqs in Islam, out of which one is triple talaq. It is like that if a Muslim has pronounced talaq for three times at a time at one go, it is against women because if you register a case against that Muslim man today, then he will go to the police and say that he has said it once, not thrice. Now it is a practice in Islam that a talaq comes in effect after three months. By making such a law you are giving a chance to the man and are harassing that woman. That is why I am saying that this law is against Muslim women.

Fourthly as regards, for the Burden of Proof, who will go from that man's house to the court and stand in the favour of the weak woman against whom the crime is committed? You are putting the burden of proof on woman. Congratulations to you, really your idea is quite good. You will arrest the husband and put him in jail, after being incarcerated, will any husband give maintenance while sitting behind the bars? If the court decided that he should be punished for three years, why should that woman stay in that marriage for three years? Is it not an atrocity on women that men should be in jail and women should keep waiting for him? After three years, when he comes out of jail, will the woman welcome

him with flowers? What kind of justice is this? Why are you oppressing women? That woman should get right to dissolve that marriage which you are not giving.

The fifth thing is that the Bill states that the court will hear the woman. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present here, you do not listen to the victim in any murder case. The Prosecution independently argues for granting the bail and the court pronounces the verdict. Here you have decided that. It is neither in murder case nor in Section 307 but you are making such provisions in this case.

When will it be compoundable? You are putting it on the woman. This is not done even under Section 498, it is not done even in the cases falling under domestic violence Act. Under the domestic violence Act an officer is appointed who talks to husband and wife and then submits his report. You are dissolving the marriage, pushing the woman to the road and putting her husband behind bars. Sir, Presumption of Innocence is there in NDPS Act and the Terrorist Act and in this Bill you are taking away this provision too, I congratulate you. What is the court saying, non-est, when talaq does not happen, then what are you punishing for? I am also a student of law. This is not actus reus in reality but you are saying that we will punish.

Sir, you are making the POCSO Act with great intention. I have read the statement of Nobel prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi today. He is saying that it will take 55 years to finalise the cases of rape of children in Gujarat. The conviction rate is 9 percent. You are not punishing the accused in such sensitive cases and now you are out to give justice, in other cases you really deserve compliments on that count.

Sir, there is a provision of three years imprisonment in Criminal Jurisprudence, under Section 153 (A), 233 and in this case you are making

provision for three years term in anger. Sir, this three year jail term is against the basic tenet of criminal jurisprudence. I am concluding. What is your motive? Through you, I would urge the Government. You people don't say anything, I am telling you. There is a Nikahnama in Islam. You may put a condition that if any Muslim man gives triple talaq to his wife, he will have to pay five hundred percent of the amount of Meher. Violation of a condition will lead to conviction and to prison also. In Islam, marriage is not for ages. This is a contract. It is upto the extent of life and we are happy with it but you are saying that it is for ages. No, one life is enough... *(Interruptions)* Why do I say this? ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, those who are getting married now, who has a wife, know very well. That's why everyone is laughing*(Interruptions)* Everyone knows about the problem. Everyone will go out and say Zindabad but everyone knows what happens in the household affairs.

Sir, why Article 26 is being violated ? In Article 26, religious denominations have freedom to protect their right. Muslims are not homogenous in India, Hanafi, Shia and Ahle Hadees are there. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Sahab has left, But you should ask him about Shiaon Segha, he believes in Ahle Hadees but not Hanafi. One who repeatedly gives example of Islamic countries should just read it. Algeria has Shafai, Kerala has Shafai. There is Shia in Iran. This is the wrong method. Don't compare us with Islamic countries. Otherwise Radicalism will increase. We are not concerned about Islamic countries but India.

Sir, you should look at the clear intention of the Government. When the 'Me Too' movement started ,the Group of Ministers was formed ,where is the report of this group ? You disbanded the Group of Ministers. You did not take action against your MP. Congratulation for your love for women! There are 23

lakh Hindu women in our India who are not living with their husbands. So where is your love about them?..... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am concluding. I am weak; two were forced to leave the House. ...(*Interruptions*) I am concluding. The perpetrators of rape of Muslim women in Muzaffarnagar were not convicted into a single case. Congratulations, it's your love for us! In July 2018, the Supreme Court asked to bring legislation against mob-lynching. You haven't brought it yet, why don't you bring it? I am concluding- last sentence.

If you really want to do this, promulgate an ordinance on Jallikattu. Whether I will not get the protection of Articles 26 and 29? If you really want to help women, I want to tell the Government through you to take the Prime Minister of India, the Minister of External Affairs, the Law Minister, all the women MPs of BJP to Sabarimala in a special aircraft, please take them there. Before concluding, I am saying that this law has been brought to dissociate Muslims from their culture, their tamddun, their religion. As long as we live in India, we will live until the doomsday, we will live by our religion, we will go guided by the Quran and Sunnat, by making laws social evils do not end. The oppression of women is not ending by law. I am telling you that the law made by Rajiv Ghandi ji was upheld by the Supreme Court. Enhance your knowledge and do not give evidence of your.....*This law will oppress Muslim women, so I do oppose this law.

*Not recorded.

جناب اسدالدین اویسی (حیدرآباد): شکر یہ، محترم اسپیکر صاحب، میں اس بل کی مخالفت میں کھڑا ہوا ہوں، یہ میرا کنسٹیٹ اپروچ ہے۔ تیسری مرتبہ میں اس کی مخالفت میں کھڑا ہوا ہوں اور انشاء اللہ جب تک زندگی باقی رہے گی، اس بل کی مخالفت کرتا رہوں گا۔

محترم اسپیکر صاحب، یہ بل ہندوستان کی آئین کی دفعہ 26، 21، 15، 14 اور 29 کی خلاف ورزی کرتا ہے۔ یہ ہمارے آئین کے بنیادی حقوق کی مخالفت کرتا ہے۔ اب آپ دیکھئے کہ ٹرپل طلاق کو کریمینلز کر دیا گیا ہے۔ میں پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جب سپریم کورٹ نے ہومو سیکسویلیٹی کو ڈی

کریمینلز کر دیا ہے، ایڈلٹری کو ڈی کریمینلز کر دیا اور آپ ٹریل طلاق کو کریمینلز کر رہے ہیں تو واقعی میں آپ نیا ہندوستان بنانے جا رہے ہیں، میں مبارکباد دیتا ہوں آپ کو۔

تیسری بات، سپریم کورٹ نے کہا، یہ ہل بھی کہتا ہے کہ اگر کوئی مسلمان غلطی سے اپنی بیوی کو تین بار طلاق کہتا ہے تب بھی شادی نہیں ٹوٹتی ہے۔ یہ بات آپ ہل میں کہہ رہے ہیں۔ سپریم کورٹ بھی کہہ رہا ہے کہ شادی نہیں ٹوٹتی ہے۔ یہاں پر جتنے بھی ایوانِ اراکین ہیں میں ان کو بتانا چاہوں گا کہ اسلام میں 9 قسم کی طلاق ہیں، جن میں سے ایک بے ٹریل طلاق۔ ہوتا یہ ہے کہ اگر کسی مسلمان نے تین مرتبہ ایک ساتھ طلاق کہہ دیا، یہ عورتوں کے خلاف اس لئے ہے کہ اس مسلم مرد پر آج کیس درج کریں گے، وہ پولس میں جا کر بولے گا کہ میں نے تین بار نہیں ایک بار کہا ہے۔ اب اسلام میں یہ چلن ہے کہ تین مہینے کے بعد طلاق ہو جاتا ہے۔ آپ اس طرح کا قانون بنا کر اس مرد کو موقع دے رہے ہیں، اور اس عورت پر ظلم کر رہے ہیں۔ اس لئے میں کہہ رہا ہوں کہ یہ قانون مسلم خواتین کے خلاف ہے۔

چوتھی بات، برڈن آف پروف میں اس مرد کے گھر میں کون کورٹ میں جا کر، اس کمزور عورت، جس کے خلاف کیا گیا ہے، اس کی تائید میں کھڑا ہوگا۔ آپ برڈن آف پروف عورت پر ڈال رہے ہیں۔ آپ کو مبارک ہو، واقعی میں یہ آپ کی اچھی سوچ ہے۔ آپ شوہر کو گرفتار کر کے جیل میں ڈالیں گے، جیل میں ڈالنے کے بعد، کیا کوئی شوہر جیل میں بیٹھ کر مینٹی نینس دے گا؟ اگر کورٹ نے فیصلہ لیا کہ اسے تین سال سزا دیتے ہیں تو کیوں وہ عورت تین سال تک اس شادی میں رہے؟ کیا یہ عورتوں پر ظلم نہیں ہے کہ مرد جیل میں بیٹھا رہے اور عورت اس کے انتظار میں بیٹھی رہے۔ تین سال کے بعد جب وہ جیل سے نکلے گا تو کیا عورت یہ کہے کہ بہاروں پھول برسائو، میرا محبوب آیا ہے۔ یہ کون سا انصاف ہے؟ آپ کیوں عورتوں پر ظلم کر رہے ہیں؟ اس عورت کو اس شادی سے نکلنے کا اختیار ملنا چاہیے، جو آپ نہیں دے رہے ہیں۔

پانچویں بات، بیل دینے کے بارے میں ہل میں کہا گیا ہے کہ کورٹ خاتون کو سُنے گا۔ ہوم منسٹر صاحب یہاں بیٹھے ہیں، کسی مرڈر کیس میں آپ وکٹیم کو نہیں سنتے ہیں۔ بیل دینے کے بارے میں پروسیکیوشن انڈیپینڈینٹلی بحث کرتا ہے اور کورٹ فیصلہ دیتا ہے۔ یہاں آپ نے طے کر دیا، ایسا نہ مرڈر کے کیس میں ہے، نہ دفعہ 307 میں ہے، لیکن آپ بول رہے ہیں۔

یہ کمپاؤنڈیل کب ہوگا؟ آپ اسے عورت پر ڈال رہے ہیں۔ دفعہ 498 میں ایسا نہیں ہے، ڈومیسٹک وائلینس میں ایسا نہیں ہے۔ جب ڈومیسٹک وائلینس کے قانون کا استعمال ہوتا ہے تو ایک

آفیسر اپونٹ ہوتا ہے، جو جا کر میاں بیوی سے بات کرتا ہے، پھر اپنی رپورٹ دیتا ہے۔ آپ شادی کو ختم کر رہے ہیں، عورت کو روڈ پر لا رہے ہیں اور اس کے شوہر کو جیل میں ڈال رہے ہیں۔

جناب، پریزمپشن آف انوسینس، یہ این۔ڈی۔پی۔ایس۔ ایکٹ میں ہوتا ہے۔ یہ ٹیرسٹ ایکٹ میں ہوتا ہے، آپ وہ بھی چھین رہے ہیں، آپ کو مبارک ہو۔ کورٹ کیا کہہ رہی ہے، نان ایسٹ، جب طلاق نہیں ہوتا ہے تو آپ پھر کس بات کی سزا دے رہے ہیں۔ میں بھی قانون کا اسٹوڈینٹ ہوں ایکٹس ریس نہیں ہیں، ایکٹس ریس ہوا ہی نہیں، مگر آپ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ ہم سزا دیں گے۔

سر، آپ پاسکو ایکٹ بڑی نیت سے بنا رہے ہیں۔ میں نے آج نوبل پرائز وئر کا اسٹیٹمنٹ پڑھا، وہ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ گجرات میں بچوں کا جو ریپ ہوتا ہے، ان کیسز کو مکمل کرنے کے لئے 25 سال لگیں گے۔ کنوکشن ریٹ 9 فیصد ہے۔ اس کے حساس کیسز میں آپ سزا نہیں دے رہے ہیں اور آپ انصاف کرنے کے لئے نکلے ہیں، آپ کو مبارک ہو۔

سر، کریمنل جیورسپروڈینس میں تین سال کی سزا، 233, (A), 153 اس میں تین سال، اس میں تین سال غصہ میں لا رہے ہیں۔ تین سال کی سزا بیسیک کریمنل جیورسپروڈینس کے خلاف ہے۔ میں اپنی بات ختم کر رہا ہوں۔ آپ کا مقصد کیا ہے؟ میں آپ کے ذریعہ حکومت سے سفارش کرتا ہوں۔ آپ لوگ کچھ نہیں بولتے ہیں، میں آپ کو بول رہا ہوں۔ اسلام میں نکاح نامہ ہے۔ آپ ایک کنڈیشن لگائیے کہ کوئی بھی مسلم مرد اگر اپن بیوی کو ٹریپل طلاق دیتا ہے تو مہر کے امائونٹ کا 500 فیصد دینا پڑے گا۔ **Violation of a condition will lead to conviction and to prison also.** اسلام میں شادی جنم جنم کا ساتھ نہیں ہے۔ یہ ایک کانٹریکٹ ہے۔ یہ زندگی کی حد تک ہے اور ہم اس میں خوش ہیں، لیکن آپ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ جنم جنم کا ساتھ ہے، نہیں بابا ایک ہی زندگی کافی ہے۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔ میں یہ کیوں کہتا ہوں۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔

سر، اب جو شادی کر رہے ہیں، جن کے پاس بیوی ہیں، ان کو معلوم ہے۔ اس لئے سب ہنس رہے ہیں۔ (مداخلت)۔۔ سب کو معلوم ہے کہ کیا تکلیف ہے۔ سبھی باہر جا کر زندہ باد کہیں گے، لیکن گھر میں کیا ہوتا ہے سبھی کو معلوم ہے۔

سر، آرٹیکل 26 کا وائلیشن کیوں ہے؟ آرٹیکل 26 میں ریلیجیوس ڈینو مینیشن کو اپنے رائٹ کو پروٹیکٹ کرنے کا حق ہے۔ ہندوستان میں مسلمان ہوموجینس نہیں ہیں، حنفی، شیعہ و اہل حدیث ہیں۔ آپ مجھے بتائیے، مختار عباس نقوی صاحب، چلے گئے، ان سے پوچھ لیجئے شیعہ میں صیغہ ہے، اہل حدیث مانتے ہیں، حنفی نہیں مانتے۔ بار بار جو اسلامک ممالک کی جو مثال دیتے ہیں، آپ زرا پڑھ لیا کیجئے۔ الجیریا میں شافعی، کیرل میں شافعی ہیں۔ ایران میں شیعہ ہیں۔ یہ غلط

طریقہ ہے ہمیں اسلامک ممالک سے مت ملائیے، ورنہ ریڈیگنزم بڑھے گا۔ ہمیں اسلامک ممالک سے مطلب نہیں ہے، ہمیں اسلام سے مطلب ہے۔ ہندوستان سے مطلب ہے۔

سر، آپ سرکار کی صاف نیت دیکھئے۔ جب می ٹو۔ موومینٹ چلا تو گروپ آف منسٹر کی رپورٹ کہاں گئی؟ آپ نے گروپ آف منسٹر کو ڈیسبینڈ کر دیا۔ آپ نے اپنے ایم پی۔ کے خلاف ایکشن نہیں لیا۔ آپ کی خواتین سے محبت، آپ کو مبارک ہو۔ ہمیں ہمارے ہندوستان میں 23 لاکھ ہندو خواتین ہیں جو اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ نہیں ہیں، تو کہاں گئی آپ کی محبت (مداخلت)۔

سر، میں اپنی بات ختم کر رہا ہوں، میں کمزور ہوں، دو تو بھگا دئے گئے (مداخلت)۔ میں اپنی بات ختم کر رہا ہوں۔ مظفر نگر میں مسلم خواتین کی جو ریپ ہوئی ان کے ایک بھی کیس میں کنوکشن نہیں ہوا، مبارک ہو، یہ آپ کی محبت ہے۔ جولائی، 2018 میں سپریم کورٹ نے کہا ہے کہ ماب لنچنگ کے خلاف قانون لائیے۔ آپ ابھی تک وہ نہیں لائے، آپ وہ کیوں نہیں لاتے ہیں۔ میں ختم کر رہا ہوں۔

اگر آپ واقعی میں یہ کرنا چاہ رہے ہیں تو جلی کٹو پر آرڈینینس لائیے۔ کیا آرٹیکل 29 کا مجھے پروٹیکشن نہیں ملے گا؟ اگر آپ واقعی میں خواتین کی مدد کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو میں آپ کے ذریعہ سے سرکار سے کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہندوستان کے وزیر اعظم، ہندوستان کے وزیر داخلہ، ہندوستان کے وزیر قانون، بی جے پی۔ کے جتنی مہیلا ایم پیز ہیں ان کو اسپیشل انر کرافٹ میں سبری مالہ لے کر جائیے، کریپا انہیں لے کر جائیے۔

میں اپنی بات ختم کرنے سے پہلے کہہ رہا ہوں کہ یہ قانون مسلمانوں کو ان کی تہذیب، تمدن، ان کے مذہب سے دور کرنے کے لئے لایا گیا ہے۔ ہم جب تک ہندوستان میں رہیں گے صفِ قیامت تک رہیں، اپنے دین پر رہیں گے، قرآن اور سنت پر رہیں گے۔ قانون بنانے سے سوشل ایول کا خاتمہ نہیں ہوتا ہے۔ عورتوں پر جو ظلم ہو رہا ہے، وہ قانون سے ختم نہیں ہوا ہے۔ میں آپ کو کہہ رہا ہوں کہ راجیو گاندھی جی نے جو قانون بنایا، اس کو سپریم کورٹ نے اپ بیلڈ کیا۔ اپنے علم میں اضافہ کرو اور اپنی جہالت کا ثبوت مت دیجئے۔ یہ قانون مسلم خواتین کے ساتھ ظلم کرے گا، اس لئے میں اس کی مخالفت کرتا ہوں۔ شکریہ

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (MUMBAI NORTH - CENTRAL):

Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. How can one make the most of this opportunity where I have been given chance to put forth my views after others. Of course, I must congratulate those present here who chose to serve me with an avalanche of compliments. I have observed that a good number of veteran law practitioners are present here who have been fed up with their wives even in the first marriage. When they congratulated me, I realised that they are giving congratulations to all of us. Chacha was sitting here who was screaming that they are all sitting here. I am also a mother of a daughter. I want to ask you that in your happy family, tomorrow if that daughter receives a talaq, talaq, talaq message on WhatsApp, will we congratulate you or feel sad for you? What does your greeting mean? I remember my childhood story in terms of empowerment of women. I myself pursued my early education in Marathi. We learn English after we are ten or twelve. Then we were moving forward learning the meaning of 'he' and 'she'. Once I asked my father, 'Baba how is 'he' or 'she' placed? He responded 'he' is male and 'she' is female. I asked why 'he' and 'she' are there. Then he further replied 'He' stands for a man but 'S' having been prefixed, 'She' is used for women. That way female is superior to male, this is what my father taught me. We follow this ideology. That is why I want to congratulate my Prime Minister that he wants to empower women to be superior to he. He wants women to grow exponentially. Hence, this Bill has been brought.

Sir, when we talk about marriage practice, it is a sacred institution. You call it business or whatever. Probably you call it as contract. Marriage is considered a sacred *sanskara* in our society and this sacred *sanskara* is irrespective of religion, caste, irrespective of whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Christians, in sickness and in health, I am with you. When I am going to marry you, I will be with you. When we take an oath in the *Saptapadi*, on every seven questions we are in agreement with each other. We keep this thing in mind. I want to

congratulate you because you want to pursue this method as strength to everyone. Everyone can describe the religion in his or her own way. The definition of religion can be taken forward by anyone in his or her own way but with the definition of religion, the definition of the society in which we are living must also move forward with religion. Today, society is undergoing a change. It's perceived in society that the way India is moving today, the world is also moving forward in same way, we should bring about some changes in the views of our religion as well. I want to say that we should also bring about changes in religion which we profess. Many issues have been discussed before, whether it is *sati pratha* or child marriage or any other issue, for that matter, social reformers came forward and made many changes. In the year 1956, we got the power for the divorce so that it may not occur that the husband does not like and he leaves the wife, wife can also fight for the divorce if she desires so. Our law has given us this power in society. The law says that everyone wants equality. Let us talk about Gandhi ji's three monkeys. One says don't listen bad, other says don't speak bad and the third one says don't see bad. But the law has taught us that if there is something bad in the society, we should not ignore it and we all are against the endurance of evil practices. There is talk going on of sending a spacecraft on Mars in the 21st century. Today ISRO has the highest number of women scientists and still we are congratulating that do not give triple talaq to women, it's okay, nothing will happen. What can we do about that? I feel sad that many women MPs are sitting here. We will decide later on where we want to go or not in the aeroplane, we agree with what the Supreme Court has told us. We listen to the Supreme Court with bowed head. Many female MPs are sitting here. I think that they are fighting for their brothers on the likelihood of them being sent to jail. They are of the view as how can their brothers go to jail like this? They are thinking that this is not a matter of social reform but is speaking against their brothers. I want to raise this question in the House that when someone gives talaq to our daughter or

sister and force her to become helpless, then will it not be wrong done to that girl, if we remain quiet?

