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1

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Agrahayana 27, 1939 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXVII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 18, 2017/Agrahayana 27, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jayaprakash ji, please.

... (Interruptions)

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Loss of lives in various tragic incidents

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, 21 persons are reported to have been killed and several others injured in a boat mishap in Krishna river in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh on 12th November, 2017.

Hon'ble Members, several persons are reported to have been killed and many others injured due to Cyclone Ockhi that lashed several parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra and Gujarat during the first week of December. The cyclone has also caused widespread damage to the property in the region.

Hon'ble Members, the House strongly condemns the recent terrorist attacks in the United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Afghanistan, Egypt and Nigeria as also at other places throughout the world which have resulted in the loss of lives and caused serious injuries to the innocent people and damage to property.

We condole the loss of lives of innocent people in these terror attacks and stand in solidarity with the people, Parliaments and the Governments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Afghanistan, Egypt and Nigeria and support their efforts to bring perpetrators of such heinous attacks to justice.

Hon'ble Members, 348 persons were killed in two massive earthquakes that struck Mexico on 7th and 19th September, 2017. A devastating earthquake also struck the Iran-Iraq border on 12th November, 2017 resulting in the death of several people. The House expresses deepest condolences at the loss of lives in these earthquakes.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on these tragic incidents which have brought pain and suffering to the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery to those injured. We will have a detailed discussion on Ockhi separately.

The House will now stand in silence for a short while in honor of the departed souls.

11.02 hours

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Question no. 21.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri A. P. Jithender Reddy is not there.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit Somaiya ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Not, now. Please raise your issue after Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Speaker Madam, ...

(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Not now, after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

11.04 hours**ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION**

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 21, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy – Not present.

Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

(Q. 21)

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Question I asked has been replied very aptly. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nobody wants any question or anything? I am sorry. No way.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Question I asked was replied very aptly. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, I would like to say again that Hon. Minister Prakash Javadekar in Hon. Modi ji's Government has given a very pertinent reply. ... *(Interruptions)* The people of Gujarat and Himachal have also given a very strong response. ... *(Interruptions)* Himachal Pradesh is no longer under Congress governance, I congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji for the unprecedented victory in Gujarat. ... *(Interruptions)* I congratulate him for this, I thank him. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 o'clock.

11.06 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 22 to 40

**Unstarred Question Nos.231 to 331 and 333 to 460

* For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.

** Unstarred Question No.332 was deleted due to resignation by Member.

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

12.00 hours

Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

FELICITATIONS BY THE SPEAKER

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, our Men's Hockey team won the Asia Cup by defeating Malaysia in the final match held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22nd October 2017. Our women's hockey team also won the Asia Cup by beating China at Kakamigahara in Japan on 5th November, 2017.

Indian boxer and a Member Rajya Sabha Ms. Mary Kom won a gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championship at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 8th November, 2017.

Hon. Members, Indian weightlifter Ms. Mirabai Chanu won a gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championships in Anaheim, United States of America on 30th November, 2017.

This House congratulates the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams, Ms. Mary Kom and Mirabai Chanu for their outstanding achievement and wishes them success in their future endeavours.

12.01 hours**RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS**

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the resignation of three Members from the membership of Lok Sabha.

Shri Yogi Adityanath, an elected member from Gorakhpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh, tendered his resignation vide dated 21st September, 2017. I have accepted his resignation w.e.f. 21st September, 2017.

Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, an elected Member from the Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh tendered his resignation vide dated 21st September, 2017. I have accepted his resignation also.

Shri Nana Patole, an elected Member from the Bhandara-Gondiya Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra tendered his resignation vide his letter dated 8th December, 2017. I have accepted his resignation w.e.f. 14th December, 2017.

12.03 hours**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Joint Committee on Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Bill, 2015

And

Committee on Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017... Extension of time

HON. SPEAKER: I am to inform the House that the Joint Committee on 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Bill, 2015' has decided to seek further extension of deadline for presenting its report on the Bill till the last day of the Monsoon Session, 2018 as the report cannot be finalized by the extended time limit granted by the House i.e. 15th December, 2017. Similarly, the Joint Committee on 'The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017' has decided to seek extension of deadline till the last day of the Budget Session, 2018 as it would not be ready for presentation of its Report by the deadline prescribed by the House i.e. 15th December, 2017. The motion regarding extension of time to these two Joint Committees could not be presented in the House as the House was adjourned after Obituary References. Therefore, I have permitted for extension of deadline sought by the House for submission of reports by these two Committees.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received a number of notices for adjournment motion. These matters are important, but can be raised on other occasions, so, I am not allowing them.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.05 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up papers to be laid on the Table.