If anyone stares at our daughters and sisters, we say that we will not leave him. Then, why can't we make this law. If anyone will dare to do so, then the first, second, third persons will have to go to jail and the fourth and fifth person will definitely think whether to give talaq or not and so this is why this law has been made. Why is this discussion going on in this House? This Bill is being discussed because if a women forgets to add salt to the food, then anyone will not dare to say talaq, talaq, talaq. None can say that he doesn't like his wife's teeth so talaq, talaq, talaq. These are real stories, you read them. I don't like your face, so talaq, talaq, talaq. I like the look of five other women, as if a single marriage were not a relationship for many births, it is being said here. I like the appearance of five more women, so talaq, talaq, talaq. Is it a talaq or a joke? Playing with the lives of women and make jokes on harassment is not at all fair from my point of view.

We want to move forward with this law. Reform is all about society. We all in attendance here are social reformers also. The law we make should also lead to social reform. Our duties are not confined to making laws only, our duty is that we take forward the people and society through that. I expect this from the House. I want to say this much to the Hon. Minister that he should not listen to one or two people, who are offering him congratulations please listen to the one million women who have elected you and have given signed petition. Every Muslim sister of mine is saying that she does not want triple talaq, I cannot do all this, you cannot ostracize me this way. So many laws are being made here, you at least support this law. Prevention is always better than cure. This law is just like prevention. We should support this prevention.

I also want to offer a few suggestions about it. We are bringing this law for the honour and equality of women. I want to ask the male MPs here. There was a

chance of dowry in Hindu families. Dowry has now become a criminal offence. If anyone asks for dowry, this leads to him to jail along with his entire family. How would a Muslim father feel when told to his daughter that we will take dowry from you but will not marry? DO all fathers sitting here not think about this in this manner? Can you afford to witness this kind of harassment of your daughters and daughters- in- law.

This matter is above politics. It is an emotional subject regarding reform of society. It is very important to look into this subject. I would also like to give a suggestion to the Hon. Minister that if you incorporate a lot of the pending cases in this Act, it would lead to huge benefits. The 'Superior He' we are talking about and we are standing for the improvement of that religion and want to empower those women.

Hon. PM Modi ji provided crores of gas cylinders under Ujjwala Yojana, provided toilets for the safety and respect of women, whether he has done this after thinking that they are my Muslim sisters, others are Hindu and some others are this type of sisters and others are another type of sisters. Not. You can never divide women on the basis of caste and religion. The honour and religion of women is herself and her family. If you keep women aloof from her family by giving triple talaq, you are committing the greatest crime and sin.

At the end, I would like to submit that it is said that triple talaq happens among illiterate people and in villages. But it is not like this. You must have heard the story of Afreen, an MBA from Jaipur. There are so many such stories. The educated girl was left by her husband and given triple talaq. I want to know that the opportunity given to us by the Supreme Court, it is our good fortune that we are carrying forward this opportunity. The Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made this Government a 'Women Led Development Government' after this

election. The country will move forward only when women will move forward, so this law of equality is very important.

Hon. Speaker Sir, at the end I would like to say 'ek khauf tha safar main unse ,kahin koi baat na chubh jaaye ,esi jo saath chhod de humsafar mera,kehkar talaq-e-biddat ke wo teen bol tu kya dega talaq –e-kayar,aaj insaf hua.kuda ki ibadat par sadiyon ki khak mai se ek chirag sulgaya hai ,aaj pehli baar mujhe mujhse milwaya hai 'These words are being spoken by our Muslim sisters. What Shahbano suffered due to this practice, Shaira Bano has taken this movement forward for the help of every Muslim woman. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister is also extending his support for these women. I would like to thank respected Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad ji. This Bill is not just for the empowerment of women but to exhibit our strength to the whole world.

This Government is following *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas* and by taking everyone together, offering respect to women, bringing women on the front line, we want to move forward and 'Nari Tu Narayani' is not just an ideology, we show it in doing. By doing all this, we will move the Bill forward. I want to support this Bill.

Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the time allotted at B.A.C. is up. I would urge all the hon. Members to speak briefly.

[English]

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA) : Sir, I thank you. You always inform about the timing when I am to speak.

Sir, at the outset, I fully agree with the view that triple talaq is uncivilised. It does not exist in many Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Egypt. I also support the Supreme Court's verdict that it is unconstitutional. As we all know, the verdict of the Supreme Court is the law of the land. If the Supreme Court has pronounced a judgement that triple talaq is illegal, it is considered as illegal by our existing laws themselves. Then, what is the need of introducing a Bill of this kind?

The Muslim minorities in our country are living in a feel of fear. This feeling is increasing day by day. It is because you are passing Bills on NIA, UAPA and now, triple talaq, targeting the Muslims. So, I vehemently oppose the Bill.

My first contention is that the Bill is discriminatory in nature. It deals with the cases under the Code of Criminal Procedure. It is to be noted that all the other religious marriage Acts deal with the cases under the Code of Civil Procedure and have simple penal provision in case of violation. It violates Article 14 of the Constitution that ensures equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws.

If a woman simply comes to a police station and files a false petition before the SHO, then the SHO can take her husband into custody and sent him to jail, without bail, for three years. Further, it is surprising to note that a husband can be jailed upon the complaint of any person related to his wife by blood or marriage. This provision can be misused at various levels. Do you think about the

consequences of this provision? I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. If the husband goes to jail, then who will pay the maintenance? The bail may be granted by a magistrate only after hearing the woman. It contravenes the relevant sections of the CrPC and the Evidence Act. As per the existing CrPC and the Evidence Act, the witness comes only at the time of taking evidence. The hon. Minister himself is an eminent lawyer. Here, the witness comes into picture at the time of granting bail.

Sir, we all know that Indian courts are clogged with a large number of cases and notorious for their long pendency. I feel that it is also relevant to bring to your attention the complaints under Section 498A of the IPC. In many cases, the hon. Supreme Court has observed that it is used as a weapon rather than a protection. The case of Arnesh Kumar *versus* State of Bihar is an example. So, in false cases, chance of getting a bail is more difficult under the provisions of the Bill. Also, in 2017, the Supreme Court had said that the bail plea may be decided as far as possible the same day. Bail is the right of an accused and a cardinal principle laid by CrPC. The intention of the Government is very clear. It is adopting a policy of jail, not bail.

It is to be noted that the educational and social backwardness was responsible for the condition of Muslim women far more than triple talaq. I would request the hon. Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

By the verdict of the hon. Apex Court, triple talaq is null and void. So, there is no need of bringing a legislation in this regard.

Thank you.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR) : Sir, thank you. I spoke on this Bill at length on 27th December, 2018. This Bill continues to criminalise a civil act and, therefore, there is no change in my Party's stand.

16.25 hrs

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

I have been sitting through the debate right from the beginning. I do not think there is a single party in this House that wants to support the act of triple talaq. The House is unanimous in saying that we condemn this practice and we want to make it illegal. The only thing that everyone from the Opposition seems to be objecting to is making it a criminal act.

The Bill is a consequence of the Supreme Court judgement in Shayara Bano versus the Union of India case. It set aside the practice of Talaq-e-Biddat, which is otherwise known as triple talaq.

From what I have been able to understand, there are two types of legal divorce in Islam. One is Kula which is initiated by the wife with the husband's consent and the other is Talaq-e-Sunnah, which is initiated by the husband. I just want to briefly go through that a little bit for the sake of background. I won't take much time. Divorce is not taken lightly in the Muslim community. Men and women are required to follow a process that involves separation of at least three months or three menstrual cycles. During these three months, efforts for reconciliation are made. If they fail the divorce is finalised and the husband has to pay a *Mehr* or a bride price, which is a mandatory payment paid or promised by the groom to the bride at the time of marriage itself. The logic behind the three months waiting period is, to ensure that the wife is not pregnant at the time of separation. If she is child support also figures in the divorce proceedings. The other reason is to allow each other enough time to find a place to live so the husband and the wife are not left in the streets.

Talaq-e-Biddat or instantaneous talaq being followed by some misogynistic Muslim men is not in consonance with Quran which many hon. Members have already mentioned. So, the demand of Muslim women that talaq should be Talaq-e-Sunnah and not Talaq-e-Biddat is absolutely justified.

If you look at the world scenario, particularly in Islamic countries, many of them have either banned triple talaq or regulated it, like our neighbour Pakistan, which passed the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance in 1961 or in Morocco which introduced the Moroccan Family Code in 2004. Similarly, 20 countries, such as Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Bangladesh, as the Minister said, have already banned this. We should ban it as well.

Coming to the Bill, the main issue remains the same. According to Clause 4 of the Bill if the husband leaves the wife pronouncing triple talaq, he is punished with imprisonment for a term which may be extended to three years and a fine. I have one simple question. What if a Muslim man does not say triple talaq and abandons his wife? What happens in that case? Does he go to jail? No, he does not. So, this is something, I think, we need to look at.

Marriage is a civil contract. The Government, through this Bill, is saying that breaking up this civil contract is a criminal offence. That is not a good precedence for many other instances of civil law.

The other point to be noted is this. The Supreme Court has already pronounced triple talaq as invalid. So, if the husband leaves the wife after pronouncing triple talaq it amounts to abandonment. So, I am sure everyone in this august House agrees that rules and laws should apply equally to everyone in this country irrespective of caste or religion one belongs to. If a Hindu or a Christian man abandons his wife, is he jailed or fined? I do not think so. Why should a Muslim man go to jail for abandoning his wife when Christians and Hindus do not suffer the same consequences. Clause 5 of the Bill reads: 'A married Muslim woman upon whom triple talaq has been pronounced, shall be entitled to receive from her husband such amount of subsistence allowance for her and the development of children' ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, I looked at the 2011 Census to get some data. Table no. C-3 is related to marital status of women of religious community. Sir, there are 2.3 million women in this country, according to the 2011 Census, who are either separated or abandoned, more than two times the number of divorced women. Out of 2.3 million women, 2 million women are Hindu women; 2.8 lakhs are Muslim women; 0.9 lakhs are Christian women; and 0.8 lakhs are other women.

What are we going to do about 2 million Hindu women or almost 1 million Christian women who are deserted? Is the law not going to take care of them? It is only taking care of 10 per cent of the abandoned women in this country. What about the other 90 per cent women who are abandoned? How are they supposed to survive?

Clause 7 says that the Government has made triple talaq a cognizable and non-bailable offence, subject to scrutiny by Magistrate. Both of these laws are contradictory in nature. One is about providing subsistence allowance and the other is about being put into the jail. On the one hand, you are expecting the husband to provide financial assistance to wife and children and, on the other hand, you are in care crating placed them, while the family suffers in the outside world. Many hon. Members have brought in this point. I would like to hear the hon. Minister's response on this.

Sir, I would like to reassert that the Telugu Desam Party is totally against Triple Talaq. We are all for women's rights. But this Bill seems to be discriminatory. Therefore, we do not support this Bill. We urge the Government to withdraw the Bill and pilot a new one to render Triple Talaq illegal without making it a criminal offence.

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am a woman and I have been given this opportunity to speak on this important Bill. I feel privileged and I profusely thank you.

Sir, as I stand up to talk about this Bill, I am reminded of a quote from Gloria Steinem. She was a prolific writer. She said: “The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist not to any one organization. It belongs to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.” I underscore this expression ‘human rights’. We are not talking of Indian women, Muslim women or Hindu women. We are talking of human beings.

Sir, I must tell you that this particular day is a historic day. I wonder how many women from all walks of life, from all sections, especially the Muslim women must be glued to the TV set and are waiting for a positive response from Lok Sabha regarding this particular Bill. I am sure they all must be glued to the TV set and are waiting with bated breath.

I think all of us need to commend the efforts of the Government and the hon. Prime Minister for having shown the courage to come up with this kind of Bill. This Bill in the Lok Sabha is not something new. This has come twice. This has been debated upon and the suggestions that have been worthwhile have been incorporated.

Sir, this Bill is a logical culmination of the verdict given by the hon. Supreme Court in Shayara Bano case on 22nd August, 2017. Since morning, we have been discussing about it. We are aware of the judgement. The judgement was clear. It very clearly held that *talaq-e-biddat* violated constitutional morality and was against the tenets of the Holy book of Quran. We are aware of this very fact.

Sir, I must say that this historic judgement was a step towards liberating Indian Muslim women from the whimsical and capricious method of divorce.

There is no room for conciliation. This is absolutely against the principles of natural justice. This violates human rights and this is against the concept of women empowerment that all of us have been talking about.

Sir, in 1984, when the famous Shayara Bano case had come up, I was in high school.

We were all so very excited when the judgement had been passed. A particular Muslim sister of ours goes to the court, and seeks sustenance and maintenance from her husband who had pronounced instant 'triple *talaq*' -- the three words. She needs sustenance, and she needs maintenance. Of course, I must thank the then Supreme Court. In fact, the Judges there came up and stood in favour of this woman, *Shah Bano*. I remember that we were in High School, and there was a celebration in the girls High School.

We celebrated the judgement of the Supreme Court. But, unfortunately, come what may, we see one fine day that the then Congress Government nullified the effect of this great judgement and it limited the alimony to just 90 days of divorce. [*Translation*] In Islamic Laws, the alimony is given at the Iddat period only. It was said like this. It was a very unfortunate situation.

[*English*]

Sir, with all conviction at my command, but at the same time with all humility, I would say that there cannot be a better time than today to put an end to such regressive notions of patriarchy, which treat women in an undignified manner. This is a classic example of inadequate policy response to such social practices in the name of religion.

Yesterday, when I was told that I had to speak today on this issue, I went through all the discourses or all the deliberations that had taken place in the Lok Sabha when this Bill had come up for debate. I went to the library, and I sat there

till late hours and I was going through the discourses. I am extremely happy to place before this august House, and I also need to congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government headed by hon. Prime Minister for having incorporated all the worthwhile suggestions. It is a cognizable offence, but there are ways on how to do it. This has already been discussed and I need not delve deep into it.

It is definitely a non-bailable offence, but there is conditional bail. We are also talking of compoundable offence. We are all aware of something compoundable, namely, if the couple wants to settle the dispute outside the court, then they can do it and the Magistrate will take note of it. Of course, there is the issue of allowance also. The *Shah Bano* case would not have happened had this Act been there at that point of time. We need to give the subsistence allowance. It was under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Of course, there is the issue of custody of children also. Imagine, women are on the streets. Where will the children go? So, it is a very good thing that has been brought in, and I once again congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for having thought about all these humane elements. It takes a toll on the mental health of children if father and mother separate themselves from each other. So, definitely it is a great thing that the custody issue has also been brought in here.

Since morning, I have been sitting here in this particular seat and listening to all the discourses. I am surprised that there is absolutely no content or substance. Where is the logic or argument for it? Why should we say no to this Bill? There is absolutely no convincing logic whatsoever. Nearly, 20 Islamic countries have banned this. In this Parliament, there have been legislations against dowry and *sati*, then what is the problem about this particular thing that we are talking about?

I was going through a '*Business Standard*' Report -- I am sorry that I am quoting the name of the newspaper -- where the hon. Minister had been quoted. I did a good deal of research last night. At that point, of time in December, 2018, the hon. Minister had mentioned this in the '*Business Standard*' Report. Between January 2017 and December 2018, more than 477 cases of Triple *Talaq* had been registered. This is unfortunate because this was after the 22nd August 2017 judgement of the Supreme Court. We have just discussed the violation of constitutional morality. I know it is time to wind up but at the same time this is an historic opportunity for all of us in this august House; we all need to unanimously support this particular Bill cutting across party lines. It is a question of women; it is a question of her rights; it is a question of human rights. That is why, we need to support it.

I am reminded of a quote from the departed leader, Nelson Mandela. He said, "Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression." Before I conclude, I would just like to make a remark – somebody said, and I have read somewhere – when men are oppressed, it is a tragedy. I repeat, when men are oppressed, it is a tragedy. ...(*Interruptions*) But when women are oppressed, it is a tradition. This is not acceptable. And this tradition of oppression of women must go. On behalf of all the Muslim sisters of the country, I will appeal to all the Members of this august House to unanimously come forward and support this Bill.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Sir, I oppose this Bill. This Bill is unconstitutional, unwarranted, biased and ill-motivated. I have closely been listening to the former speakers. Many stories have been told here about Triple *Talaq*. There are electronic *talaq*, WhatsApp *talaq*, etc. Many coloured stories were told. I would like to say with all humbleness that this kind of argument in support of this Bill is far away from the truth. We have to think about it.

Muslim population in this country varies from 13 to 14 per cent. Out of this, according to the 2011 Census, divorce rate among Muslims is 0.56 per cent only. In this, many are *talaq*-related. In *talaq* itself, how many Triple *Talaq* cases are there? You all know that. So, you are trying to create a myth here. Such fabricated stories will not have life. You are not going to succeed in this. Your approach is not at all correct. I would like to say that this is a clear violation of Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of faith, and professing the faith.

The Supreme Court has ultimately declared that Triple *Talaq* is null and void. As correctly asked by the speakers who spoke before me, I would also like to add to the viewpoint, and ask the Government as to what is the necessity of bringing another legislation. As far as my Party is concerned, we were maintaining the same stand on this and on Sabarimala. We are of the opinion that Article 25 is giving us a fundamental right. Muslim Personal Law is governed by the principles of Fundamental Rights. When you encroach on this, it is highly objectionable.

Sir, I have another point to make about divorce. Divorces are taking place in different communities, not only among Muslims. It may not be in the mode of *Single Talaq* or *Triple Talaq*, but divorce is a reality in India. Why is the Government not taking that into notice? Why are they not educating the women

who have become victims of divorce? They are silent on that. Why are they not showing compassion in such other cases? Why are they not going for the rescue of these ill-fated women? Why are they not arguing for criminal prosecution of the husbands in such other cases? Sir, with one shot, they are killing two birds. The 1986 legislation also nullified the decision in the Shah Bano case. These kinds of actions are highly objectionable.

Sir, my friend, Mr. Owaisi was talking about mob lynching. The people sitting on the Treasury Benches are saying many things about the ill-fated women. In 2018, in just one year, 27 persons were killed. Incidents of mob lynching have increased four to five folds in that year. Even the hon. Supreme Court has directed the Government to make an enactment to stop mob lynching and such other cases. The Government has not made any legislation. They have not done anything for that. What relief have they given? What kind of argument they have made on such cases? We all know that those people are also suffering; they are also having a lot of difficulties.

I request the hon. Members sitting on the other side, instead of making this kind of appeal, to do something for them. What are they doing for them? Here, it shows that they are maintaining double standard. If people are suffering, they have to argue for them. Their intention is to blackmail a particular community. They are not going to win it. They have targeted the Muslim community that is their intention. They are not going to win in this kind of wicked things. I would like to tell you that the Government has an intention to keep the Muslims in fear complex. We are not going to fear these kinds of actions. We will fight and defeat such kind of actions.

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR (THENI): Sir, I would like to remind you that in Vedic period, women in our country were treated with good respect and honour. In general, they had obtained significant positions in various fields

and in some cases, they were the decision-making authority. They also had opportunity like men had to develop themselves; they were completely free to choose their own path of life and select a life partner.

Sir, if you go to our medieval history, we can understand that women's status in the society had been deteriorated in the middle Ages because of various bad practices against women in the society.

Sir, on this note, I would say that this Bill is the commitment of this Government under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji to give equal power to women in our society and give them opportunity to reach the highest position in social arena.