Item No. 2 – Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7638/16/17]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7639/16/17]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7640/16/17]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7641/16/17]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7642/16/17]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7643/16/17]

- (g) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7644/16/17]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 3281(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 10th October, 2017 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1358(E) dated 27th April, 2017, under sub-section (2) of Section 58 of the Aadhaar (targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7645/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Speaker Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O.2827(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 30th August, 2017 specifying the Schedule of hazardous occupations and processes to the Child and Adolescent Labour 6 (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7646/16/17]

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am unable to listen to either side right now.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7647/16/17]

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Commotion will never go on record.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table the following papers :--

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2016-17.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2016-17, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (III) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7648/16/17]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization, Wardha, for the year 2016-17, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization, Wardha, for the year 2016-17.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7649/16/17]

... (Interruptions)

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):**

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the Annual Reports for the year 2016-2017 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following institutes:-
- (i) Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7650/16/17]

- (ii) Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology Thiruvananthapuram.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7651/16/17]

- (iii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7652/16/17]

- (iv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7653/16/17]

- (v) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Shimla.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7654/16/17]

- (vi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Mumbai.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7655/16/17]

- (vii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Ahmedabad.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7656/16/17]

- (viii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Bhopal.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7657/16/17]

- (ix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Gwalior.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7658/16/17]

- (x) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition (Society), Gurdaspur.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7659/16/17]

- (xi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition
(Calcutta) Society, Kolkata.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7660/16/17]

(xii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Shillong.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7661/16/17]

(xiii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Chennai.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7662/16/17]

(xiv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Hajipur.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7663/16/17]

(xv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Jaipur.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7664/16/17]

(xvi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Guwahati.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7665/16/17]

(xvii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,
Bhubaneswar.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7666/16/17]

- (xviii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7667/16/17]

- (xix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7668/16/17]

- (xx) Institute for Hotel Management, Bangalore.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7669/16/17]

- (xxi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7670/16/17]

- (xxii) National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida.

- (2) A copy each of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the above mentioned institutes for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7671/16/17]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7672/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers :--

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7673/16/17]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Noida, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Noida, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Noida, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7674/16/17]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7675/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Apprenticeship (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1139(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th September, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7676/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution :-

- (1) The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Ordinance, 2017 (No. 5 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 2nd September, 2017.
- (2) The Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 6 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 23rd November, 2017.
- (3) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 7 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 23rd November, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7677/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY):

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7678/16/17]

(3) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the following SEZs for the year ended the 31st March, 2016 together with Auditor's Report thereon:-

- (i) Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone SEZ Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7679/16/17]

- (ii) Madras Special Economic Zone Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7680/16/17]

- (iii) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7681/16/17]

(iv) Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7682/16/17]

(v) Falta Special Economic Zone Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7683/16/17]

(vi) Noida Special Economic Zone Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7684/16/17]

(vii) Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7685/16/17]

(4) A copy of the Consolidated Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Noida Special Economic Zone Authority, Falta Special Economic Zone Authority, Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone SEZ Authority, Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority, Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority, Madras Special Economic Zone Authority and Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7686/16/17]

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7687/16/17]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7688/16/17]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the PEC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7689/16/17]

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

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7690/16/17]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7691/16/17]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the STCL Limited, Bengaluru, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the STCL Limited, Bengaluru, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7692/16/17]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7693/16/17]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7694/16/17]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7695/16/17]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7696/16/17]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7697/16/17]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7698/16/17]

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (3) of Section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942:-

- (i) The Coffee Board (Cadre and Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1375(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th November, 2017.
- (ii) The Coffee Board (Cadre and Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1479(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7699/16/17]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7700/16/17]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7701/16/17]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board India, Cochin, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board India, Cochin, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board India, Cochin, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7702/16/17]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kollam, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kollam, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7703/16/17]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board India, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board India, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tea Board India, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7704/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA PROTECTION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): Madam Chairperson, I lay the following papers :--

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior for the year 2015-16.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior for the year 2015-16, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior for the year 2015-16, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7705/16/17]

... *(Interruptions)*

12.07 hours

(At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

12.08 hours**ASSENT TO BILLS**

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Twelfth Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 18th July, 2017:-

- (i) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2017;
- (ii) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2017;
- (iii) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2017;
- (iv) The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2017; and
- (v) The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2017.