Sir, I would like to quote article 14 and article 15, "There shall be no discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth". This Bill will be another significant step to strengthen the related article in our Constitution. Sir, this is not a matter of majority or minority. It is a matter of humanity. It is a matter of women's rights. Our colleagues in the Opposition were talking about the logic and stories. Sir, some funny things happened in our country. Sir, some people say that there is no God but when we go to the temple, we can see them standing in the queue to worship the God. Why should they have such double standards? They are just confusing the people. Sir, through you, I would like to ask them one question. Will they agree if the same Muslim law is adopted for Hindus also? Sir, this Bill will Endeavour to provide equal rights to all women in India irrespective of their religion.

Some of my colleagues were saying that there could be a law for men's empowerment also. I thank them for this. But right now, this Bill seeks to provide equal rights to all women irrespective of their religion. I, therefore, want to know whether they accept this piece of legislation or not.

Finally, I would say that given the right opportunities, women will achieve great successes and reach heights. Social practices like these should not be forced on them as they become impediments to their development. With these words, I support this Bill. Thank you.

***SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM):** Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019 has been brought for consideration. The Constitution of India framed by our Babasaheb Ambedkar provides equal rights and equality for the people of all religions. Babasaheb Ambedkar insisted for creation of a secular country. But this has become a question mark now. Myself and my party both think that this Bill is aimed to target and to make a negative impact on the Muslim minorities. I support the cause that the women should be given equal status. They should be treated with equality and the women should get equal rights on property. My party also supports this view. Here equality is considered to be unilateral. BJP talks about Common Civil Code. Why is that BJP not bringing Common Marriage Law? I want to ask that why is it so that BJP is not ready to bring a legislation for protection of all women irrespective of religion. Hon. Supreme Court in its verdict accorded permission to women to visit Sabarimala temple. But BJP which was in power at that time did not try to implement this verdict of Hon. Supreme Court. This BJP government talks high about women and their protection. I want to ask the Government why it is not ready to implement providing women the access to Sabarimala temple. The marriage laws should be common. After putting a ban on the triple talaq you will punish the male member of that family. If that is so who will support the affected family? How will they be protected? How will you provide allowance? These are the several questions which I want to ask while opposing this Bill. The Government is not worried about other Marriage laws. Large numbers of Hindu divorce cases are pending in the Hon. Courts. The Government is not concerned about Hindu Marriage Laws. I want to ask the government that why it is not showing any concern about these laws? Inter-caste marriages take place particularly in Tamil Nadu. But those who get into inter-caste marriages are killed. The Government is not concerned about bringing a

* English translation of the Speeh originally delivered in Tamil.

legislation to prevent these honour killings. I want to stress that a special law should be legislated to check this menace.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Selvaraj, please conclude.

SHRI M. SELVARAJ: Sir. Just give a minute. At the time of our country's independence, and when Pakistan was separated, the national leaders instilled confidence among the minorities ensuring that their lives will be protected. That is the reason why Muslims live with confidence in this country. I want to say that in order to instil such a confidence in their minds, laws like these should not be brought or implemented. I oppose this Bill. Thank you for this opportunity.

16.56 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019.

When the Bill was being introduced, its introduction was opposed on the ground that it offends the Constitution. The hon. Minister, in his introductory remarks, said that this House and the Parliament are supreme, sovereign and competent to make laws, and if the laws face some constitutional issue, that has to be dealt with by the court. I am of the view that it may not be a correct statement. This House is under a constitutional duty to enact a law that is in consonance with the mandate and spirit of the Constitution. This Bill, being an example of class legislation, offends the fundamental principles and ethos of the Constitution.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is painful that veiled attempts are being made to attribute insensitivity towards the imperatives of gender justice against the legal system, against the religion that, fourteen and a half centuries back, for the first time, recognised the right of women to hold property, to dispose of property and to enjoy property, that declared marriage a civil contract and gave women a right

to pull out of the contract in certain circumstances. Moreover, the Supreme Court has held that Sharia law does not recognise instantaneous and irrevocable divorce.

Sir, why do I stand to oppose the Bill? It is because the Supreme Court has already held triple talaq to be void and illegal and there is no occasion to go in for a law. It is law of the land under article 141 and the need to have a separate law and enactment does not arise.

Secondly, the justification given for this Bill is that, it is dictated by the Supreme Court; it has to follow the diktat of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court did not direct the Government to make triple talaq a crime and a penal consequence for the triple talaq. So, it will not be right to say that this law is being made to follow the Supreme Court judgement.

Thirdly, what is the end object? Is this going to work? What is the object of the law? The object is to promote marital harmony, peace and unite the broken families. Does this law serve that purpose? Will this law promote and ensure marital harmony? What kind of a law is it when we say that the divorce pronounced is illegal or void, but the family continues to be united, and the husband-wife relationship subsists notwithstanding the divorce? How can we make the wife a prosecutrix, make her prosecute her husband and send him to prison for three years, and at the same time, say that we are promoting marital harmony?

17.00 hrs

The proposed Bill suffers from contradictions within and cannot achieve the objectives that are intended to be achieved by it. The framework given in the Bill is not going to work at all. The theme of the debate on this side is as if all of us were in favour of triple talaq. None of us are in favour of triple talaq, because the Quran does not permit triple talaq, as has been held by the Supreme Court. What we are saying is that the pronouncement should not be made an offence

having penal consequences. That is precisely the objection. The Government should delete section 4 from the proposed Bill. The Government feels that the judgement of the Supreme Court is not sufficient, though it is otherwise the law of the land that is to be followed by every court. Wherever triple talaq is taken as a defensive action for maintenance, it will not be accepted by the Court and maintenance will be awarded notwithstanding the triple talaq. But what is the need to have a law? It is already covered by the Supreme Court's judgement.

The next point is what will be the fate of the family that we want to unite, if we allow section 4 to survive in this Bill! None of us is in favour of the triple talaq. All the time it has been said that women are victimised because of triple talaq. We do not support that. But what will we achieve by making it an offence? How can a Muslim wife prove it? As has been rightly stated by one of the hon. Members, the burden is on the woman to prove it. How can she prove it? It is an uneven field. If she proves it and her husband is convicted, what will be the plight of the family? How will the family survive? Her husband will be behind the bars and at the same time, she will ask for maintenance for herself, and if she has children, for them too. So, this Bill is not going to serve any purpose. Rather, it will go in backward direction. It will not do any justice, as has been proclaimed that it is going to do justice to Muslim women. It will further push those families into difficulties that are sought to be united under the law.

***SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on an important Bill. I want to say that this Bill is unilateral, brought with an intent and against the spirit of the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India, framed by our revolutionist Dr. Ambedkar allows religious freedom. Freedom to every religion is envisaged in the Constitution of India but this Bill is interfering in that religious freedom. In all the matters like marriage, divorce, legal heirship, property rights, separate freedom is provided for Hindus, Muslims and Christians. There are personal laws available. They are also called as family laws. This Bill is creating a situation by interfering in the personal law. People of other religions cannot interfere in the customs followed by Hindus for so long. Government cannot interfere. Similarly Government should not interfere in the Shariat law, which is the personal law for Muslims. We should understand that this is what is called as religious freedom and secularism that are enshrined in the Constitution of India. I think that the intent of this law is to bring Common Civil Code. We cannot accept any sort of interference in the Muslim Personal law; this will create confusion among the Muslim families. I see this as an effort to create confusion among the men and women of Islam. I want to register and insist upon at any stage that my party, Viduthalai Chiruthaikal Katchi will not accept this law. Why are you differentiating justice between Hindu women and Muslim women? There is an illusion that Hindu women have secured living and there is no security for Muslim women. Therefore the Government is showing so much concern. That's why this Bill is being brought in a hurried manner. I want to urge the Hon. Minister and the Government that they should ponder over the issue of whether Hindu women are living with full protection. Every day Hindu women are affected. Many Hindu women are left with no support; they,

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

in large number, face atrocities. It is a matter of grave concern that one's own children and daughters are being killed in this country in the name of honour killing. I want to ask whether this Government will come forward to protect the Hindu women of this country. This law will destroy the Muslim families besides affecting their unity. This law will be misused to take vengeance against Muslim men. Hon. Minister should give up this Bill which is brought with a malicious intent and I urge that he should withdraw this Bill. This law should never be implemented. Thank you for this opportunity. Vanakkam.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): Hon Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you on behalf of me and my party for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. This Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha for the third time. When this Bill was introduced for the first time:-

[English]

I want to quote Ms. Flavia Agnes, a women's rights lawyer and Director of Majlis, which runs a rape victim support programme in Mumbai. She says: "The Government is intending to override a well-established norm that laws for minority communities must be enacted after holding discussions with community leaders/representatives, legal experts, and other stakeholders, and after striving to reach a consensus, by tabling the Bill to criminalise triple *talaq*. Behind this hasty move is the formulation that the Muslim woman must invariably be projected as devoid of rights and lacking agency, and the Muslim male as pre-modern, lustful, polygamous, and barbaric."

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I know that I have been given less time to speak. Sometimes this discussion is generalized. I would like to say that the new generations of young Muslims are different in their thinking. Triple *talaq* is being discussed, Owaisi Sahab and Masoodi Sahab said that *talaq* is not an encourageable thing in Islam. All the things which have been described as Halal by Allah, most of them are about *talaq*. It is not an encourageable thing. Triple *talaq* should be discussed or not, but my biggest objection is on section 4 of this new Bill. If a non-Muslim gives *talaq*, he will not be punished and only Muslims will be punished. We are against this.

Hon. Speaker sir, if we want women empowerment, Congress Government had brought a Women Reservation Bill for women empowerment in Panchayat

and Nagar Palika due to which many women were elected to Panchayat and Nagar Palika. If this Government really wants to empower women, then Women Reservation Bill should also be brought in the House at the earliest. Today there is not even a single Muslim woman in this House. If the women Reservation Bill is passed, at least 2- 4 Muslim women will be elected to this House.

Hon. Speaker sir, the issue of nationalism is also raised. I would like to submit that we should ensure that a sense of separatism should not grow in the Muslims of our country the way it has grown within the Muslims of the whole world. We are told- 'Hubbul Watan Minal Iman' which means the love for the own country is a part of honesty. It is taught to us and the same should be strengthened. When we talk about the empowerment of women, particularly the empowerment of Muslim women, then we will also have to think empathically about the condition of the Muslim women detained in the Detention Camp of Assam. We should also think about the experiences the women of the family of Mohammed Sanauallah who played a role in Kargil War also when actions were taken against him in Assam. I want this Bill be sent to the Select Committee as it provides for the punishable offence.

HON. SPEAKER: A number of hon. Members said that there is no female Muslim Member of Parliament in this House. I listened it several times. It should be in the knowledge of the House that Shrimati Sajda had asked a supplementary question in the morning. She spoke for the first time in this session. This point has been raised by four-five Members.

[English]

SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE (HOOGHLY): Thank you, Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019. This is a historic moment for all of us because this Bill will give Muslim women equality and a dignified life, which is their well-deserved right. *[Translation]* I have been sitting in the House since morning. All the hon. Members don't want to accept the triple Talaq Bill. I want to ask three questions in the House. You talk about Muslim woman, Muslim man. I have three questions. *[English]* In the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, which is a Hindu Act, section 3 talks about the penalty for giving or taking dowry; for the Hindu, he shall be punishable with imprisonment up to five years and a fine which shall not be less than Rs.15,000.

The second point is, under section 498A of IPC, a Hindu Act, to stop offences of cruelty by the husband or his relatives against the wife, the husband shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine.

The third point is, under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1956, section 17 talks about the punishment for bigamy; the offence is punishable with imprisonment up to seven years and a fine. *[Translation]* All these laws are meant for the Hindus. No one raised any objection when it was passed. Now when the provision of 3 years imprisonment was made for the Muslim, then all the people here got upset. Sudeep Bandyopadhyay ji said that if he was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, then will he be able to give alimony to his wife? Sudeep ji, I want to ask you that there are many Hindu people in West Bengal. You did not say anything when the Act meant for the Hindus was passed and you are speaking for Muslims now.

[English]

*....*There are many Hindus in West Bengal. You should not forget this. Don't just think about the Muslims. You are crying for the provision of imprisonment of the Muslim men. The Bengalis are watching this. They are not liking this.

It is a matter of oppression, exploitation and injustice. It is a tool to loot the right of equality from the crores of Muslim sisters. India's Muslim population is about the world's second largest and one of the largest Muslim-minority population. So, it is high-time that we take responsibility; bring their representatives to this Parliament; to give their mothers justice that they deserve who have waited and fought for such a long time. This law will give dignity to my Muslim sisters whose struggle started legally with Shah Bano and I hope, they will be given justice in this session of Parliament.

It is easy for everyone to just leave this issue alone as has been done in the past. But this Government loves to do things that are hard. That is why, we are being inspired to work day and night tirelessly in this Parliament. Swami Vivekananda said, "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing." It is from his energy that we derive our inspiration from. But why should Muslim women continue to live in fear? Why must they live in sadness? Why are their new and young family subjected to fragments? Are they not entitled to human rights? *

[Translation]

There is a couple of Sahir Ludhianvi ji. I do not understand but I am trying to read it out:

“Aurat ne janm diya mardon ko, Mardon ne usko Bazaar diya,
Jab jee chaha masla, kuchla, jab jee chaha dutkar diya”

..... English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Why should the Muslim women live in fear? Does the Constitution not provide rights to them? Does the Constitution of a secular country also view them merely as the Muslim women? I would like to ask a question to the House. They need to be freed not only from triple talaq but also from the offences like polygamy and Halala. Vivekanand ji has said that women have been struggling for thousands of years and hence they have a lot of perseverance and patience. The Muslim women have been waiting for freedom for centuries in India. They kept mum while Turkey got rid triple talaq in 1926. But when the sisters of Pakistan and Bangladesh, the countries which separated from the independent India, got rid of triple talaq due to their agitation in 1960, they kept crying. The judgment delivered by the Supreme Court in Shah Bano case was overturned with overwhelming majority by the House. Even the countries like Syria, Iraq, Sudan and Libya have freed their women from triple talaq but no one felt the pangs of our Muslim sisters behind their veils soaked in tears in the political fight of India. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modiji, this Government is committed to fulfill its duty because our resolve is '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*' and in this very resolution lies the faith of all Muslim women of our country. The hon. Members from TMC party keep num when the Triple Talaq Bill comes up in the House for discussion. They are able neither to hear anything nor to speak anything and just remain calculative in their thinking as to how many votes they will lose if they go this way and how many votes they will lose if they go that way. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a calculation. These people do the politics of vote bank and this is not their fault but the fault of the renowned family. The name of Congress is attached to their name.*(Interruptions)* Everybody knows that a few years ago, Suzette Jordan was raped in Park Street and she is no more now. The Chief Minister of the State said that it is a petty and fabricated incident. A female police officer was investigating the case to bring the truth ot light but she was transferred. Despite being a woman Chief Minister, she is not supporting women. Five Muslim women including Ishrat Jahan are fighting for the cause of

freedom from triple talaq. Ishrat Jahan hailing from West Bengal, is still fighting but she is being defamed by the Muslim community in the State being ruled by a woman Chief Minister.

You can see that despite being a woman, she mixed up femininity and religion. That is why, I want to say that a few days ago at the time of election, a female MP was speaking from the podium that she did not support triple talaq. At that time, the Chief Minister said on the stage that no, she was a little girl and she supported triple talaq, leave her, this is the party line. You see it. Today I want that all the Members of this House to jointly bid adieu to this crime of talaq, talaq, talaq from the life of a woman. Thank you

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, Ms. Locket Chatterjee was very dear to Mamata ji and so she was dear to us also! But, in West Bengal Parliamentary constituencies are only 42. She possibly fell in the category of 43+. So she could not have been given ...*(Interruptions)* I hope she does better! ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Sushri S. Jothimani ji,

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing else but Sushri S. Jothimani ji's speech should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed the Hon. Member to speak, so wherever she speaks, either here or there, please conclude in two minutes.

[English]

SUSHRI S JOTHIMANI (KARUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would need only three minutes.

Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to express my serious reservations on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights and Marriage) Bill, 2019, especially on its criminality clause.

Many of my colleagues here have said that the hon. Supreme Court has already struck down the clause of instant triple talaq. My colleagues from the Treasury Benches have very passionately and eloquently spoken about talaq. The heart of the hon. Minister bleeds for our Muslim sisters against this injustice. I wish the same heart bleeds for our non-Muslim sisters, especially Hindus. I would like know from the hon. Minister as to why he is differentiating between Muslim women and non-Muslim women. Why does the Government think non-Muslim women, especially Hindu women, are not going through any kind of marital dispute? Does he not know of any men from the Hindu community who have abandoned their wives? The hon. Minister has to think about this. What is the reason behind bringing this Bill? I am accusing this Government that they are bringing this Bill only to suit their political agenda which is to divide people on religious lines. Now, this Government is applying the same policy -- divide and rule -- policy amongst women as well. With utmost determination and hope, I am saying that the Government will not succeed in their political agenda by dividing women on religious lines. Yes, we are women of this great land and have our own faiths. This is a matter of our personal choice which we are practicing in our personal lives. But when it comes to sharing the personal space, we are just women and daughter of this great country. We have been meted out injustices for decades now, whether it is a Hindu woman, Christian woman, Sikh woman -- irrespective of religion, we all have been going through the same oppression, subjugation, discrimination and sexual harassment which is both rape and marital

rape. I am again using the word 'marital rape'. A law on this has to be passed by this Parliament. I hope the hon. Minister will take the initiative for that as well. So, these are the kind of subjugations that women go through. We are going through the glass ceiling every other day on the same basis without any religious basis. This is the ground reality which every woman is facing. The Government is not taking this into account but only bringing a law in the name of protecting the Muslim women. You are never supporting the Muslim women. You are actually against the non-Muslim women. I am accusing the Government for this.

Secondly, I strongly believe that we have miles to go to fight for our justice together as a woman. We will not get divided by the divisive agenda of this Bill or the ideology of the Government. I hope all the sisters, irrespective of religion, will agree with me. Not only women, men who have sisters and are willing to fight for justice for women will agree with me on this. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, to send this Bill to the concerned Departmentally-related Standing Committee.

Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker, Sir, a very effective discussion on a very important subject took place in this House for about five and a half hours. Our learned friends have delivered a very effective speech. The list of their names is long. I will not waste time by taking everyone's name. I would like to thank everyone. We have brought this law for women. I will especially thank the female Members, Meenakshi Lekhi, Kirron Kher, Kanimozhi of this House who have participated in this discussion.*[English]* I hope she is there but she is not present *[Translation]* Poonam Mahajan, Aparajita Sarangi, Locket

Chatterjee, *[English]* all of them have spoken brilliantly, though their perspectives are different.

[Translation]

Sir, I will answer point-by-point. Many points have been raised repeatedly. Now it is being said that why you have brought this for Muslims, everybody has raised this subject. Since the triple talaq is there and nowhere else. If the triple talaq had been in another *Jamaat*, we would have acted for that as well. It is very simple thing. I do not understand why there are so many hue and cries about this.

Sir, one more thing is there, I will describe in detail as to why it is needed. I am not going to touch up on the topic that it has been controlled in 20-22 Islamic countries of the world. In many countries, it is civil case, in many other countries, it is criminal case. All these things are well known, I am not going to argue about it. I want to quote one thing. Aamir Ali Commentary on Mohammadan Law was first published in 1908. Aamir Ali was a very learned man. He was a member of the Privy Council. At that time, he became a judge of the Bengal High Court. The Calcutta High Court was formed later on. So far, dozens of editions of this book have been published. I want to read out a paragraph of its 2005 edition about Talaq-e-Biddat. Sir, allow me to read five or six lines.

[English]

“As a matter of fact, the capricious and irregular exercise of the power of divorce which was in the beginning left to the husbands was firmly disapproved by the Prophet. It is reported that when once news was brought to him that one of his disciples had divorced his wife pronouncing talaq thrice at the same time, the Prophet stood up in anger on his chapel and declared that the man was making a play thing of the words of God and made him take back his wife.”

[Translation]

I have much respect for prophet Mohammad. If he put so many restrictions on triple talaq, then why India has to work hard for 70 years in this direction. This is the third time that it has been introduced in this House. I'm sorry. We respect all the communities. Some hon. Members are interested more in scuttling the move to pass the Bill than in scrutinizing it and here lies the problem.