I also lay on the Table one copy each, duly authenticated by the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, of following eight Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President :

- (i) The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
- (ii) The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017;

- (iii) The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
- (iv) The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017;
- (v) The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2017;
- (vi) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
- (vii) The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
and
- (viii) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7706/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

12.08 ½ hours

**REPORT OF INQUIRY COMMITTEE UNDER
THE JUDGES (INQUIRY) ACT, 1968***

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the following documents under sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 read with rules 9 and 10 of the Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969:-

- (1) Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inquiry Committee appointed under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, in respect of Shri Justice S.K. Gangele, Judge, Madhya Pradesh High Court.

- (2) A copy each of the evidence of witnesses tendered before the Inquiry Committee and documents exhibited during the inquiry.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 7706A/16/17

12.09 hours

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

82nd to 86th Reports

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA) : Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2017-18) :-

- (1) 82nd Report on Action Taken by Government on observations/ recommendations contained in 45th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Performance of 100 percent Export Oriented Unit Scheme'.
- (2) 83rd Report on Action Taken by Government on observations/ recommendations contained in 53rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Land Management in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited'.
- (3) 84th Report on Action Taken by Government on observations/ recommendations contained in 19th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Excesses over voted grants and charged appropriations (2012-13)'.
- (4) 85th Report on the subject 'Tribal Sub-Plan' based on C&AG Report No. 33 of 2015.
- (5) 86th Report on Action Taken by Government on observations/ recommendations contained in 60th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Performance Audit of Dual Freight Policy for Transportation of Iron Ore Traffic in Indian Railways'.

... (Interruptions)

12.10 hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE****137th and 138th Reports**

SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI (TAMLUK): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports* (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:-

- (1) 137th Report on Trade with Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
 - (2) 138th Report on Activities and Functioning of Spices Board.
-

12.10 1/2 hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS****301st Report**

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 301st Report[@] (Hindi and English versions) on 'Genetically Modified Crops and its Impact on Environment' of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests.

* The Reports were presented to Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 25th August, 2017. A copy each of the Reports was also forwarded to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

[@] The Report was presented to Hon'ble chairman, Rajya Sabha on 25th August, 2017 and was forwarded to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha the same day.

12.11 hours**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 7th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Ethanol Blended Petrol and Bio Diesel Policy', pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): Madam, I beg to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 7th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Ethanol Blended Petrol and Bio Diesel Policy', pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.11 ¼ hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 240th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Culture.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Madam, I beg to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 240th

* Laid on the Table and also placed in library, See No. LT- 7708/16/17 and 7709/16/17 respectively.

Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Culture.

12.11 ½ hours

MOTIONS RE: ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Estimates

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): I beg to move :

“That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the un-expired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat appointed as Ministers and Shri Sultan Ahmed died and *vice* Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao Patole resigned from Lok Sabha.”

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the un-expired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat appointed as Ministers and Shri Sultan Ahmed died and *vice* Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao Patole resigned from Lok Sabha.”

The motion was adopted.

12.11 ¾ hours**(ii) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes**

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): I beg to move :

“That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from amongst themselves to serve as member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the un-expired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Dr. Virendra Kumar appointed as Minister.”

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is :

“That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from amongst themselves to serve as member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the un-expired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Dr. Virendra Kumar appointed as Minister.”

The motion was adopted.

12.12 hours**(iii) Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes, 2017-18**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I beg to move:

“That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, twenty members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes for the term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the Committee.”

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, twenty members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes for the term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

12.12 ½ hours

(iv) **Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes, 2017-18;**

Re: Election of Ten Members from Rajya Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I beg to move :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to elect 10 members from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to join in the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes for the term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of members so elected to the Committee.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to elect 10 members from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to join in the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes for the term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of members so elected to the Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

12.13 hours**(v) Spices Board****THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):**

I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Spices Board Act, 1986 read with Rule 4 and Rule 5 of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Spices Board, for the period till they cease to be members of the House, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Spices Board Act, 1986 read with Rule 4 and Rule 5 of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Spices Board, for the period till they cease to be members of the House, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

12.14 hours**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 2017-18**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Supplementary Demands for Grants – Second Batch for 2017-18.