Sir, I would like to elaborate this issue a little more. This House has enacted many laws. Meenakshi ji and Poonam Mahajan ji have mentioned it in detail. After the 1955 debate, a lot of changes were made in Hindu law. This House itself had passed them. It is Hindu Marriage Act. When the child marriage was done away with by the Sharda Act, it was said that they had abolished it but if we would determine any age, then we had fixed the age, the age of husband was 21 years and the age of wife was 18 years. It was placed in the Essentials of Hindu Marriage and a provision was made in Section 18 that if anyone violates it, then he will be sentenced to two years imprisonment. This law was passed by your Government in the year 1955, congratulations for it that you showed courage for this.

Sir, then comes the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. I should very politely correct the point of respected Lockett ji that it applies to all. Whether it is a Hindu husband or a Hindu mother-in-law, whether it is a Muslim husband or a Muslim mother-in-law and the punishment is for both the sides. One who takes dowry or gives dowry is sentenced for five-year imprisonment and one who demands dowry is also sentenced for two years imprisonment. This law was brought by your Government, it's a good thing. Then came the Indian Penal Code 498 (A). Sir, I want to read it out:-

[English]

“Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with

imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.”

[Translation]

Whether he is a Hindu husband or a Muslim husband, it applies to all. This law was enacted in the year 1983. At that time also you were in power. You brought the Act of 1955, congratulations to you. You brought the Dowry Prohibition Act, congratulations to you. You brought the Section 498(A), congratulations to you. If this was your history then despite having in the Majority of 400 MPs in the year 1986, why have your steps started shaking in Shan Bano case, it is a big question. They had a majority of 400 Members, we may have differences with them but I felt that Rajiv Gandhi ji was progressive and got such a huge mandate. Why the feet of Congress, which has this tradition started shaking in the case of Shah Bano just at the maintenance of Rs. 125, it is a big question. This is the journey from Shanbano to Shairabano. It shows that triple talaq is bad, triple talaq is wrong –‘but’. But what is this ‘but’? This is a question about 'but, about vote. The Congress Party brought these four laws. I congratulate Congress party but why did the feet of that Congress party shake in 1986 and why are the feet of the Congress party shaking even today on triple talaq, we want to ask this? As I said earlier, I will not repeat. Triple talaq can be controlled in more than 20 Islamic countries. Gaurav Babu, let me tell you that it is also in Bangladesh, it is also in Pakistan and somewhere it is bailable and somewhere non-bailable. It is controlled in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Malaysia also. *[English]* So, let us not go into that debate. *[Translation]* Apart from civil case, it is made criminal case as well. Where there is Sharia, they can change it we are a secular country. This is the question we are asking. Whether Owaisi Sir is present or he has left. I used to think that Owaisi sir knew a lot about Islam. Just now I mentioned Amir Ali, if it was Prophet Muhammad who found it to be wrong and

when someone practised it, he asked him to get his wife back. I believe that the sermon of prophet sahab is final. I think that people like Owaisi sahab travel all across India and say in front of women that if someone gives talaq, then he is standing with them as prophet saheb said that it was wrong. I have a complete judgment of the Supreme Court. Where is our friend Rajiv Lalan? He had said that All India Muslim Personal Law Board should be consulted with. All India Muslim Personal Law Board said in its affidavit before the Supreme Court not to interfere in the matter and we will persuade our community and fix the contract and at the time of marriage every husband and every wife will tell each other that *[English]* I will not give you triple talaq. *[Translation]* Did they make any effort?

Did they do anything? Their people and supporters did nothing else but organized meetings all over India against triple talaq. Owaisi Sahab, that's why, I say that if a matter comes up for discussion, then its ripple effects will reach far and wide. Moreover, these people will ask you the reasons for your indifference. I would also like to say....*(Interruptions)* Now, it has been said that this Bill has been brought in because of the Supreme Court. Sir, you may see my complete record of what I said. Two Hon'ble justices Shri Nariman and Shri Lalit said- *[English]* "It is unconstitutional, arbitrary and void." *[Translation]* Is it the end of the debate? Hon'ble Justice Kurien Sahab said- *[English]* "If it a sin in Quran, how it can be legal in law?" *[Translation]* The rest of people said that we believe in it but the Parliament should enact a law in this regard. I have explained this point with my total uprightness.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing very humbly. This Parliament does not need any directive from the Supreme Court to enact a law. This Parliament is a sovereign body in itself in this respect, but let me tell you the reasons why we brought this legislation. Our Government was formed in 2014. Shaira Banu moved the Supreme Court to seek justice against triple talaq in 2013 but I am sorry to say that no reply was filed on behalf of you while you were in

power. This file was sent to me to decide what to do. I approached our Prime Minister and asked him as to what to do. He said to go and stand in support with the women affected by triple talaq. Modi Ji's Government will stand in their support...*(Interruptions)* Subsequently, we filed the affidavit and it was argued.

Sir, tell me one thing. The decision has been made, the Judgment has delivered and as I said that there have been 574 cases since the year 2017 and 345 cases have been reported till July 24, 2019 after the judgment. When we brought the Ordinance even after that 101 more cases have been reported. There have been 74 cases in UP. It is necessary to say today that I tried to know about these suffering women. What used to happen? Bring the dowry, otherwise, talak, talak talak, she wakes up late in the morning so the chapatti was not baked properly. Sir, it was an experience for me too which I want to share with you. The Prime Minister has also given me the IT department. One day an IT professional came to me. She was from Muslim community. She made me very emotional, she said that she had given birth to three daughters and her husband gave her triple talaq from Dubai. Please tell me that we should say them to hang the Judgment of Supreme Court in a frame and hang it because when they used to go to the police, the police used to say that they have no power in this regard. To file an FIR, to take legal action, power should be there in law. Should we leave all these women on the road? I will say very politely that I am the Law Minister of the Narendra Modi Government and not of the Rajiv Gandhi Government*(Interruptions)*

Had this work been done in the year 1986 then perhaps this work was not been left for us*(Interruptions)* Adhir Babu, I have humbly greeted your Government, listen to me peacefully.....*(Interruptions)* please sit down...*(Interruptions)* Why has it been made a criminal offence? I want to tell you that there is thinking behind this. You can see how fair we are that when this was brought to us that please specify if a neighbour can file an FIR, an enemy can

strike? To this, we said, no, only the victim woman or her marriage or blood relatives can file an FIR.

On this, they said that there should be the option of reconciliation. We said why not should it be done, why we would break someone's marriage? We have also put a condition for that. Why have you made it a punishable offence, many people have asked this question again and again. When a Penal provision was incorporated in the Hindu Marriage Act, then no one said anything. Section 5 of the Hindu Marriage Act says that action will be taken against you, if you marry another woman while having a spouse. What action will be taken, it is in Section 494 of IPC. There is provision for jail term of 7 years in that. Adultery is in Section 498, I am talking about Section 494. Rest I talked about the Dowry provision. Just now there was a discussion about the Domestic violence Act. The eco-system of domestic violence is completely different. It says that if there is violence against you, then either you are married or live together, a protection officer will come and he will put a complaint to the magistrate and after that you will get protection for a year. If it is violated, then action can be taken against them and they can be sentenced to one year imprisonment which is non-bailable. It must be understood that it does not deal with triple talaq. That is why Hindu Marriage Act 1955 is there for Hindus. I want to say one thing very clearly and humbly in the House that we have neither criminalized the talaq-e-Hasan, nor made the talaq-e-Ahsan a crime. I have told that only talaq-e-biddat is a crime. Because the Supreme Court said that this is wrong and with due respect, I would humbly say that before this, Prophet Sahab also said that it is wrong. That is why it was made. I would like to ask a question those who talk about Jamaat, who talk about politics, who talk about rights in this House as to what they have done for women? Today, I want to say in the House with deep pain that many women came to me and said that they wanted to congratulate me after this law, our Eid is also today and our 15th August is also today. They said this with great pain. That is

why I have repeatedly said that this question is neither a question of religion, nor of worship, nor of ibadat, nor of prayer, nor of vote, but it is about the dignity of women, justice to woman and honour of women. It has been said repeatedly that we are interfering in their faith. Is meting out injustice to women is called faith? Which religion says to mete out injustice to the daughters and women of your religion? No religion permits that.

Sir, I was repeatedly asked what the provisions were there in the other religions? Sir, whether it is Parsi law, the rest of the law, there are provisions in that.

[English]

Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, Section 66 says:

“False oath, declaration, notice, or certificate for procuring marriage...shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and, at the discretion of the Court, with fine.”

Similarly, in the Parsi Marriage Divorce Act, 1936, there is Section 5, which deals with 'Punishment for bigamy'. *[Translation]* If somebody goes into the second marriage, then Section 494 and 495 of IPC are applicable. There is a law in case of Parsi as well... *(Interruptions)* Sir, such a provision has been made in the Christian Marriage Act also. I am saying one thing again and again that if someone goes and takes a divorce in the court, there is no need for any penal provision. He is following a legal course. For Muslims also, there are provisions. Talaq-e-Ahsan is there, Talaq-e-Hasan is there, there are other types of talaq also, if someone follows it. Pakistan and Bangladesh have declared that anyone who does not follow that procedure will be punished with criminal punishment. After following the procedure, every court called Talaq-e-Biddat wrong and the Prophet said it wrong, yet you will say that you will continue to do so and you

are doing it continuously. It is being done a week in advance. It is a country; the country should not tolerate it.

Sir, I have one more thing to say, I am trying to raise some big questions. Someone has spoken about the tradition of this country and it has been said that they are being targeted. I will speak very humbly today that we get the vote of the akaliyati Jamaat rarely, but whenever we win, we work honestly with the moto *Sabka Sath, Sabka Viswas*. Sir, I want to give two examples in this House and am giving for the first time. One is Karim-UI- Haq, who is from Jalpaiguri and a worker in Tea Garden. He lives in the mountains and his mother passed away because the ambulance could not reach the mountains. He made a resolution that he would take sick people to the hospital on a motorcycle. In this way he had saved the lives of about two thousand people. One day while he was working in his garden, he received a call from the PMO that whether he was Karim-UI-Haq, and he was doing such work. From the Prime Minister's Office, the call goes to Karim-UI-Haq, who is working in the tea garden, what will be the effect on him, you can understand. He was told that the Prime Minister would talk to you. Modi ji said, Karim-UI-Haq ji you are doing a very good job. Come to Delhi, we are going to give you Padma Shri, because you are doing good work. Have we thought about knowing what his faith is? He is doing a good job....*(Interruptions)* You talked about being targeted, so now you listen.

Sir, fifty years of the 1965 war were completed in the year 2015. The Prime Minister asked all the Ministers to watch the exhibition at India Gate. The day we went, we had a desire to know the story of Abdul Hameed, how that battle was fought. The jeep, which he used and mounted six missiles on his shoulder and hit Pakistani tanks with that, was also there. His driver was also a Muslim, who was now about 75 years old. He told us the story. Seeing his courage, the people of Pakistan wanted to kill him and fired a bomb on the side of the jeep where Abdul Hameed was standing and he was martyred. He got the Param Vir Chakra. We

also saw that jeep. Sir, after that visit we became very emotional. We were told that Abdul Hameed's wife is present there. All of us went to her and touched her feet. At that time, we were touching the feet of a patriot, we were not touching the feet of any Muslim. This is our thinking and this will remain our thinking. We want to say that this thinking will not change for any political loss and profit and vote politics.

Sir, it is being said that it has been criminalized. How will he be able to give the maintenance? What can I say on this question? (*Interruptions*) All of you are saying why I have made triple talaq a criminal act, it is a civil offence.(*Interruptions*) I am answering to this. It has also been said that if you put him into jail, how will he be able to give maintenance, because he will be in jail. Let us understand that the Indian Penal Code applies to Hindus, it applies to everyone. Some Muslim people also commit crime and go to jail, then this question does not arise at that time. When a Muslim husband goes to jail in dowry case, then the question does not arise, how will he take care of his wife? They do not give maintenance after divorce. Explain why this question is being raised when the triple talaq is being discussed. This is a very important question. Why have we built this entire architecture? If there had been any meaningful suggestion in the entire discussion, we would have accepted that. Only one suggestion came, decriminalize it, why is the Government interfering? It means that she should stay there as wife and not go to the police station. If she goes to the police station, bail would be granted in the police station itself. The husband will say go, do whatever you want to do. This is the question [*English*] The penal law is also a deterrent. [*Translation*] Several times the law requires deterrence to prevent such people from committing crime. It has been said very well that when the deterrence was brought into Hindu society, its effect is visible. Whether it is the practice of Sati, whether it is the Sharda Act, whether it is about the age of marriage or the

matter of bigamy or the matter of the marrying second time when first wife is alive, all these things have stopped.

Sir, Members have spoken about the stakeholders repeatedly. Who is stakeholder? Are the women of this country stakeholders or not? Are the daughters of Muslim society stakeholders or not? *[English]* Therefore, I would like to raise the question before this hon. House that whenever you talk of stakeholders' consultation, for us, the one and only relevant stakeholders are the women who are victim of triple talaq and not the All-Indian Muslim Personal Law Board.

We are hearing their voices. We are addressing their concerns and we are giving respect to their voices. *[Translation]* We have said this time and again. Sir, I want to say very politely that if even once the leaders of the Muslim society had carried out any national campaign against triple talaq, done something honestly, I would have called them and talked to them. But I have also got recommendation, just as you got, that Ravi ji, please decriminalize it. I asked whether you have nothing to say about the women of this country?

Sir, now discrimination has been talked about time and again. *[English]* There is no discrimination; I have already explained that. *[Translation]* Now the matter of abandonment was brought up again and again. I would like to say if Hindus are in majority in this country, then the number of Hindus will be more. Is there any big topic in it? The number of Hindus is much more than the number of Muslims in this country. We do not accept the abandonment of anyone's wife as appropriate. But in the law of India, in the Hindu Marriage Act, in Domestic Violence Act, there is complete provision in this regard. Section 498 of the Indian Penal Code, is meant for such abandoned wives, and action is also taken under it. Now someone has said that many false cases are filed which should not happen. But tell me one thing, and this question was raised by Hon. Home Minister yesterday. If any law is misused in one case, should that law be repealed? Isn't Section 302 misused in this country? Many times people get trapped and

exonerated by the court. In section 420, does it not happen? People get exonerated from the court. If a provision is misused, then that provision is not wrong. This whole thinking is meaningless in itself, because it is a safeguard and deterrent to bring reform and to take the society forward.

Sir, it was said that the law for mob lynching should be brought. It sounds good, with all the enthusiasm you were talking about mob lynching, now why are you not talking with the same enthusiasm? But when several intelligent people having the knowledge of law speak, I fail to understand the need for that as there is section 302 under Indian Penal Code for Murder, 120B for conspiracy, 149 is there and today in mob lynching such people are being sentenced by the court. Now, the Supreme Court has said about it, and it is a separate matter for consideration, but if incidents of mob lynching are happening, then action is also being taken.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I do not have any poetry to recite. But today I was listening very calmly that if I could see any light, then I would have tried to understand that light immediately. Therefore, every time Standing Committee or Select Committee is not required. There is a time when one should listen to the voice of pain. Today, the women of this country, daughters- sisters of Muslim society are looking forward to this House with hope. I will again say today that it should not be seen through political angle, it is a question of humanity, of justice, and the whole House should pass this Bill. I conclude my speech with these words.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Law Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* There was no sympathizer, there was no pain, now we got some sympathizer, then our pain also got aggravated. Therefore, do not talk about sympathy. Hon. Law Minister, it seems good that you have started referring to

the Prophet to get this Bill passed here. We also say in this House or outside that Lord Rama and the Prophet are the same. There is no difference between Ram and Rahim. If all of you understand this, then there will be no need to pass any other Bill in India. ...*(Interruptions)* The issue is*(Interruptions)* You said that Talaq-e- biddat....*(Interruptions)* I am asking for clarification only...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, Talaq-e-Hasan, Talaq- a Biddat are given by the husbands and wife gives Khula and Mubarak is mutual. These are all provisions in the Muslim community. Considering what the Supreme Court did, it expressed its opinion on talaq-e-biddat, considering Sharia, 1937 obsolete. Why don't you talk about that? Why do you interpret it differently? The Supreme Court did not ask you to criminalize it, make provision of punishment in it. The Supreme Court did not say this to you, because the existing laws in India are sufficient. If someone makes a mistake, if someone gives divorce to someone, the legal system in India to punish him is sufficient. You are saying yourself, I am not saying it. Our opposition is on this small issue only. See, we made you a little smarter through our protest. We protested first, we gave you good advice, you have made three amendments. But in that too, you are trying to keep your words by twisting it. No work will be done without putting pressure on you, so I oppose criminalization. I still oppose it.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, hon. Members, if there is any clarification, please ask for any clarification. Do not start a debate. If you have any clarification, then ask, otherwise do not start the debate.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Ravi Shankar Ji, I categorically say that when the Supreme Court gave its judgement that divorce, by pronouncing talaq

three times, is null and void, we took it for granted that this issue would not be reflected upon any further. We told it but you did not appreciate this stand. It was all out in support of your Bill. We, in principle, extended support by saying that we will follow the Supreme Court judgement. But punishment of three years imprisonment, which we oppose very categorically, is excessive, arbitrary and irrational. This was our statement. Nothing was mentioned in it particularly about this issue and it has not been responded at all and as a mark of protest, we walk out from this.

17.58 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri. P.P. Chaudhary, if there is any clarification, please ask.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): The Hon. Minister has referred to the affidavit submitted in the Supreme Court by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. I have been listening to all the arguments since morning and Owaisi ji had also mentioned that the triple talaq is a civil breach of contract, not criminal. But the All India Muslim Personal Law Board gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court, I want to know the clarification about that five words they used in affidavit. They have mentioned that triple talaq is *haraam*, crime, unjust, atrocious and cruelty. The use of such words indicates that All India Muslim Personal Board itself believes that this is an offence. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that if such words are used in the affidavit, then why this explanation or clarification is added to the Bill that the Muslim Board itself believes that it is an offence, so punishment can be given for the same.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Anubhav Mohanty.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Hon. Minister gave very good reply. I really appreciate it. I have a small clarification to ask, which I also kept in my speech. That is, please make me understand. I want to know and learn from you that when this Triple Talaq is void after Supreme Court Judgement, then after that when he is imprisoned, will he pay maintenance to his legally wedded wife or legally divorced wife? Tell me, when triple Talaq is void, how will we understand it?.*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is six o'clock. If the House agrees, then the time may be extended till the completion of discussion on this Bill and the Zero Hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

18.00 hrs

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I want to ask two questions to the Minister.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask only clarification.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: The first question is, what is the crime here? I think we all agree that the crime here is the desertion of a wife without taking responsibility. But why then criminalise only one community's way of achieving this desertion? Why is a law criminalising and punishing desertion only by

Muslim husbands when other husbands can also desert their wives with impunity? We have to find out how we address this particular act.

My second question to the Minister is this. The Minister in his reply today mentioned three laws, Dowry Prohibition Act, Domestic Violence Act and so on, brought by the Congress Party. But those offences were not illegal till we passed the law. This triple talaq is already illegal, thanks to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has declared it as illegal and void. So, why was this law necessary? ...*(Interruptions)* Let me just explain. He said that it was necessary for the police. But when the Supreme Court said that section 377 was void, they never brought a law to say that the police need a law in order not to prosecute homosexuals and gays. What is the logic of doing that here?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Owaisi ji, only ask clarification.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, 377 regarding homosexuality has been decriminalized, adultery has been decriminalized. I would like to know since you are going to make this law, and you also have numbers. I am asking the hon. Minister whether Domestic Violence Act, 498 (A) IPC, 125 CRPC, 86 CAT, they are all useless and hence you are making laws. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, I have an important question. I am seeking another clarification. You do not ask accused in Terrorism and Murder cases at the time of bail. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have said this in your speech. There is no clarification on this. You have said this in your speech during the discussion in the House. I listen to each word of the discussion.

Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Sir, the practice of triple talaq started in the Umedia regime and there was a provision of punishment of 40 whips in the law under the Umedia regime. It means that they also believe that this is a punishable offence, so you can punish him. Punishment can be changed, otherwise there will be the punishment of 40 whips(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you only have to reply these points.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I am not going to answer the questions which I have already answered, and the questions which have been repeated. Hon. Shashi Tharoor mentioned that they brought the Dowry Act, then later it got termed as illegal. Like the Supreme Court, you also said that dowry is illegal, why did you insert a penal clause in it, because the person asking for dowry should be punished. So you did it. You did what is there in Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. That is why this triple talaq is proved to be wrong, so, what action will be taken against the person indulging in such wrong doing? This is the deterrence and we have tried to work on. It is very clear.

[*English*]

As far as your question is concerned, the reply is very simple because triple talaq is illegal *per se*. Therefore, the relationship between the husband and wife subsists. Therefore, she is entitled to subsistence allowance and not maintenance allowance. The words we have used are, 'subsistence allowance'. Since talaq-e-biddat, triple talaq, does not end the marriage in terms of both the Supreme Court's judgement and our law, the marriage subsists and when the marriage subsists, he has to pay subsistence allowance.

Coming to the questions of Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, *[Translation]* I want to say one thing that bail should be given after hearing the wife's plea. One reason is that there are chances of conciliations in it because it is a tussle between husband and wife.

Sir, I would like to say it clearly, when the matter of bail comes for hearing, then either her husband or advocate will be there. He will be asked whether he has given triple talaq? If you have not given, then take your wife with you respectfully. His statement will be recorded. Matter is closed. If you have given triple talaq, then go to jail. We have made this very clear. There is no problem in that. We are not making things complicated in the legal framework as Modi ji's Government doesn't believe in making things difficult, we believe in accessibility. *[English]* I think I have explained all the points.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Thank you very much, Speaker, Sir. The learned hon. Minister has replied to almost all the queries, which have been raised in the House except the ones of the Mover of the Resolution, that is, myself, who has raised very serious issues.

Regarding the promulgation of Ordinance, the hon. Minister was very silent. Three Ordinances were promulgated consecutively from September 2018 to the last February.

Coming to the last portion of the hon. Minister's reply to the discussion, on the Ordinance as well as on the Bill, that is, as regards mob lynching, the hon. Minister has very specifically stated that, to an extent, it is justifiable also. For the sake of argument, I do appreciate the argument advanced by the hon. Minister that though there is mob lynching which is affecting the minorities and *Dalit* people in the country, there are ample provisions in the Indian Penal Code under Section 120, which is about Criminal Conspiracy, to address that issue. So, there are many provisions so as to address that issue. I fully appreciate it.

Our argument, which we have advanced is, when the hon. Supreme Court has declared it as null and void and it is void *ab initio*, it has become an illegal act and the marriage still subsists. Marital relations between husband and wife still subsists. But the Government wants to separate them. How could it be possible? The Government wants to send the husband to jail. The Supreme Court says that husband and wife relationship will still subsist though the husband has pronounced talaq, talaq, talaq. It will not stand in law. So, the husband is husband and the wife is wife. The marriage still subsists.

No doubt, the hon. Minister has given a very wonderful reply to the pertinent question raised by the hon. Members. I do appreciate it. But, at the same time, when the hon. Minister says that there are ample provisions so as to compare and address the mob lynching, in this case also, Section 498A is there. As far as desertion and bigamy is concerned, it is a special Act, which has nothing to do here. So, here he has diverted. Mr. Shashi Tharoor has rightly stated that since this has already been declared by the Supreme Court as null and void, there is no significance in having the law.

Sir, I will conclude after raising my final point just for academic exercise. My point is, even if any desertion or if anything happens as far as the aggrieved wife is concerned, she is having other course of remedies so as to redress her grievances. In such a situation, let us allow the husband and wife to live together to have a better life. This is one point that I wanted to raise.

Then, the constitutional morality, which a very learned hon. lady Member from the other side has talked about, is a very good point. I think, if the Government agrees, let us have a discussion on the judgements on constitutional morality. The Attorney General, Shri K.K. Venugopal, after the Sabarimala Verdict, has made a very pertinent point. He said, if the Supreme Court or the judiciary is giving verdicts on the basis of constitutional morality, then the apprehension made by the former Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru will become a reality. What was the apprehension made by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru? The

apprehension was that the judiciary will become the Third Chamber of the Legislature. Here, in this case, a minority judgement has been taken into consideration so as to make a legislation that will never hold good.

With these words, I respond. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put the statutory resolution moved by Shri N. K. Premchandran to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That this House disapproves the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019 (No. 4 of 2019) promulgated by the President on 21 February 2019”.

Motion was Negatived

HON. SPEAKER: Now I put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri N.K. Premchadran to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 23rd October, 2019”.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“ That the Bill to protect the rights of married Muslim women and to prohibit divorce by pronouncing talaq by their husbands and to provide for

matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration”.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Hon. Speaker, I want division....(*Interruptions*).

HON. SPEAKER: Lobbies to be cleared.

Now, Lobbies have been cleared.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: DIVISION

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Hon. Members, Division will now take place under Rule 367 AA by distribution of slips. ...(*Interruptions*) ... *

I repeat, hon. Members, Division will now take place under Rule 367 AA by distribution of slips. Members will be supplied at their seats with ‘Ayes’ and ‘Noes’ printed slips for recording their votes. ‘Ayes’ slips are printed on one side in green, both in English and Hindi and ‘Noes’ in red on its reverse. On the slips, Members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing legibly their names, Identity Card numbers, constituencies and State/Union Territory and date at the place specified on the slip. Members who desire to record ‘Abstention’ may ask for the ‘Abstention’ (Yellow colour) slip. Immediately after recording their vote, each Member should pass on the slip to the Division Officer who will come to their seat to collect the same for handing over to the officers at the Table. Members are requested to fill in only one slip for Division.

Members are also requested not to leave their seats till the slips are collected by the Division Officers. Thank you.

[Translation]

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: I place it once again.

The question is:

“The Bill to protect the rights of married Muslim women and to prohibit divorce by pronouncing talaq by their husbands and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration”.

10.19 hrs.

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)

The Lok Sabha divided:

DIVISION

AYES

18.21 hrs

Agrawal, Shri Rajendra

Ahluwalia, Shri S.S.

Ajgalley, Shri Guharam

Amarappa, Shri Karadi Sanganna

Ambareesh, Shrimati Sumalatha

Angadi, Shri Suresh C.

Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh
Baghel, Shri Vijay
Baheria, Shri Subhash Chandra
Balyan, Dr. Sanjeev
Bapat, Shri Girish Bhalchandra
Barla, Shri John
Barne, Shri Shrirang Appa
Baruah, Shri Pradan
Basavaraj, Shri G. S.
Beniwal, Shri Hanuman
Bey, Shri Horen Sing
Bhabhor, Shri Jashvantsinh Sumanbhai
Bhagat, Shri Sudarshan
Bhamre, Dr. Subhash Ramrao
Bhargava, Shri Ramakant
Bhatia, Shri Sanjay
Bhatt, Adv. Ajay
Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj', Shri
'Bhole', Shri Devendra Singh
Bhoumik, Sushri Pratima
Bidhuri, Shri Ramesh
Bind, Shri Ramesh
Bisen, Dr Dhal Singh
Bista, Shri Raju
Bohra, Shri Ramcharan
Chahar, Shri Rajkumar
Chandel, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh
Chatterjee, Shrimati Locket
Chaudhary, Shri P. P.

Chaudhary, Shri Pankaj
Chaudhuri, Sushri Debasree
Chauhan, Shri Devusinh
Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh
Chavda, Shri Vinod Lakhamshi
Choubey, Shri Ashwini Kumar
Choudhary, Shri Bhagirath
Choudhary, Shri Chandra Prakash
Choudhary, Shri Kailash
Choudhary, Shri Pradeep Kumar
Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand
Chudasama, Shri Rajesh Naranbhai
Dabhi, Shri Bharatsinhji Shankarji
Dadarao, Shri Danve Raosaheb
Damor, Shri Guman Singh
Das, Shri Pallab Lochan
Deb, Shri Nitesh Ganga
Devendrappa, Shri Y.
Devi, Shrimati Annpurna
Devi, Shrimati Rama
Devi, Shrimati Veena
Dhaduk, Shri Rameshbhai L.
Dharmapuri, Shri Arvind
Dhotre, Shri Sanjay Shamrao
Diler, Shri Rajveer
Dubey, Dr. Nishikant
Dubey, Shri Vijay Kumar
Duggal, Sushri Sunita
Dwivedi, Shri Harish

Firojiya, Shri Anil
Gaddigoudar, Shri P. C.
Gambhir, Shri Gautam
Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka Sanjay
Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
Gao, Shri Tapir
Gautam, Shri Satish Kumar
Gavit, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar
Ghosh, Shri Dilip
Godse, Shri Hemant Tukaram
Gogoi, Shri Topon Kumar
Gowda, Shri D.V. Sadananda
Gupta, Shri Sangam Lal
Gupta, Shri Sudheer
Hans, Shri Hans Raj
Hegde, Shri Anantkumar
Hembram, Shri Kunar
Irani, Shrimati Smriti Zubin
Jadav, Dr. Umesh G.
Jadhav, Shri Prataprao
Jadon, Dr. Chandra Sen
Jaiswal, Dr. Sanjay
Jardosh, Shrimati Darshana Vikram
Jaunapuria, Shri Sukhbir Singh
Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh Chandappa
Jolle, Shri Annasaheb Shankar
Joshi, Prof. Rita Bahuguna
Joshi, Shri C. P.
Joshi, Shri Pralhad

Jyoti, Sadhvi Niranjana
Kachhadiya, Shri Naranbhai
Kapoor, Shri Kishan
Karandlaje, Kumari Shobha
Kashyap, Shri Dharmendra
Kashyap, Shri Suresh
Kaswan, Shri Rahul
Katara, Shri Kanakmal
Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal
Kateel, Shri Nalin Kumar
Katheria, Dr. Ram Shankar
Kaushik, Shri Ramesh Chander
Khadse, Shrimati Raksha Nikhil
Khan, Shri Saumitra
Kher, Shrimati Kirron
Khuba, Shri Bhagwanth
Kishan, Shri Ravi
Kishore, Shri Kaushal
Kol, Shri Pakauri Lal
Koli, Shrimati Ranjeeta
Kotak, Shri Manoj
Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh
Kumar, Dr Virendra
Kumar, Shri Bandi Sanjay
Kumar, Shri Narendra
Kumar, Shri P. Raveendranath
Kumari, Sushri Diya
Kundariya, Shri Mohanbhai
Kushwaha, Shri Ravindra

Lal, Shri Akshaibar
Lalwani, Shri Shankar
Lekhi, Shrimati Meenakashi
Maadam, Shrimati Poonamben
Mahajan, Shrimati Poonam
Maharaj, Dr. Swami Sakshiji
Mahato, Shri Bidyut Baran
Mahato, Shri Jyotirmay Singh
Majhi, Shri Ramesh Chandra
Majumdar, Dr. Sukanta
Mallah, Shri Kripanath
Mandavi , Shri Mohan
Maurya, Dr. Sanghamitra
Meena, Shri Arjunlal
Meena, Shrimati Jaskaur
Meghwal, Shri Arjun Ram
Mendhe, Shri Sunil Baburao
Mishra, Shri Janardan
Misra, Shri Pinaki
Mohan, Shri P. C.
Mohanty, Shri Anubhav
Munda, Shri Arjun
Muniswamy, Shri S.
Munjapara , Dr. (Prof.) Mahendra
Murmu, Shri Khagen
Nagar, Shri Rodmal
Naik, Shri Raja Amareshwara
Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
Namgyal, Shri Jamyang Tsering

Nete, Shri Ashok Mahadeorao
Nimbalkar, Shri Ranjeetsinha Hindurao Naik
Nishad, Shri Ajay
Nishad, Shri Praveen Kumar
Nishank, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal
Oja, Shrimati Queen
Oram, Shri Jual
Pal, Shri Jagdambika
Pal, Shri Krishan
Panda, Shri Basanta Kumar
Pandey, Dr. Mahendra Nath
Pandey, Shri Santosh
Parkash, Shri Som
Paswan, Shri Chhedi
Paswan, Shri Kamlesh
Patel, Dr. K.C.
Patel, Shri Devaji
Patel, Shri Gajendra Umrao Singh
Patel, Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai
Patel, Shri Lalubhai B.
Patel, Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai
Patel, Shri Prahalad Singh
Patel, Shri R.K. Singh
Patel, Shrimati Anupriya
Patel, Shrimati Keshari Devi
Patel, Shrimati Sharda Anil
Patel (Bakabhai), Shri Mitesh
Pathak, Shri Subrat
Pathak, Shrimati Riti

Patil, Shri C. R.
Patil, Shri Kapil Moreshwar
Pawar, Dr. Bharati Pravin
Pfoze, Dr. Lorho
Prakash, Shri Jai
Pramanik, Shri Nisith
Prasad, Shri Ravi Shankar
Prasad, Shri V. Srinivas
Pujari, Shri Suresh
Rai, Shri Nityanand
Rajoria, Dr. Manoj
Rajput, Shri Mukesh
Ram, Shri Vishnu Dayal
Ranjan, Dr R. K.
Rao, Shri Soyam Bapu
Rathod , Shri Dipsinh Shankarsinh
Rathod, Shri Ratansinh Magansinh
Rathore, Col. Rajyavardhan
Rathva, Shrimati Gitaben V.
Raut, Shri Vinayak Bhaurao
Rawat, Shri Ashok Kumar
Rawat, Shri Tirath Singh
Rawat, Shri Upendra Singh
Ray, Shrimati Sandhya
Reddy, Shri G. Kishan
Rijju, Shri Kiren
Roy, Dr. Jayanta Kumar
Roy, Dr. Rajdeep
Rudy , Shri Rajiv Pratap

Sagar, Shri Arun Kumar
Sahoo, Shri Mahesh
Sahu , Shri Chunni Lal
Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
Sai, Shrimati Gomati
Saikia, Shri Dilip
Saini, Shri Nayab Singh
Samanta, Prof. Achyutananda
Sao, Shri Arun
Sarangi, Shri Pratap Chandra
Sarangi, Shrimati Aparajita
Saraswati, Shri Sumedhanand
Sarkar, Dr. Subhas
Sarkar, Shri Jagannath
Saruta, Shrimati Renuka Singh
Sawant, Shri Arvind
Seth, Shri Sanjay
Shah, Shri Amit
Shah, Shrimati Mala Rajya Laxmi
Sharma, Dr. Mahesh
Sharma, Shri Anurag
Sharma, Shri Jugal Kishore
Sharma, Shri Ram Swaroop
Sharma, Shri Vishnu Datt
Shejwalkar, Shri Vivek Narayan
Shekhawat, Shri Gajendra Singh
Shetty, Shri Gopal
Shinde, Dr. Shrikant Eknath
Shrangare, Shri Sudhakar Tukaram

Shyal, Dr. Bharatiben D.
Siddeshwar , Shri G. M.
Sigriwal, Shri Janardan Singh
Simha, Shri Prathap
Singh, Dr. Satya Pal
Singh, Rao Inderjit
Singh, Shri Arjun
Singh, Shri Bhola
Singh, Shri Brijbhushan Sharan
Singh, Shri Brijendra
Singh, Shri Chandan
Singh, Shri Dharambir
Singh, Shri Ganesh
Singh, Shri Giriraj
Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan
Singh, Shri Lallu
Singh, Shri Pashupati Nath
Singh, Shri Pradeep Kumar
Singh, Shri R. K.
Singh, Shri Radha Mohan
Singh, Shri Raj Nath
Singh, Shri Rajbahadur
Singh, Shri Sunil Kumar
Singh, Shri Sushil Kumar
Singh, Shri Uday Pratap
Singh, Shri Virendra
Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
Singh (Raju Bhaiya), Shri Rajveer
Sinha, Shri Jayant

Solanki, Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai
Solanky, Shri Mahendra Singh
Soni, Shri Sunil Kumar
Sonkar, Shri Vinod Kumar
Soren, Shri Sunil
Subba, Shri Indra Hang
Supriyo, Shri Babul
Swamiji, Dr. Jai Sidheshwar Shivacharya
Swamy, Shri A Narayana
Tadas, Shri Ramdas
Tamta, Shri Ajay
Teli, Shri Rameswar
'Teni', Shri Ajay Misra
Thakur, Sadhvi Pragya Singh
Thakur, Shri Anurag Singh
Thakur , Shri Gopal Jee
Thakur, Shri Shantanu
Tiwari, Shri Manoj
Tomar, Shri Narendra Singh
Tripathi, Dr. Ramapati Ram
Tripura, Shri Rebati
Udasi, Shri S. C.
Uikey, Shri Durga Das
Vardhan, Dr. Harsh
Vasava , Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai
Vasava, Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai
Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh
Verma, Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
Verma, Shri Rajesh

Verma, Shrimati Rekha Arun

Vichare, Shri Rajan Baburao

Vikhe Patil, Dr. Sujay

Yadav, Shri Ashok Kumar

Yadav , Shri Krishna Pal Singh

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yepthomi, Shri Tokheho

NOES

Abdullah, Dr. Farooq
Antony, Shri Anto
Anuradha, Shrimati Chinta
Ariff, Adv. A. M.
Aujla, Shri Gurjeet Singh
Baal, Shri T.R.
Baij, Shri Deepak
Basheer, Shri E. T. Mohammed
Behanan, Shri Benny
Chaudhary, Shri Santokh Singh
Chazhikadan, Shri Thomas
Chellakumar, Dr. A.
Chidambaram, Shri Karti P
Chowdhury, Shri Adhir Ranjan
Devarayalu, Shri Lavu Srikrishna
Eden, Shri Hibi
Galla, Shri Jayadev
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
Gogoi, Shri Gaurav
Hansdak, Shri Vijay Kumar
Haridas, Kumari Ramya
Hasan, Dr. S.T.
Jaleel, Shri Syed Imtiaz
Jawed, Dr. Mohammad
Jayakumar, Dr. K.
Jothimani, Sushri S
Kanimozhi, Shrimati
Kaur, Shrimati Preneet

Khan, Shri Mohammad Azam
Kinjarapu, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
Kora, Shrimati Geeta
Kunhalikutty, Shri P.K.
Kuriakose, Adv. Dean
Lone, Shri Akbar
Madhav, Shri Kuruva Gorantla
Mahant, Shrimati Jyotsna Charandas
Masoodi , Shri Hasnain
Muraleedharan , Shri K.
Natarajan, Shri P.R
Navaskani , Shri K.
Owaisi, Shri Asaduddin
Pala, Shri Vincent H.
Pon, Shri Gautham Sigamani
Prakash, Adv. Adoor
Premachandran, Shri N.K.
Raghavan, Shri M.K.
Raja, Shri A.
Raju, Shri Raghu Rama Krishna
Rangaiah, Shri Talari
Rao, Shri Balli Durga Prasad
Ravikumar, Dr. D.
Reddeppa, Shri N.
Reddy, Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu
Reddy, Shri P.V. Midhun
Reddy, Shri Pocha Brahmananda
Reddy, Shri Uttam Kumar
Rehman, Shri Haji Fazlur

Sadique, Shri Mohammad
Sardinha , Shri Francisco
Satyanarayana, Shri M. V. V.
Satyavathi, Dr.Beesetti Venkata
Selvaraj, Shri M
Senthilkumar S. , Shri Dnv
Singh, Dr. Amar
Singh, Shri Ravneet
Sreekandan, Shri V. K.
Srinivas, Shri Kesineni
Subbarayan, Shri K.
Suresh, Shri D.K.
Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil
Thangapandian, Dr. T. Sumathy (A)Thamizhachi
Tharoor, Dr. Shashi
Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Thol
Thirunavukkarasar. Shri Su.
Ulaka, Shri Saptagiri Sankar
Unnithan, Shri Rajmohan
Vaithilingam, Shri Ve.
Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry
Vasanthakumar, Shri H.
Venkatesan, Shri S.
Vishnu Prasad, Dr. M. K.
Yadav, Shri Akhilesh

ABSTAIN

Sule, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand
Tatkare, Shri Sunil Dattatray

18.24 hrs.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

HON SPEAKER: The result of division is:

Ayes : 303

Noes: 82

Absent: 02

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause by clause consideration.

Clause 2 Definitions

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N. K. Premchandran, do you want to move the amendment?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 3, --

for “resides”

substitute “upon whom the *talaq* is pronounced resides or her place of marriage or the place where she last resided with her husband”. (2)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 2 to Clause 2 moved by Shri N. K. Premchandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, do you want to move an amendment?