[Placed in library, See No. LT-7710/16/17]

12.15 hours**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS ...Contd**

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 289th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPEMENT AND MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 289th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2017-2018) pertaining to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, as directed in the statement being laid on the Table of the House.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in library, See No. LT- 7707/16/17

12.16 hours

GOVERNMENT BILLS- Introduced

(i) National Council for Teacher Education(Amendment) Bill, 2017 *

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 18.12.2017.

12.16 ½ hours**(ii) Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Gratuity Payment Act, 1972.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 18.12.2017.

12.16 ¾ hours

(iii) Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Dentists Act, 1948. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Dentists Act, 1948.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 18.12.2017

12.17 hours**(iv) Indian Forests (Amendment) Bill, 2017***

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.”

Bhartruhari Mahtab Ji, do you have some objection?

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, this Bill tramples into powers of respective States as the Forest Act is being amended through this Bill. ... (*Interruptions*). The basic provision of this Bill relates to providing permit for inter-State movement of bamboo which needs to be intact as it is there in the Forest Act. What is being done through this Bill is that there is no need for any State Government to give permission for transport of bamboo from one State to another. Very innocuously it has been mentioned that the farmers are being affected in seeking permission from their respective State Governments... (*Interruptions*). This is the basic problem because mostly it is the forest area where bamboo is grown and where permission is granted and where it is to be transported. In North-East and even in Odisha, we have the paper producing plants. There are certain States which do not have bamboo at all. For that, the respective State Government needs to give permission. How can you withdraw that power to give permission from the State Governments through this Bill so that there is free transport of

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 18.12.2017.

bamboo from one place to another? Whom are you protecting? Whose interest are you protecting actually? You are protecting the interest of the traders and interest of the State is being put into difficulty. That is the reason why we are opposed to the introduction of this Bill. ... (*Interruptions*).

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I think, the hon. Member has probably not understood the spirit of the Bill. His apprehensions are grossly misplaced. I think whatever he has communicated is not the fact of the Bill. If he wants, I can tell him what this Bill is and what it is about. It is one of the major reforms and I think this Bill is going to help the farmers and virtually everyone in a big way.

The issue is that section 2 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, defines “tree” which includes palms, bamboos, stumps, brush-wood and canes. Therefore, the bamboo, though taxonomically a grass, is treated as tree for the purpose of the Indian Forest Act, and therefore, it attracts the requirement of transit permit under section 41 of the Indian Forest Act even if it is grown on private land.

The issue is that because of this particular definition bamboo is included under the category of ‘tree’ and there are unnecessary hurdles for everyone right from bamboo growers to those who ultimately get benefited from the bamboo industry. The whole chain starts from the farmers and includes virtually everyone.

This Bill is a major reform and it is going to help the economy in a big way. After China we are the largest grower of bamboo in the world but the benefits of bamboo economy are not being translated into action which is supposed to help the economy of the country. This country had to wait for Shri Narendra Modi, for almost 90 years, to get this Bill amended. The Indian Forest Act was enacted in 1927. Shri Mahtab is a very senior and very learned hon. Member of the House and I would like to request him to go through the provisions of the Bill and understand the spirit of the Bill. When I will talk on the Bill I will explain to him and I am sure I will be able to convince him that this is nothing anti-

people and this is a pro-people and farmer-friendly Bill and it is going to help the country in a big way. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

12.18 hours**STATEMENT RE: INDIAN FOREST (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2017***

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 6 of 2017).

12.19 hours**GOVERNMENT BILLS - Introduced ...Contd****(v) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017****

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 7711/16/17.

** Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 18.12.2017.

12.21 hours

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

47th Report

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS; AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.22 hours**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 ***

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over text of the matter at the Table of the House within twenty minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time, the rest will be treated as lapsed.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) **Need to provide Aadhaar card to Leprosy patients and visually and physically challenged persons.**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI (BASTI): The Union Government is making efforts on a war footing basis to link all Government schemes and accounts etc. with Aadhaar to promote transparency by reducing corruption, but it is very unfortunate that lakhs of leprosy patients living in the country are deprived of this facility. We know that fingerprints of the person are necessary for Aadhaar registration, but the fingers of leprosy patients deteriorate due to the said disease, because of which they are unable to complete their Aadhaar registration. As a result, the people who need government welfare schemes the most, remain deprived of government welfare schemes. Along with this, specially-abled persons (Divyang) who do not have hands or eyes also get deprived of Aadhaar card facilities due to biometric obligations.

Therefore, in light of the above reference, I request the Union Government to take necessary action.

(ii) Regarding improving railway facilities in Korba Parliamentary Constituency

DR. BANSHILAL MAHTO (KORBA) : At present, not a single direct train is operating from my Parliamentary Constituency Korba (CG) to the country's capital Delhi. Train No 18237 Chhattisgarh Express, which runs from Bilaspur to Amritsar, is operated as a passenger train from Korba to Bilaspur, but while returning from Amritsar, its services are terminated at Bilaspur itself. Similarly, 18239 Shivnath Express runs from Korba to Nagpur, but on return journey, its last stoppage is at Bilaspur. Both these trains should run till Korba on their returning journey. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways to restart the operation of Korba-Jaipur Intercity Express which used to run earlier, as it is a long-awaited demand of the people of the region and I have requested for it several times. At the same time, it is also stated that the pace of construction work of the under-construction East-West Corridor rail line Gevra (Korba) to Pendra Road (Bilaspur) in Chhattisgarh is also very slow, and it has not made even basic and expected progress so far during the last 5 years or so. I request to expedite the above construction work by removing other hurdles including environmental clearance of the said project.

(iii) **Need to complete construction work on Chhapra-Hajipur Section of National Highway No. 19 in Bihar**

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): National Highway NH-19 is one of the busiest National Highways in India that links Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh with Patna in Bihar. This 240 km long route passes through Chhapra, Sonapur and Hajipur sections of Bihar which is predominately a rural belt.

With regard to NH-19, the completion of Chhapra-Hajipur section of the Highway has been inordinately delayed for over 4 years due to problems in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, delay in approval from Railways and more so due to the poor performance of contractors.

These delays have had a cascading effect on the overall progress of the rural population living in the regions nearby. Upon completion, the project will prove to be beneficial to a large rural agrarian population covering over 300 villages in 4 districts of Bihar.

In view of this, I request the Union Government to make rigorous effort to complete the ongoing NH-19 project at the earliest by taking up periodical reviews with State Government Officers, concessionaires, other concerned departments and also review the pace of work by the contractors to expedite the NH 19 completion.

(iv) **Need to ensure safety of people and protection of crops
from wild animals in Uttarakhand**

[Translation]

Dr. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the serious challenge of wildlife-human conflict in Uttarakhand, Himalayan States and forest dominated areas. On one hand, hundreds of people have lost their lives due to wild animals, while on the other hand, some people are forced to migrate from these areas due to extensive damage to their crops. Farmers are unable to carry out farming work due to fear induced by wild animals. Under compulsion, people are forced to change crop patterns (change the crop) and they are facing the risk of starvation.

I would like to request the Government that while understanding the seriousness of this problem, the Government should take effective short-term and long-term steps by coordinating with all the stakeholders, policy-makers, Union and State Governments, Department of Legal Affairs, Forest Department, Agriculture Department, Media and Non-Governmental Organizations. Apart from this, the Government should immediately implement suggestions like solar energy based fencing, land use planning, eco-tourism, environmental service tax and green bonus, etc. and resources should be made available for crop change by training the farmers to deal with this challenge. I appeal to make necessary changes in the forest laws.

(v) Need to provide adequate warehouse facilities for foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHERI) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a large scale foodgrain scam that happened in Uttar Pradesh which is being investigated by the C.B.I since long wherein many of the accused food grain traders had made their private warehouses available to the Government purchasing and distribution agencies, under the guise of which, wheat and rice etc., meant for distribution to the poor people on Government subsidy, were not only black marketed but also exported to foreign countries after tampering with the papers. While lower storage capacity of the Government promotes corruption, it also results in pilferage, wastage of food grains, inflation and manipulation through purchase and distribution on paper.

I would like to draw the Government's attention to the lack of storage capacity required for the grain purchased by Government procurement centres for foodgrains schemes like P.D.S especially in Uttar Pradesh where private warehouses are rented for foodgrains procured by the Government (purchase and distribution) due to lack of warehouses owned by the Government. It is surprising that at present, the storage capacity of private warehouses (owned by foodgrain traders) is more than that of warehouses owned by the Food Corporation of India.

I request the Government to have more warehouses in place as per the requirements to tighten the noose on foodgrain mafias and to avoid further losses.

**(vi) Need to construct rake points in railway for transportation of fertilizers in
Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY (MAHARAJGANJ): In my Parliamentary Constituency Maharajganj (U.P.), there are two broad gauge lines Gorakhpur - Anandnagar - Navtanwa and Gorakhpur – Ghughuli - Siswan under the North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur. Dozens of passengers and goods trains ply on both these railway routes. Fertilizer supply in this district is done through road routes from other districts due to absence of rake points due to which farmers are not able to get timely supply of fertilizers. Opening of rake points in this district will reduce the transportation cost of fertilizers. It would also help Railways earn more income from freight transportation and farmers will be get fertilizers supply on time. Anandnagar Junction, Navtanwa Junction, Ghughuli Junction and Siswan Junction railway stations are located in Maharajganj district where rake points for fertilizers can be set up.

I request the Union Government to issue order in public interest for construction of rake points at Anandnagar, Navtanwa, Siswan, Ghughuli of Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh, wherever appropriate, for supply of fertilizers.

(vii) Need to withdraw the decision to shift Divisional Office of Railway Mail**Service from Saharanpur to Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR) : I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the disadvantageous decision taken by the Postal Department in Saharanpur district.

Saharanpur district is an important border district of Uttar Pradesh, which shares its borders with four states of Himachal, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Punjab because of which it is an important and major business and industrial district and the zonal and record offices of Railway Mail Service are operating from here for years. Businesses of many major industries like Patanjali, ITC, hosiery products, wooden handicraft products, hosiery products of Ludhiana, entire literature of Shanti Kunj etc. are done on large scale from here through this rail mail system. Apart from this, the postal business of entire Uttarakhand is also carried out from this centre, as a result of which this centre is popular as a multi-purpose centre.

Recently, orders have been issued by the higher officials of the Postal Department and the Chief Post Master General, Lucknow to transfer the said office from Saharanpur district to Ghaziabad, due to which the people of Saharanpur district and the business and industrial hub located there will have to face huge difficulties in future after this office is shifted from Saharanpur. This decision will also affect the future of about 300 employees working here in the said office.

This order will also cause huge wastage of Government funds because the said office is functioning in a Government building in Saharanpur while in Ghaziabad, the process of hiring a building on rent has been started by these officials after wasting huge amount for the said new office.

Therefore, I request our Union Government and the Ministry of Communications to issue necessary instructions to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the divisional office of the Railway Mail Service in Saharanpur district like before.

(viii) Need to ensure construction of toilets as per specified norms under Swachh Bharat Mission in Dausa Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the irregularities being committed in making India Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the Prime Minister Swachh Bharat Yojana.

On visiting my Parliamentary Constituency Dausa, I came to know that in several villages which have recently been declared Open Defecation Free by the Panchayat or by the district authorities, most of the houses do not have toilets. Large scale irregularities are taking place here in the name of construction of toilets. For example, Ukrund Gram Panchayat located in Mahuva Tehsil, District Dausa, has been declared Open Defecation Free and on paper, all the houses there have toilets, but in reality, the situation is opposite. To increase the number of ODF villages, the authorities are also constructing makeshift-low-quality toilets in several villages.

I request the Union Government to state the total number of toilets built under the Pradhan Mantri Swachh Bharat Yojana in my Parliamentary Constituency Dausa. It should also state the name of the person / agency carrying out the said construction work alongwith the number thereof and the amount given to each person per toilet in Dausa.

Finally, I request the Union Government to pay attention to this issue and review all the districts / villages that have been declared ODF so far and take strict action against the officials found guilty.