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, *for* lines 4 to 6, --

substitute “(c) “desertion” includes any act or expression done by a husband towards his wife that is likely to result in the repudiation of conjugal obligations, including the right to live in a matrimonial home.’. (11)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 11 to Clause 2 moved by Shri Asaduddin Owaisi to the vote of House.

The amendment was put and negatived

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. A.M. Arif, do you want to move the amendment?

[English]

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, *for* lines 1 to 3, --

substitute '(b) "Magistrate" means a Judicial Officer in charge of the Family Court of the area where the married Muslim woman upon whom *talaq* is pronounced resides or her place of marriage or the place where she last resided together with her husband; and'.

(16)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 16 to Clause 2 moved by Adv. A.M. Ariff to the vote of House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Talaq to be void and illegal

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, do you want to move an amendment?

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I beg to move:

Page 2, *for* lines 9 to 11,--

substitute "3. Any act of desertion or attempt at desertion shall be considered "domestic violence" within the meaning and

purpose of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.”. (12)

Sir, I want Division.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This division has been demanded unnecessarily, hence those who are in favour of it, may rise at their place.

They are 82/302.

HON. SPEAKER: Those who are not in favour of it, may rise at their place.

They are 302/82

I think the ‘Noes’ are more. The amendment was negatived

The amendment was negatived

The Question is:

“That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill

Clause 4 Punishment for pronouncing talaq

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N. K. Premchandran, do you want to move an amendment?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 13 and 14, --

for “imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine”

substitute “fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees”. (3)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 3 to Clause 4 moved by Shri N. K. Premchandran to the vote of the house.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, do you want to move an amendment?

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I beg to move:

Page 2, *for* lines 12 to 14,--

substitute “4. Any person found to have committed desertion, as defined under this law, shall be deemed to be a “respondent” within the meaning of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.”. (13)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 13 to Clause 4 moved by Shri Asaduddin Owaisi to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. A.M. Aarif, do you want to move an amendment?

[English]

ADV. A.M. ARIFF: I beg to move:

Page 2, *for* lines 12 to 14,--

substitute ‘4. The quantum of punishment or fine, if any, against the Muslim husband who pronounces *talaq* referred to in section 3 upon his wife shall be decided by the Magistrate as per existing laws.’ (17)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 17 to Clause 4 moved by Adv. A.M. Aarif to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Abdul Khaleque. Not Present.

Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty.

[English]

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY (MALAPPURAM) : I beg to move:

Page 2, *for* lines 13 and 14,--

substitute “shall be liable to fine”. (18)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 18 to Clause 4 moved by Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri T.N. Prathapan. Not Present.

The question is:

“That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.”

...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, there should be a division. *...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I put it again.

The question is:

"That clause - 4 stand part of the Bill"

Those who are in favour, may rise at their place.

They are 303/78.

Those who are not in favour, may rise in their place.

They are 78/303.

I think the 'Ayes' are more. The decision is in the favour of 'Ayes'

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 4 added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Subsistence allowance

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premchandran, Do you want to move the amendment?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I am not moving the amendment.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, do you want to move the amendment?

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I beg to move:

Page 2, for lines 17 to 20,--

substitute "5. Notwithstanding the generality of any existing laws, any wife who has been a victim of desertion, shall have the right to seek compensation or subsistence allowance or any other remedy as

provided in the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 or the Code of Criminal *Procedure*, 1973.”

(14)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No. 14 to Clause 5 moved by Shri Shri Asaduddin Owaisi to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

18.46 hrs

At this stage, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Shri N. K. Premachandran, Shri T. R. Baalu and some other hon. Members left the House.

Clause 6 Custody of minor children

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premchandran - Not Present.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, do you want to move the amendment?

[*English*]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, please allow me division. You are ignoring me. I beg to move:

Page 2, *for* lines 22 to 24,--

Those who are in favour, may rise at their place.

They are 303/08.

Those who are not in favour, may rise at their place.

They are 08/303.

I think the 'Ayes' are more. The decision is in the favour of 'Ayes'

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 added to the Bill.

Clause 8 added to the Bill.

The Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title of the Bill were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed”.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed”

Motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be opened.

Hon. Members, please, take your seats.

18.49 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: EXTENSION OF SITTINGS OF LOK SABHA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI) : Sir, since the Government has more than 17 bills to be considered by this House, I request the House, through you, Sir, the 17th Lok Sabha's first session may be extended up to the 7th August, 2019.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The first session of 17th Lok Sabha is extended up to 7th August, 2019.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD (LALGANJ): Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Power towards Lalganj, my Parliamentary Constituency where the power problem has taken a very formidable form. In my Parliamentary Constituency, hundreds of 100 KV, 63 KV and 25 KV transformers have been lying burnt for months, which has already been reported more than a month ago through the help line but the transformers have not been replaced yet. On asking the reason for this, higher officials informed that transformers and other equipments are not available in their godowns. Under the Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana, wires, poles and free connections are being provided in our region but they are not sufficient at all. High voltage wire in our Parliamentary Constituency is passing through dense population in many areas.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, this subject is related to the State Government.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD: Sir, you may direct the State Government to solve this problem.

HON. SPEAKER: okay.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD: Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, electric wires are more than 20 years old in hundreds of villages. Many people have died because of falling of these old wires. Hundreds of houses and crops have got damaged. I request through you to direct the Uttar Pradesh Government to solve this problem.

SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI (KURUKSHETRA): Hon Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the matter of public importance. Hon. Speaker, the thinker of Bhartiya Janta Party Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji has said one word that the person standing last in the queue should be taken care of, this is our aim. Shri Atal Bihari Bajpai Ji in year 2001 included the most backward, poor person in the BPL list and he worked to give them benefit of the government's schemes. This benefit continued to reach them, but in 2011, BPL was re-surveyed and the major flaw in that survey was that the Congress was in

power. In my state Haryana, I came across a lot of issues that if someone has ten acres or twenty acres of land, he has been included in the list of BPL and the small person, the poor person, who is eligible for that, is not included in the list. Many times such a situation also arises that the family which is not included in BPL has become poor due to natural calamity.

I request the Government through you to conduct a survey of BPL. The idea given by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Ji, was implemented by the Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, so as to its benefit reach to the people. Now, under the leadership of the Hon. Narendra Modi, our Government is continuously providing benefits of various schemes to the poor.

I urge you again that the survey of BPL should be conducted again so that those eligible persons can get the benefit. I had to bring this thing to the attention of the Government through you. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Rekha Verma and Shrimati Rama Devi are permitted to associate themselves with the subject raised by Shri Nayab Singh Saini.

[English]

DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the extent of Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu from one end to another end is around 200 kilometres. Fifty per cent of the population happens to be farmers who are the backbone of our country. Around 50 per cent of the natives of Krishnagiri are multilingual who are fluent in Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada. More than 50,000 north Indians are employed in Krishnagiri as labourers. Krishnagiri has a pride of its own by contributing 7,000 *jawans* to the Indian Army. To give proper education and equal opportunities for the socio-economically weaker sections of the society, I request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to establish two Kendriya Vidyalaya schools – one at Krishnagiri and another at Hosur. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Gautam Gambhir ji will speak for the first time in the House.

[English]

SHRI GAUTAM GAMBHIR (EAST DELHI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity as this is my maiden speech in this august House. I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modiji for showing trust in me and giving me this great opportunity that I can bring a positive change in the society.

I read somewhere and I quote:

“Yeh sheher bhi kya sheher hai ...

Hawaon mein dhuaan ... fizaon mein zeher hai ...”

The biggest problem right now in our State is environmental pollution. It is a matter of great concern. Due to this pollution, everyday life of the common man is getting affected.

Just because of this pollution, schools get closed every year. The State issues advisory that people should not come out of their houses if it is not necessary. But what are we actually doing for this? Unfortunately, we are not doing enough.

According to WHO, 14 out of 15 most polluted cities in the world are from India and Delhi is unfortunately the most polluted capital in the world.

I would like to talk about my constituency. My constituency, Viz East Delhi constituency, is famous for the largest and oldest garbage dump, Ghazipur landfill. It was started in 1984. I think, there is nothing that is “away”. When we throw something, it goes somewhere and, in this case,

the garbage from eastern, central, and old Delhi finds its way to the Ghazipur landfill.

The Ghazipur landfill has reached a height of 65 metres, which is just eight metres less than the height of the national monument Qutub Minar.

I would definitely like the hon. Minister concerned to take necessary steps to come up with some action plan before it gets too late and we reach a point of no return.

Finally, since the public has no hope from the State Government, I request the Central Government to resolve the problem of Ghazipur landfill and prepare a national policy for waste management.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Rekha Verma is permitted to associate herself with the matter raised by Shri Gautam Gambhir.

Chhedi Paswan ji, please speak after Hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. All of you know that Delhi has the best hospitals of India. Hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Safdarganj Hospital are here.

Hon. Speaker, you will be surprised to know that our Government has got an opportunity to eradicate many evils. Such an evil practice was going on in Safdarganj Hospital which is located in front of AIIMS. 500 operations take place there daily and 100 infants also take birth every day. In addition to it, thousands of patients visit OPD daily, that is a separate issue. No return, no refusal policy is

followed there. The hospital cannot deny anybody even if they may have to treat the patient on stretcher.

19.00 hrs

All these systems, from running oxygen apparatus to managing operation theatre, lab incharge etc. are done by lab assistant and OT assistant. You will be surprised to know that no pay scale has been fixed for them for the last two-three decades and in the 5th Central Pay Commission, they recommended that they should get a pay scale of Rs 5000 to Rs 8000. They have not been granted that scale of pay as on date, their trouble has escalated to such an extent that even after working day and night, for the last 20 year, these people are still engaged on contract basis. I would like to submit through you that, so many problems like OROP, NFU etc. have been solved by this Government, the problem of OT technicians should also be solved. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Rekha Verma and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you to a very critical issue. This problem is related to the women pushed to the margin in society. Mamta Sahyogini and Asha Sahyogini have been selected to work in every hospital, Civil Hospital, Subdivision Hospital, Referral Hospital as well as at Primary Health Centers across the country under the National Health Mission, but they have been forced to work without salary and honorarium being paid to them. They work like bonded labourers. Their salary and honorarium has not yet been fixed. We understand that the people who are marginalised in society, only those belonging to the disadvantaged section are recruited to such work profile. They work even

more than nurses. ANM gets 45,500 rupees a month, N.M gets Rs 12,500. The nurse who has been employed permanently or temporarily is paid Rs 12,000. Mamta Sahyogini is paid only 300 rupees and Sahyogini working in ASHA is paid only 1200 rupees. It has been decided in the Cabinet that Rs 1200 will be given to them. In today's scenario, what can be done with Rs. 300. You can imagine? Sir, I would like to demand from the Government through you that the salaries of these Mamata Sahyogini and Asha Sahyogini should be enhanced immediately and their services should be made public service.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Chhedi Paswan.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Sir. My 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of battery-operated cars. Battery-operated cars were available at the Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, and Ernakulam railways stations. It was very helpful for the disabled persons, sick persons, and senior citizens to travel within the railway stations. It was very comfortable and easy for them to travel within the railway stations. Unfortunately, one fine morning the railway authorities have stopped the operation of these battery-operated car services. I would urge the Railway Minister to restore all the battery-operated cars at all the railway stations, especially in Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, and Ernakulam railways stations, which fall in my constituency. To protect the interest of the senior citizens, disabled persons, and sick persons, its operations should be restored at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT (PALGHAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak on the important issue of social and economic review of the affected people with regard to Tarapur Atomic Energy

Center located in my constituency, I thank you for that. Sir, nuclear energy has been a very significant contributor, especially in the field of electricity. There are many nuclear power plants in the country, including the one located in Tarapur Maharashtra which falls in my Palghar constituency. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has acquired land from the local people there to set up this project over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, none of the Ministers is present in the House. What is the meaning of 'Zero Hour'? ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, what is the meaning of 'Zero Hour' when no Minister is present in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT: Hon. Speaker, it was announced to offer job to one person from every family in this project. On this basis, the local people became ready to give their land... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: The Government business is run according to their wishes. This is not proper. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT: According to their rule, a provision was made to provide 80 percent jobs to the local people. ...*(Interruptions)* but it has not yet been done by NPCL. I want to demand from the Government, through you Sir, that the victims of local project should be accorded priority. Tarapur Anushakti Kendra in Maharashtra should provide 80 percent reservation to those people whose land has been acquired. A provision to this effect should be made. The question booklet which was published there should have been brought out in Marathi language. Tarapur Atomic Energy Corporation which is a very important

institution, has always made a major contribution to the development of society. I request that the local residents in and around this institution who have been subjected to sufferings for the reasons attributed to this project should be provided school education, housing, health and other financial assistance.

Sir, those who are suffering due to the project and are working there on contract basis are being harassed. They are rejected even after police verification. They should not be given pink slips. I demand that those engaged on contract basis must not be removed from their services.

SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT (PUNE): Hon. Speaker Sir, Pune is a healthy, beautiful and good city and National Highways cross from there. Pune city, being the focal point, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister through you towards Pune - Kolhapur, Pune Sholapur, Pune - Nashik and Pune-Mumbai National Highways, that work is going on there very slow. Now the rainy season has set in and it causes traffic jams. The companies which have been awarded contract on this stretch, Pune-Kolhapur work on 140 km way back in the year 2008 have not completed the work so far. After that the extension was given, still the work is not completed. Due to bad condition of the road, it consumes more petrol, it spoils people's time and pollution increases. The work of the over bridge, under pass and the service road that pass along with it, is also being undertaken at a very slow pace. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister and the Government through you during Zero Hour and request to complete this work as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat.

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ (BASTAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, Bastar district of Chhattisgarh is over three hundred kilometers away from the capital city of Raipur. Road is the only means of transportation there. Last year in 2018, the inaugural flight was flagged off by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, but it stopped

after only a week of operation and brought huge disappointment to the people of Bastar. Therefore, I would like to urge the Union Government through you to restore air services between Raipur and Jagdalpur, so that the people of Bastar can also avail the benefit of air services.

[English]

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI: Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir.

There is a very severe drinking water crisis in Tamil Nadu, especially in my constituency, Karur. To manage the situation of drinking water, we have to bring the Integrated Kaveri Water Scheme along with the existing schemes to Aravakurichi, Vedasandur, Karur, Krishnarayapuram, Manapparai and Viralimalai constituencies.

In Paramathi Block, there is Thathampalayam Lake, the control of which is under the Forest Department of the Central Government. The Central Government either has to hand over that Thathampalayam Lake to the State PWD or they themselves allot funds to take necessary action and solve the drinking water as well as the agricultural issues.

There is also the Cauvery – Kundaru river linking plan. Apart from that there is Veliyenai lake; there is Punjapatti lake; there is Kadavur lake. There are also other lakes, the water of which is not being used and the lakes have almost been destroyed over the years. I am thankful to the hon. *Jal Shakti* Minister who sent three Under Secretary level officers to my district and they came and oversaw the things. I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister to kindly release the funds as quickly as possible and resolve the water issue in the area.

The release of Cauvery river water is a big issue in Tamil Nadu. There have been several Supreme Court judgements on this but still water is not being released and it should be done as quickly as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA (MANDI): Hon. Speaker Sir, proper exploitation of the potential of tourism is essential for proper exploitation of resources and increasing employment opportunities in Himachal Pradesh. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, who has assisted in accelerating the development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh by providing a grant of Rs.1,788 crore for tourism in the State last year.

Sir, Himachal Pradesh is located in that part of the Himalayas where the natural aura permeates everywhere, where the springs, vegetation and high mountains provide a unique location to the land. The number of domestic and foreign tourists in Himachal Pradesh is increasing continuously due to terrorism in Kashmir. Last year, 12-13 lakhs foreign tourists visited Himachal. Ever since the young Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, respected Shri Jai Ram Thakur ji has assumed power, tourism development has been granted top priority. Keeping in mind the needs of Himachal Pradesh, eco-tourism is being given priority in the state. Eco-tourism is a concept, which, by preserving the culture, art, nature, and environment of a region, makes tourists aware of this unique characteristic of the state.

The construction of Rohtang tunnel in Lahaul-Spiti, a tribal area of Himachal will create new dimensions to tourism in this region. Tourists will get an opportunity to see and understand important aspects of the specific culture of the tribal region. The traditional tourist places in Himachal are Shimla, Kullu, Manali and Dharamshala, now forests of concrete are growing there. The interest of tourists is decreasing in these places. The State Government has taken the responsibility of searching new untouched destinations of tourism and developing them. There is a huge need of financial resources to provide basic amenities in these places. I am pleased to inform the House that with the grace of Hon. Prime

Minister, construction of four lane road, National Highway and roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana are in progress. Apart from this, the State Government is constructing helipads at various places and the plan to build an international airport in Mandi has been finalized, for which financial support from the central Government is very much needed.

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to request the Central Government to provide a special financial package for the development of new tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh, so that Himachal can make its special identity on the tourism map.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma.

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

Sir, the menace of rogue and stray street dogs has assumed alarming proportion in Punjab and the entire country. According to W.H.O., 3.5 crores stray street dogs are there in the country. Due to the dog-biting incidents, lot of rabies cases are there in South-East Asia and 35% of such incidents occur in India itself. In 2015, 22,000 dog-biting incidents had taken place in Punjab. In 2016, the number increased to 33,000. In 2017, it increased further to 54,000 and in 2018, a whopping over one lakh such incidents took place.

Sir, it is very dangerous to send children outside the House for playing etc. Over 50% cases of dog-bite have happened to the children. In cities, garbage etc. leads to proliferation of stray street dogs. However, in villages, when we throw

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

away carcasses of our dead pet animals, the stray dogs feast on them and their number increases. School-children are specially vulnerable to dog-bites.

Sir, I urge upon the Government that sterilization of stray dogs should be undertaken at a war footing. We cannot allow our children to be bitten by these rogue stray dogs. So, the Government must undertake concrete measures to get rid of this menace at the earliest.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Amar Singh is a retired senior I. A. S. officer.

[English]

DR. AMAR SINGH (FATEHGARH SAHIB): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for introducing me to the House.

[Translation]

Sir, today, in my Parliamentary Constituency Fatehgarh Sahib and Punjab or should I say the entire country, a problem is gradually becoming severe, and I would like to put it before the Central Government. Today, the problem of stray animals has increased greatly. At the time of the elections, I had assured the zamindar farmers in my Parliamentary Constituency that I will solve it because the animals are causing a lot of damage to their crops. There are lots of accidents on the roads, and especially motorcyclists and many other young people are dying at night.

Sir, this problem is very big for my parliamentary constituency, Punjab and also for the entire India. We have asked the panchayats and municipalities to make arrangements by imposing a small tax. Some cowsheds have also been built, some animal houses have been made, some shelter homes have been built, so some small arrangement is there, but they have neither the means, nor the management, nor the money, nor the technical manpower. We do as much as we

can. We have a very good culture here, it is written in our history and our old books that humans and animals have to live in harmony. We worship a lot of animals. I would like to request the Central Government to solve this problem by launching a central scheme so that all the farmers of my constituency and Punjab can get relief and these accidents can be reduced. Thank you.

***SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Government had sought views and suggestions from general public on National Education Policy, 2018. As the educationists and members of the opposition raised questions as to how the suggestions will be provided within a month's time, the period for seeking suggestions/views was extended for another month. Thiru Suriya, film Actor from Tamil Nadu expressed his views on National Educational Policy. But a leader of the ruling party said that Actor Suriya was inciting violence through his views. When Superstar Rajinikanth expressed his views in support of Actor Surya, another leader of ruling Party said that Rajinikanth too was trying to create confusion. Yet another leader of the ruling party threatened openly. I want to ask the Hon. Minister whether you want to seek suggestions/views or simply you want to get only support for the educational policy. If you want only support, you can make an open statement that only the members of the ruling party are asked to express their views in this regard. I want you to ascertain that if you really want to seek views or expressions about National Education Policy, you should prove to be all ears and tolerant enough.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri R.K. Singh Patel.

SHRI R. K. SINGH PATEL (BANDA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I represent Banda Parliamentary Constituency of Budhelkhand. I would like to thank the hon. Prime

Minister for providing electricity in remote areas which are the area of Chitrakoot and Banda located in Patha under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana. Bulbs have been lit at the homes of those poor people.

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to demand to the Government that the work of changing the old dilapidated electric poles should also be included in the same plan. Electricity was being provided by the power house to the village but now the old dilapidated poles are in poor condition. The current situation is that there are large scale power cuts in Budhelkhad and Chitrakoot. For the last two-three days, people are blocking the roads as a protest against the lack of electricity resulting in facing humidity. At this time, there is no rain in Patha. Drinking water crisis occurs due to lack of rain. Through you, I would like to request the Government that under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, wires and poles have been transported everywhere in those villages, but the work of replacing the old wires and dilapidated poles should also be included in that scheme and electricity should be provided round the clock. Through you, I would like to demand this from the Government. Thank you very much.

[English]

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious issue being faced by the farmers in Kerala. In Kerala, the moratorium on agricultural loans is going to expire on 31st July, 2019. The State of Kerala has faced the worst flood in 100 years in August last year resulting in severe crop loss. Due to this natural calamity, the Government of Kerala has sought to extend the moratorium on agricultural loans till 31st December, 2019. In Kerala, Rs. 80,803 crore have been distributed as agricultural loans through 76.28 accounts. Out of this, nearly 60 per cent of the loans is against pledging of gold for several years; only 1.25 lakh people will get the benefit of moratorium as they applied before 31st July, 2019. All the farmers thought that the new Government will write off all these loans. Unfortunately, this has not happened. A lot of these people

have not made any re-arrangement for getting the benefit of moratorium in the belief that they will get a loan waiver. For these poor farmers, an extension of moratorium is required to be given by the Reserve Bank of India. It seems that the Reserve Bank of India is not in favour of Kerala's demand.

So, I request the Government to take urgent steps and issue necessary direction to the Reserve Bank of India for extending the moratorium on agricultural loans up to 31st December, 2019.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE (RAVER): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

In our state of Maharashtra, majority of the people from Leva Patidar community live in North Maharashtra. These people fall under the category of OBCs in both the lists of State Government and the Central Government. The Caste Certificate issued to the children from the community has the spelling 'LEVA Patidar in it, but the form number 9 of the Central Government has a different spelling, i.e. 'LEWA. Because of this anomaly, all the children of the region are being deprived the benefits of reservation in all educational institutions of the Central Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please wait for a minute. Hon. Minister, the subject which the hon. Member is raising is very serious. You should think about it and bring it to the notice of the Government.

SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE: Sir, many children are being deprived of its benefits due to the difference of spelling. I would like to request the Government through the House that a notification should be issued to this

affect at the earliest so that those children many also get the benefits of all the schemes. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar and Shri Sunil Baburao Mendhe are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, thank you for giving me time to speak in the Zero Hour.

Sir, I am going to raise a very serious issue. We heard a lot about "*Aaya Ram - Gaya Ram*" in politics. There was an MLA in Haryana in the year 1967.

HON. SPEAKER: Now you will start from the year 1967 and come to the year 2019.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Sir, he changed his party three times in a day and hence the term "Aaya Ram - Gaya Ram" came into existence. Today the country is facing this crisis and with a view to tackling this crisis, I am asking the Government through you to amend the Anti-Defection law. It is not confined to any particular party but it applies to everyone. You know what happened in Karnataka.... (*Interruptions*) Yesterday, the same thing happened in Madhya Pradesh too..... (*Interruptions*) That is why, I am saying that it concerns all. The way the Anti-Defection law is being misused, I would like to ask the Government through you to bring a Bill to amend the Anti-Defection Law in order to incorporate such provision therein that may provide for the automatic cessation of the membership of a Member of Parliament or Legislative Assembly if he changes the party. He should be re-elected after contesting elections. ...(*Interruptions*) This is my demand from the Government. Thank you.

SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA (UJJAIN): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am going to raise a very sensitive issue in front of you. Parents raise their children by looking after them and when they reach their old age, they feel that their children will serve to be a support in their old age, and in this hope they give their property and all the money to those children. But, those children expel those old parents from the house or leave them in old age homes.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Law Minister to be kind enough to protect the elders by making strict laws for this purpose.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN): There is a provision of jail in Bihar for this offence.

[English]

***SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR (PATIALA):** I thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important subject. This is a very important but painful issue.

Sir, in my constituency Patiala, river Ghaggar flows for 197 kms and then enters Haryana and ends in Rajasthan. Earlier, it was considered a life-providing river. But today, it is considered as a 'River of Sorrow'. Between 15th to 17th July, incessant rainfall hit the area and river Ghaggar and its nine tributaries wreaked havoc on the hapless people of the area.

In Patiala district, 48,240 acres land was inundated and standing crops in a large area were destroyed. 288 villages were badly affected by the flash flood. So, I urge upon the Central Government to direct the Central Water Commission to arrive at the two solutions to this problem. Their model authority had prepared a report. Clearance should be provided to it and phase II work should be undertaken at the earliest. The existing embankments should be strengthened further. But, for a permanent solution to this problem, the Central Water Commission should undertake an approved channelization programme for river Ghaggar flowing through Punjab and Haryana. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Although I am trying to give time to all the Hon. Members, but at first, I would like to call upon those Hon. Members who are speaking in the House for the first time.

Shri Malook Nagar ji.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Sir, whenever Modi ji goes to Varanasi, he says that Ganga Maiya has called him. It augurs well because my Constituency is also located exactly the same way and over 100 km stretch of Ganga Maiya falls under our Lok Sabha Constituency. It passes through three commissionaires and three districts. Now - a-days, it is flooded. It is not known how much corpus of fund the Government has earmarked for Ganga Maiya, but one thing is known that people live on both sides of the Ganges and the poor, oppressed and peasants live in kutcha houses.

Now-a-days, due to the floods, erosion takes place in the Ganges, and some soil gets washed away and some area of the fields are also washed away along with it. Along with this, animals and houses also get swept away. In this regard, I would like to say that the Government of India or the Government of Uttar Pradesh, whichever department is looking after it, should make arrangements for it and a provision in the budget should be made for it.

The mafias make hefty amount of money from the revenues earned from mining work. It should be kept in mind that auction bid should be kept higher and the Government should spend more money in those areas of the Ganges from where it was collected. Arrangements should be made to plant trees on both sides. Anti-erosion arrangements should be put in place beforehand, so that poor, weak and people living in kutcha houses are not washed away in the flood. Moreover, arrangements should also be made for them to ward off the loss of lives and property.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing. A large amount of empty land is lying on both sides of the Ganga, which remains absolutely useless. Such type of land can be given on lease and the revenue generated from it, should be used for the Ganga rejuvenation and to help the poor. Thanks a lot.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kishan Kapoor ji.

Shri Kishan Kapoor ji is also speaking for the first time in the House.

SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR (KANGRA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you. I am speaking for the first time in this House. I am thankful to the hon'ble Prime Minister and Amit Shahji for enabling me to be elected to the temple of the largest democracy. The constituency I represent is Kangra Parliamentary Constituency. It has been 72 years since this country got

independence and incidentally, the people of Kangra have elected me to this temple with 72.2 per cent vote.

Hon. Speaker Sir, there has been a long-standing demand of the people of our region. Himachal Pradesh had two railway lines before independence. One railway line is from Kalka to Shimla and the other line is from Pathankot to Yogendra Nagar. I was noticing that Budget was also presented here, many hon. Members had various demands for their respective areas, some were demanding airstrip, some were demanding waterways, some were demanding railway routes..... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please speak about what you are asking for.

SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking for the first time and coming to the main topic. Ever since the country became independent, railway routes were expanded throughout the country, but in Himachal Pradesh, the railway line built by the British from Pathankot to Yogendra Nagar in 1928 has not been extended even an inch. The second railway line was built from Kalka to Shimla, but that too has not been extended an inch. Officials say that railway lines cannot be laid there. In the year 1928, the British built the railway line from Pathankot to Yogendra Nagar because a 45 MW hydroelectric project was set up there. Now many hydropower projects have been set up there.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have not yet come to the main point. You are speaking for the first time in the Zero Hour. Come to your topic.

SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, Chamba is an aspirational district. Here, the Hon. Railway Minister had said that rail routes will be made in the aspirational districts. Today there are 72 hydro electric projects in Chamba.

The British had made a railway line for a hydro electric project there. They built the railway line to Shimla because Shimla was their summer capital.

Hon. Speaker, Sir Himachal Pradesh is the land of gods and goddesses. A large number of tourists visit there.

DR. JAI SIDHESHWAR SHIVACHARYA SWAMIJI (SOLAPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour.

"Trilokya Sampadalekhaya Samullekhan Bhiittaye.
Sachchidanand Rupay Shivaya Brahmane Namah."

HON. SPEAKER: Shivacharya ji is also speaking for the first time.

DR. JAI SIDHESHWAR SHIVACHARYA SWAMIJI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I represent Solapur Parliamentary Constituency in the state of Maharashtra. I thank you very much and at the same time, I also express my deep appreciation to the popular Prime Minister of this country, Shri Narendra Modi.

Last time Narendra Modi ji declared Solapur city as smart city and work is in progress there. I thank him for this. I express my gratitude to all the people living in my Parliamentary Constituency. Solapur city is a historical, religious and industrial city located in the state of Maharashtra. The city has a very large, beautiful and very unique temple of Shivayogi Siddharameshwar ji. Shivayogi Siddharameshwar Ji belonged to the 12th century, whose Shivayoga Samadhi is in the city. There is his very beautiful and pleasant temple. Just like the Golden Temple in Punjab, the temple is situated in the middle of the pond on 35 to 40 acres of land. North, East, West and South, in all directions of Solapur city there are pilgrimage areas. There is Pandharpur. The day before yesterday, on the day

of Ashadh Ekadashi, about 15 to 20 lakh people visited this place not only from Maharashtra but also from other states. Similarly, there is a temple of Swami Samarth in the city of Akkalkot in the east. In the north of Solapur there is Tuljapur Amba Bhavani temple. Shivaji Maharaj established the Hindi Swaraj Kingdom by receiving *prasad* from the same Amba Bhavani temple. Similarly, there is a Kudalasangam area on the western side of Solapur city. There is a very beautiful, unique *Shivling* in that area. There are 365 *Shivling* as inscribed in a single *Shivlinga*. I would like to request the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to develop all the areas such as Mangalbheda, Solapur, Pandharpur, Masnur, Akkalkot, Tuljapur and Hattarasangkudal as tourist centers. This is the request I would like to make.

Moreover, I would like to request that there should be a discussion in the House regarding the topic of tourism. This much is my request and, I would like to conclude with thanking you once again.

HON. SPEAKER: Your proposal will be accepted soon.

[English]

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY (MALAPPURAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, my issue is related to the Government Medical College, Manjeri in Malappuram district of Kerala. It is a newly established Medical College. It is situated in a densely populated area. Being a newly established Medical college, there is a lot of funds pending with the MCI and the Central Government which is required for its infrastructural work.

Therefore, I request the Government to give priority in releasing the pending funds because it is a densely populated and a backward area. This pending fund is badly required by the Government Medical College at Manjeri.

The concerned departments are waiting for the funds to be released. I request the Government to release the funds as early as possible. That is what I want to bring to the notice of the Government.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, those Hon. Members whose names figured in the lottery on the day 24th during zero Hour, are now being given priority.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (BARRACKPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I represent Barrack pore Parliamentary Constituency. The flow area of the Ganges is about 33 km in this region. In just 33 kilometers, 120 drains carrying contaminated water and sewage fall into the Ganges. Around 270 to 280 million liter of water goes into it every day. It is the land of Mahatma Gandhi and historically Mangal Pandey's *karmabhoomi*. Gandhiji's Ghat and the *karmabhoomi* of Mangal Pandey are getting contaminated. Hon. Prime Minister is trying to ensure that the Ganga is not contaminated. We have seen that a lot of work is also being undertaken. But so far, only three STPs have been approved under the Namami Ganga project in West Bengal, for which only 150 crore rupees have been sanctioned. The area of Barrackpore has not been included in it. We have a STP system which dates back to the British era and there is a sewerage connection. It is very much needed, because it is the industrial belt, too much dirty water flows into that place. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India to pay special attention to this aspect.

[English]

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the menace of drug addiction among youths is on the rise. One of the reasons for the rise of drug addiction among youths is its easy availability. Drug addiction contributes immensely to the rise of crimes in our country. We have a law titled the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 that prohibits a person to produce,

manufacture, cultivate, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store, and/or consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. But the punishment provided in the said Act for holding a small quantity of drug is not so-rigorous as it should be. Therefore, taking advantage of this leanness of the law, thousands of people are involved in the drug trade across the country, which makes it easier for anyone to get drug at any point of time.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to strengthen the existing law to ensure complete prohibition of drug trade and to eradicate the drug abuse by our youths.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR (DARBHANGA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak in the Zero Hour. You have carried over yesterday's Zero Hour by allocating time for it today. This is definitely going to become a record for this Lok Sabha.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Speaker Sir, it has never happened that Zero Hour is taking place after a day, perhaps it is happening for the first time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Speaker wants it, but the Members do not want it. It has never happened before.

SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR: Hon. Speaker Sir, history has been created. I represent Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency. There is Lalit Narayan Mishra University in this constituency. We want to request the government through you that that university should get the status of Central University. Mithila is a very

important area of India. It is Janak's daughter Ma Janaki's birth place; this area has had been world famous for knowledge and science since ancient times.

This is the land where Ahilya was liberated from the curse by the touch of Lord Rama's feet. This land is the land of heroes like Dulradayal and Lorik. On the other hand, the Kavi Kokil Vidyapati was born here, who was served by Mahadev himself as a servant named Ugna. Theories like 'Nyayadarshan' and 'Mimiansa' also developed in this land during the ancient times. This is a known fact all over the world. When Maithili was included in the VIII schedule, a grand program was organised in honor of Atal Ji at Raj Maidan, the campus of this university. I had chaired and coordinated that event. He had said that Lalit Narayan Mithila University will definitely be given the status of Central University. 8 crore people living in Mithila region have great hope and confidence in the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi ji.

Through you, I would like to demand from the government to give it the status of Central University; this will benefit the people of four districts - Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Begusarai. There are 38 affiliated colleges and 27 associate colleges.

SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI (KATIHAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the time to speak in Zero Hour. Today, I would like to tell you about an ambitious scheme like Sahebganj Manihari Ganga Setu connecting Bihar and Jharkhand. Its foundation stone was laid on 6 April, 2017 in Sahebganj. As you are aware, my Parliamentary Constituency is Katihar. It is situated between the Ganges, Kosi and Mahananda River. It is a commercial center. For this region, i.e. Bihar and Jharkhand, Thursday, 6 April 2017 was a historic day when Hon. Narendra Modi ji and Hon. Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari ji laid the foundation stone of Sahebganj Manihari

Ganga Setu. This bridge was to be built at a cost of 2100 crores rupees. With the construction of this bridge, Bihar and Jharkhand would have a direct connect. This will lead to development of Katihar in north-eastern Bihar and at the same time this bridge will connect West Bengal and North Eastern state via Purnia, Kishanganj, Araria. The construction of this bridge will result in boost in business and employment opportunities.

Sir, on the one hand, the people of Bihar and Jharkhand felt very happy after the laying of its foundation stone, but on the other, there is a bit of disappointment that the work on this bridge has not started since 2017.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister through you that the construction of bridge on the river Ganges in Sahebganj should be started as soon as possible. In addition to this, I also request that the Hon. Prime Minister should inaugurate it in Katihar during the current tenure itself of the Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if there is a big topic, then make a statement, if there is a small subject, then wind it up in a minute.

SHRI ARUN SAO (BILASPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, Achankamar Tiger Reserve has been developed in Mungeli district under my parliamentary constituency Bilaspur. No facilities have been provided here. Moreover, for the displaced persons of forest villages, there is neither a school nor a hospital nor employment. The most affected here are the people of Ataria village. They are seeking help from the officers. This village has not been completely displaced and for those who have been displaced, the government is not making arrangements for schools, hospitals, employment and farming.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards this issue.

ADV. AJAY BHATT (NAINITAL-UDHAMSINGH NAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important topic. Due to the cold in the mountainous areas, people used to come down to lower plains of terai-bhamar along with their children and cattle. Now they have permanently settled there, with a population of 50,000 at some place and 14,000 and 20,000 at other places. These places include Bindukhatta, Damuwadhunga, Baggha - 54, Hanspur Khatta, Tunikhal Khatta, Horai Khatta, Jailasal Khatta, Raikhal Khatta, Ranjana Goth, Gangapur Goth, Peela Pani Khatta, Rampur Tongya, Village Teda Khatta, 5 khattas and two tongia villages and 12 forest villages around the Corbett Tiger Park, including Aam Danda Khatta and Ringoda Khatta located in Corbett Tiger Reserve have already been inhabited since independence.

The villages of Lauka, Gotha, Bankuian, Ferozpur, Bas Ghad, Pipli, dhaai (two and a half) numbers, number 7, number 8 and jhadi number 9 of Arvind Nagar, are situated in Sitarganj. We provide them electricity, water and have also built a hospital for them. But due to being forest land, they cannot take loans, they cannot even build toilets due to the Forest Act of 1927. I think that such forest villages may also exist in other parts of the country including Uttarakhand. A policy should be made for this so that they get the right to ownership of forest land and along with those rights, the government also gets revenue. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government that the Central Government should make policy for this and give direction to the states at the earliest. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Kumar Singh is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri. Ajay Bhatt.

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT (GARHWAL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Uttarakhand draws attention towards it for tourism potential. It has immense tourism potential. Tourism and pilgrimage helps in the social, political, cultural and economic development of a country. With the central government giving Uttarakhand a special status in the form of tourism, Rs 29 thousand crore was given in the last session, in which funds were provided for various schemes related to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Tehri lake etc. There are innumerable tourism destinations in Uttarakhand which are not mentioned in the tourism map even today. Due to the lack of amenities, these areas are not able to develop in terms of tourism. It is an area which worlds immense potential, where many employment possibilities could be made available. Every year, lakhs of tourists visit Uttarakhand from all over the country and abroad. There is adventure and eco-tourism along with religious tourism here. There is a favorable environment for adventure sports. The sports of ice skiing takes place in Auli Joshimath. There are many places available for tourism, which can be developed. There are many places in Uttarakhand like Lansdowne, Bhairogarhi, Tarkeshwar, Binsar Mahadev, Tungnath, Adibadri, Bhavishyabadri, Chandpur Garhi, Maa Nanda, Pauri, Khirsu, Mundaneshwar, Auli Joshimath, Chopta where tourist destinations with basic facilities can be created and new destinations can be developed with a view to spread tourism awareness.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing to you. Tourist sites could not be developed because of being in sensitive zone. I would like to draw the attention of the government and request it to remove from the status of sensitive zones from these areas, so that tourism can develop and tourists can go there easily. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM): I thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity.

I would like to speak on the wonderful *Har Ghar Jal* Scheme that has been brought in by our hon. Prime Minister. The Swachh Bharat Mission and Water Mission have been taken together under the new Ministry. This is essentially a wonderful scheme which would improve the health of the people by supplying pure drinking water; and a lot of water-borne diseases will also come down. The load in the rural areas on the Primary Health Centres will drastically come down because of this scheme. Not only this, but also the burden on the women taking pots for a long distance will also come down a lot. Just like how the UJALA scheme has helped the women and how the Swachh Bharat Scheme improved the dignity of the women, this scheme will also attract women. This scheme would be another feather in the cap!

Coming to my constituency, we have a problem of drinking water, while we have Godavari water all around. It is because of a huge aquaculture, we are exporting items related to aquaculture to the tune of almost Rs.20,000 crore. But because of contamination, we do not have quality drinking water. We have to use salt for the growth of shrimp. The groundwater has got contaminated. In this regard, we have a scheme in which we want to lay a pipeline from Godavari River near Vijjeswaram. Through you, Sir, we want to submit a proposal to the hon. Minister with regard to this project. This scheme is on the basis of 50:50 ratios between the State and the Centre. We would like to submit this proposal and request you to kindly get it approved.

I also have a small suggestion for this wonderful scheme, which is under the Jal Jeevan Mission. My suggestion is, if it is named as 'Prime Minister Jal Jeevan Mission', its impetus on the scheme will be much more. This scheme was originally started by the hon. Prime Minister in Gujarat. Subsequently, the hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrashekhar Rao continued it in Telangana. Now, in Andhra Pradesh, we are also going to continue it under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw your attention towards my Parliamentary Constituency Gadchiroli-Chimur in Maharashtra which is perhaps the largest, densest, tribal dominated, Naxal-affected and underdeveloped region of the country. Hon. Speaker Sir, in my Lok Sabha Constituency, along with tribal and dalit communities, OBC and Bengali community also live in large numbers. Bengali society got revived in 1965. It has been almost 50-55 years, but they are not getting leases.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the Central Government decided to give the lease to farmers in the year 2006-07 and in it was written a condition of farming for five years for tribals and 75 years means three generations for non-tribals. The tribal people have no problem with five-year condition, and they are getting leases, but for non-tribals, the stipulation of 75 years has been facing a problem, their names are not recorded. Unable to get the lease, they are not getting the benefit of the scheme, so there is great dissatisfaction among them. Therefore, I request the government through you that the decision taken by the Central Government for non-tribals in the year 2007 should be changed by keeping the condition of maximum 25 years, which will ensure the non-tribal farmers a lease and moreover, they will get the benefits of the schemes. All the poor farmers and then non-tribal farmers of the country will also get the benefit of this and the dream of our beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, regarding the village, poor and farmers, will also be fulfilled. Thank you very much.

***SHRI MAHESH SAHOO (DHENKANAL)** : Thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very serious issue in Parliament. I belong to Odisha and my constituency is Dhenkanal. Sir, in my constituency there has been a massive tragedy in a coal-mine Mahanadi Coal Fields, and mounds of earth have buried miners and machineries. 4 people have lost their lives and many are still trapped inside. Because of indiscriminate mining activities, adequate precautionary measures have not been taken. Sir, through you I demand immediate compensation package for the dead and the injured miners. Over-dumping should be stopped and mined area should be covered with plantation cover.

20.00 hrs

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have a very long list. I will not be able to complete this list today, but any hon. Member who has given his subject in writing today, and when the Hon. Members sit in the House will surely get a chance. Now, please put forward your subjects in a minute.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir,

Three rivers, namely Kali, Krishna and Hindon flow through my district Baghpat and also cover the areas of Saharanpur, Shamli, Ghaziabad, Meerut and Noida. The water of these rivers has become so polluted that the NGT has given an order regarding underground water in 122 villages is that all hand pumps should be uprooted and the Government should make adequate arrangements for drinking water there. Hundreds of people have died of cancer disease there. Through you, I request the Government of India, especially the Ministry of Jal

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Odia.

Shakti, to clean up these three rivers and make adequate arrangement for water.
Thank you.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL (SIRSA): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the chance to speak on this serious subject.

HON. SPEAKER: Don't thank me, come to the point.

SUSHRI. SUNITA DUGGAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, the problem of drug abuse in youth is very high in my parliamentary constituency, Sirsa. When I contested from Ratia Vidhan Sabha constituency in the year 2014, many women took me aside and said, please save our children.

It is a silent killer. Sir, through you I would like to make three requests to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Home Affairs. One, Rehabilitation Centers and De-Addiction Centers should be opened in all the nine Vidhan Sabha constituencies in my area. Also, you should hold a discussion on this subject under Rule 193, because this problem is the problem of the whole of India. This is a huge problem, it is a silent killer. My request is that some strong legislation should be enacted about it, so that if there is a strict law to take action against those who are involved in smuggling, then they will refrain from it. Our youth and children will be saved from indulging in it. Thank you.

SHRI. GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour.

Hon. Speaker Sir, there are about one lakh 45 thousand such teachers in Uttar Pradesh, who used to get an honorarium of Rs 2250 when Shiksha Mitra Scheme was started in the year 2000. After that, the honorarium was increased to Rs 3500. In the year 2011, BA pass youths were selected as teachers after doing BTC through the National Council for Teacher Education. Soon after, those selected people got appointed. Then, B.Ed. degree holders and other TET pass out people went to the High Court and their appointment was canceled by the High Court. They then approached the Supreme Court. Even the Supreme Court rejected their appointment. I would like to put a demand to the government through you that after such a huge agitation, in which about 1450 people died, you should take care to appoint them by applying another rule. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Sir, I thank you so much. I rise to raise an important issue relating to Delhi University. *Thiru* and *Selvi* are the titles in Tamil Nadu which mean Mr. and Miss, but in Delhi University, there is a confusion. They do not admit students with the first letter of their father's name as a prefix to their names in their OBC certificates as it is not present in their application forms and other certificates. There are many such cases. In SRCC, there are many students like Amishka B. Bhaskar, Ashwini Kumar, Namita etc. There is a prefix of the first letter of their father's names, like B and C, to their names. They are not being admitted. They are being told that they have to go back and get the new certificates.

Sir, through you, I would request the hon. HRD Minister to intervene in the matter and solve this issue in Delhi University.

Thank you so much.

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR (DINDORI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter.

Around 15,000 to 20,000 people from my Nasik District are in the Central Government services, like the Central Armed Police Force, Indian Posts, Indian Railways, Indian Security Press, etc. With regard to this, I would like to draw your attention towards the requirement of health dispensaries under the CGHS that is Central Government Health Scheme at Nasik. As there is no health dispensary under the CGHS, the Central Government employees and their families have to travel around 200 km to either Pune or Mumbai for the treatment. If such CGHS dispensaries are made available at Nasik city, then it will fulfil the health requirement of all the Central Government employees of Nasik District.

It is my humble request to the Government, through you, to take appropriate steps to open health dispensaries under the CGHS at Nasik. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Railway Minister that there was no railway gate at Chandanpur railway station in Haripal assembly area in my Parliamentary Constituency, Arambagh. A gate was installed there five years ago after requests were made to the Railway Minister, as several accidents were happening there. Now, the problem is that there is no subway there. Because of this, not only in Haripal area, but the people of Dhaniakhali, Singur blocks are facing problems. There is a high school and primary school. About 1300 children are studying in the high school who have to cover about 15 Km, distance to reach the school. If the subway is constructed in Chandanpur then it will be very good for the general public.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR (BANKURA): Sir, I am very thankful to you that we get a lot as inspiration and energy from you.

*....*Respected Sir, in West Bengal, the teachers are in a pitiable condition. They have taken to the streets to agitate. 18 teachers are on hunger strike for more than ten days. Four of them are critical. About 2000 to 3000 teachers, both male and female, are out in the streets along with their children every day and they are agitating. Therefore I urge upon Hon. HRD Minister to look into the matter and take some initiative. Thank you Sir.*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very serious problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You always raise serious issue in the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, this is a serious issue. In Bihar there is flood on one side and drought on the other. This is the fury of God, no one can do anything about it.

Sir, my constituency is facing drought. Eight districts have been affected due to lack of water. There is an outcry among the farmers there. Paddy is cultivated mainly in those eight districts, hence it is called paddy bowl. Farmers are basically dependent on it. The water comes there from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Ten thousand cusecs water comes from Madhya Pradesh's Ban Sagar and nine thousand cusecs water comes from the Rihand dam project in Uttar Pradesh, but the Madhya Pradesh government is releasing less than half volume of water. Four-five blocks of Pataliputra namely, Dalhin Bazar, Pali, Vikram, Bihta and

..... English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Naubatpur are facing very serious problem. In these areas, irrigation is done mainly through the Son Canal System Project.

Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Jal Shakti Minister to intervene in the matter. Less than half amount of water of the agreement between the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is being released from the Ban Sagar. I would like to request government to immediately intervene in the matter. The Union government may exert pressure on the Madhya Pradesh government to release water to the Son Canal. Not only eight districts, but there is uproar in my constituency also. Hon. Minister should pay special attention towards it.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, one day you let him speak for half an hour on the whole subject some day. He is a very good speaker.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, the house will run as per your directions.

SHRIMATI GEETA KORA (SINGHBHUM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious matter concerning my parliamentary constituency. My parliamentary constituency has received 45 percent deficient rainfall than normal this year. 2,66,500 farmers were to be registered, but so far only four to five thousand farmers have registered themselves. How this goal is going to be achieved in such a situation? My district has been affected by drought. This year has received least rainfall as compared to the last ten years. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House that the district should be given a special package in order to provide relief to the farmers there. Last year too, the Union government sent officials there who were looking at the fields in the night with their torch lights. This should not happen this time. Through you, I would like to convey to the House that there should be justice for the farmers.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWARA): Hon. Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that in the 16th Lok Sabha of Parliament, the MPLADS Fund was approved by the MPs, but till date, that amount has not been released by the Union Government to the concerned districts and installments were also not released. Two installements of Rs.2.5 Crore of 16th Lok Sabha and total Rs. 7.5 crore are due to be released to my Lok Sabha constituency Bhilwara. Details were sent here and they were sent back after rejection. This has happened four times and this problem is not being addressed. I urge through you that the MPLADS fund should be provided on time so that MPs can develop their constituencies at the right time.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the people of Bihar have suffered the catastrophe of floods in the years 1987, 2007, 2017 and now in 2019, it is very painful. At present, 12 districts of Bihar are affected by the floods including the districts Sitamarhi, East Champaran and my Parliamentary constituency, Sheohar. Hundreds of people have lost their lives across Bihar. When we visit the area, we are grieved to see that they have lost their young sons and daughters.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, since independence, the successive governments have not shown strong will power for permanent solution of floods in Bihar. The Union Government has only completed a formality by having discussion with Nepal 22 years ago. My region is ill-fated to be flooded every year due to the floods in Bagmati, Budhi Gandak, Bakaiya and Manushumara, originating from the Terai region of Nepal and passing through the border areas. The bridges and culverts of my area are all uprooted due to this. The Government assesses the damage, completes the formalities by paying compensation and people are left to die in the next flood. We have been facing this situation for decades. Billions of rupees are spent every year in the name of flood compensation. Now the time has come for the Government to take some concrete steps for a permanent solution to the flood, as it is possible only in the Modi Government.

Sir, through the House, I would like to urge the Government that a Flood Commission should be set up in the public interest to strengthen the embankments by removing silt from the rivers to construct high dams for the solution of floods. For this, necessary action should be taken between the Union Government, State Government and the Government of Nepal for a long-term solution; this will be a huge relief.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA (AMALAPURAM): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. Today, I am going to address an important issue about garbage disposal and its collection.

Improper garbage disposal is not just an eyesore, but it poses a serious threat to nature. Further, the rotting waste and garbage starts to stink, and hungry animals lurk around to feed on it. It is an open invitation to breeding of parasites and pathogens paving way for harmful diseases.

In order to get rid of the mass amount of garbage it is burnt, which further leads to release of toxic chemicals and results in environmental pollution. A case in point is the example of Ghazipur, here in the capital city, which is turning into a manmade hill of dump waste. According to a Parliament Standing Committee Report, it is as long as the *Qutub Minar*. This is only an example that I have cited through, but in reality, it is the same scenario through out the country. Especially this affects a lot during the monsoon.

We are aiming to create world-class cities whereas the waste management methods remain outdated. The reality is that no gloves are being used while collecting waste. Further, they do not even have proper masks, and their health is largely neglected. Garbage trucks and carts also remain in poor condition with water seeping through them as they travel on roads and this is in cities.

Our hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Modi, has put efforts and stress on the issue of encouraging the *Swachh Bharat* programme, and I feel that it is the duty of every citizen -- starting from the lower employees to the higher authorities -- in the State to keep their cities, villages and towns clean.

Thank you, Sir, for giving me extra time to speak and conclude my submission.

[Translation]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue related to my parliamentary constituency, Nandurbar during the Zero Hour today. Nandurbar is a tribal area. Students from Nandurbar go to cities like Pune and Mumbai to pursue higher education.

Last year, the Union Government has started a new train between Nandurbar and Mumbai, but there is no rail facility from Nandurbar to Pune. At present, only state transport and private buses are available between Nandurbar and Pune. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the government that a new train between Nandurbar and Pune should be started at the earliest. Thank you.

KUMARI PRATIMA BHOUMIK (TRIPURA WEST): Thank you, Sir. There is an issue related to my state, about which you all know. No development work was done during the tenure of CPM. It has been 15 months since our government came to power, our CM is doing a good job, but through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the this issue.

Health, Education and every other system is in shambles in our State. Under the guidance of Modi ji our Government, our Chief Minister is trying to get it back on track. The patients here have to go to Delhi, West Bengal, or CMC Vellore. People have to sell everything for treatment.

Through you, I would like to urge the government that a Super Specialty Hospital should be set up in my state Tripura. The people of Tripura will benefit from this hospital, we can also reduce unemployment in our state, provide employment to the unemployed. Bangladesh is very near from there, and patients of Bangladesh also go out via Tripura. Thank you.

[English]

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): Thank you very much, Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on a point of public interest.

We have a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Atchutapuram in my Constituency where almost 40,000 employees are working out of which about 20,000 women employees are working at Brandix. They want an ESI Hospital to be established there to cater to any emergency or in case of any industrial accidents because they have to travel a long distance to Visakhapatnam now.

Through you, I would like to give a memorandum to the Hon. Labour Minister. We want an ESI Hospital at SEZ, Atchutapuram in Anakapalle Parliamentary Constituency. Thank you very much, Sir.

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS (ALATHUR): Respected Speaker, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a serious matter in my Constituency, namely, Alathur.

Nowadays, Kerala is trying to become a leading State in milk production, and my Constituency contributes a large percentage towards it as majority of people there are dairy farmers. There are several dairy farmers in my Constituency, especially, in Chittur, Alathur, Thalappilly and Thrissur Taluks. They are not getting enough benefits for their hard work. Feedstuff and other materials are very costly. In the market, they get Rs.50 per litre but they give milk to the cooperatives and MILMA for Rs.30 per litre. Hence, they suffer from making a livelihood. I would request the Government to announce minimum support price for milk as was announced for paddy. It would be a solace and support to them. I think, the Government would take this request of mine in a positive manner.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Zero Hour will continue till 8.30 pm today. I would like to request the Hon. Members to speak for a minute only.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much, for allowing me to raise the issue about my parliamentary constituency, Kalyan. Today I would like to talk about the local train of my Lok Sabha constituency. In my parliamentary constituency, majority of people travel by local trains. Accidents are taking place frequently on Central Local. An accident has taken place today also. A woman has died after falling from a train there. Therefore, I would like to request that the Ministry of Railways take this matter very seriously. Besides, there is Diva Panvel route in my parliamentary constituency, on which a Konkan train runs, but so far only passenger services are being run on this route. A lot of development has taken place on this route. Presently, only Passenger Services, MEMU services 7 run on this route at slow speed. I urge the Railway Ministry to increase their speed and run as many MEMU passenger trains as possible in the coming time. Moreover, new local trains should be started on said Diva Panvel route, so that people can get maximum benefit.

[English]

SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY (MAHBUBNAGAR): Thank you very much Sir. The plight of the tobacco farmers in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh is very pathetic due to the prevailing drought conditions. Due to this situation, low grade tobacco yield is as high as 60 per cent against the normal 20 per cent. That is why, the cost of production of tobacco has become very high. So, the buyers are buying at a lower rate of Rs.80 per kg. Farmers are expecting about Rs.100 per kg. I would request the hon. Commerce Minister, through you, Sir, to intervene in this matter immediately and pay a compensation of Rs.20 per kg. The Government of India is getting Rs. 34,000 crore revenue by way of collecting taxes on tobacco products. If the Government pays compensation to

the poor farmers, it would only be spending Rs.40 crores. If the Government of India's policy is to discourage tobacco farming, at least the Government has to pay compensation of a minimum Rs.7 lakhs for the tobacco barns so that they can think of going out of tobacco farming and go for alternate crops.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA): Hon. Speaker, thank you. In 2012, 476 bigha land of farmers was taken through BHEL near Sakoli, in Bhandara Gondiya, the place I belong to. It was stated that about 3000 farmers and youth will get employment through two factories, whose work was started in 2013 by the then Chief Minister and Minister of Heavy Industries. Unfortunately, only 5 Percent work of factories has started there, and even after 6 years, the work has not been started, due to which there is anger among the youth. I request, through you, that the construction work of factory should be completed as soon as possible and the youth are employed.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jamayag Namgyal. Hon. Member represents Ladakh.

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL (LADAKH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. I have come from Ladakh region which is the largest constituency and 70 percent area of Jammu and Kashmir comes under my constituency where there are only 2 districts.

Hon. Speaker, whenever a popular government is formed in Jammu and Kashmir, it leaves no stone unturned to give a step-motherly treatment and do discrimination with Ladakh. There are only two districts, where there is no

development in terms of area, which suppresses the political aspirations and the spirit of development.

Sir, the President's Rule is currently in force in Jammu and Kashmir. Through you, I would like to request the Government to advise the Governor to make some amendments in Jammu and Kashmir to divide the Leh and Kargil Districts of Ladakh, which constitute 70 percent of Jammu and Kashmir, into five districts - Zaskar, Nubra, Sham, Chagthang and Dras because Zaskar and Nubra remain cut off from their district headquarters for six-seven months due to snow. Therefore, Nubra, and Zaskar with along Sham, Changthang and Dras should be made districts. Thank you.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Speaker, I am putting forward the issue of EPS-95 pensioners across the country. Currently, Rs 1000 to Rs 3000 is given as EPS-95 monthly pension. This is quite inadequate. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 04.10.2016 has held that all EPS holders should be given pension on the basis of actual salary or wages. All pensioners should be given the benefit of the highest pension as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Keeping in view the provisions of this Minimum Wage Act, the minimum pension of nine thousand rupees per month as well as the dearness allowance, as given to the employees of the Government should be given to the said pensioners. In the end, I demand that the Government while taking cognizance of the subject should take action to give a pension of nine thousand rupees to the EPS-95 pensioners. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Baburao Mendhe, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse and Dr. Heena Vijayakumar Gavit are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Shrirang Appa Barne.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Hon. Speaker, my constituency Jamshedpur borders West Bengal and Odisha. Here, Dandkshetra Manjhi and Maal are two castes which, being general caste, do not get any benefit on any economic, educational and social basis. They have a population of around 20 thousand. In Odisha and West Bengal, they have been given Scheduled Castes status and are benefiting from it. These people are fully agricultural laborers. I demand through you to the Government that Dadakshetra Majhi and Maal caste be included in the Scheduled Castes so that their economic, educational and social status can improve and they can make a better future.

***DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. In my Viluppuram parliamentary constituency, several thousands of rail passengers use train services to go to their offices every day. In order to facilitate the rail passengers all, the Express trains passing through Viluppuram should have stoppages at Tindivanam and Ulundurpet Railway stations. Moreover, the new Tejas Express introduced between Chennai and Madurai should have a stoppage at Viluppuram. I urge upon the Railway Ministry to start a passenger train service around 7 am in the morning every day from Viluppuram to Chennai and increase the coaches in train. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK (COOCHBEHAR): Respected Speaker Sir, it is well known that the Seventh Pay Commission has been implemented in all the 19 states of India where the BJP is in power, and which includes states like Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Uttarakhand. In the entire country, including West Bengal, the TRT Scale 2006 for Primary Teachers is effective. It has been stated in the guidelines of the CPC of 2006, but I regret that the primary teachers of West Bengal are fighting to the death today.

They have been sitting in front of Vikas Bhawan in West Bengal for 14 days on fast unto death, but the Government has no good wishes towards those people. They have to go to the CGO complex, a kilometer away for the toilet. Today, seeing those teachers of West Bengal in such a condition, we are getting to know how bad the Governance is in West Bengal. Just a few days ago, we have seen how the doctors were severely beaten there. Today teachers are on roads,

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

thousands of male and female teachers are sitting on the streets. Through this House, I request that the condition of West Bengal be taken care of at the earliest. In addition, the PRT scale for primary teacher, as mentioned in the 2006 CPC guidelines, should be implemented as soon as possible. I would like to put the above demands before the House.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, those Members who have not been able to speak today will be the first to speak the next time, because they have waited today.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow on July 26, 2019 at 11 AM.

20.31 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Friday, July 26, 2019/Shravana 4, 1941 (Saka).*

INTERNET

The Original version, English version and Hindi Version of Lok Sabha proceedings are available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

<https://sansad.in/ls>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are telecast live on Sansad TV Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. every day the Lok Sabha sits till the adjournment of the House.

©2019 By Lok Sabha Secretariat
Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of
Business in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition)