(ix) Need to construct a road over bridge on Burhi Gandak river at Ratwara Dholi Ghat in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFARPUR) : The absence of a high level road bridge at Ratwara Dholi Ghat on the Budhi Gandak river flowing in front of Tirhut Agricultural College Dholi, located in the eastern sub-division of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar state is causing the common people there a lot of difficulties. In the absence of a road bridge there, people have to travel long distances to visit the district headquarters and during floods, the entire link is lost.

Keeping in view the huge problems being caused to the common people, I would like to request that a high level road bridge should be constructed on the Ratwara Dholi Ghat of Budhi Gandak river at the earliest so that the common people may get rid of the problems they are facing.

(x)Need to expedite construction of dwelling units for rehabilitation of residents of jhuggi-jhopri clusters in Mumbai North Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Around 756 proposed slum rehabilitation projects in CTS No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 located at MD Road, Kandivali (East) under my Parliamentary Constituency Mumbai North are lying closed for the last several years.

In this regard it is to be informed that the above area was declared as slum in the year 1977 and SRA Authority had provided LOI for the said slum scheme and had also granted IOA of 4 rehabilitation buildings and permission for construction of 2 transit campuses in the year 2007 and 2008. As per the approval for setting up of two transit camps, slum dwellers were shifted to the transit camps in 2007 and their structures were demolished.

But, while the construction work was underway, someone approached court and got the work stopped in 2008. Thereafter, the construction company and the society challenged the matter pending for final hearing in the High Court. The future of 765 slum dwellers is in limbo due to all these reasons and all the poor slum dwellers are worried and going through immense mental agony.

Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken important steps to provide houses to all the poor slum dwellers of the country by the Year 2022.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take immediate steps to expedite the construction work of the above scheme approved by the S.R.A Authority, which is getting badly affected due to delay in the judicial system, so that the poor slum dwellers can get houses as per the policy of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

(xi) Need to accord approval to the proposed National Highway No. 58 E from Udaipur-Som-Deya via Jhadol to border areas of Gujarat

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the biggest problem of the Udaipur Lok Sabha Constituency in Rajasthan. The major inter-state commuting route within Rajasthan is National Highway No. 8, which passes through the states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. This route also passes through my Lok Sabha Constituency Udaipur to Ratanpur-Dungarpur bordering Gujarat. Traffic pressure on this road is very high, due to which it takes more time to travel, more fuel consumption and accidents and casualties are also high on this road.

The U.P.A Government had announced to construct approximately 108 km long National Highway No. -58 E from Udaipur-Som-Deya via Jhadol (F) to Gujarat border, which remained just an announcement. The budget allocation and D.P.R proposal for this National Highway are lying pending with the Government of India and recently, during the Prime Minister's Udaipur programme on 29th August, a priority to construct this route was announced.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India to approve the National Highway No. -58 E from Udaipur-Som-Deya via Jhadol (F) to Gujarat border at the earliest and allocate the budget for this project so that the minor forest produce markets of Gogunda, Kotada under my Lok Sabha Constituency can benefit and the heavy traffic pressure on National Highway No. 8 can be reduced.

(xii) Need to set up a Railway Terminus at Vasai Railway Station and also redevelop, modernise and upgrade the station

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANGA (PALGHAR): Vasai Railway station in my constituency is very important railway station in India. The population of Palghar district especially Vasai Municipal Corporation is increasingly rapidly. This station is on Western Railway line but it is connected to Mumbai - Konkan Railway, Eastern Railway and Northern Railway also. The long route trains going to these railway lines stop at Vasai railway station. But facilities at this station are not adequate.

I, therefore, request the Government to set up a Railway Terminus at Vasai Station and redevelop, modernise and upgrade the station.

(xiii) **Need to provide special financial package to Kerala affected by cyclone 'Ockhi'**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Ockhi cyclone was one of the worst disasters that struck the state of Kerala. So far 66 bodies have reportedly been recovered and search operations for missing persons are continuing. According to official reports, around 100 persons are still missing. The cyclone devastated the coastal areas of the state and the fishing community is struggling for survival. I request the Union Government to take urgent necessary steps to save the State from this disastrous situation and rehabilitate the fisher folk there living along the coast. I call upon the Government to work out a better warning and communication system to alert the states and reach the people in times of natural calamities. The Government of Kerala has requested financial support and a special package to meet the unprecedented calamity. I urge the Government to provide early assistance.

(xiv) **Regarding status of framework Agreement between Government of India and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM)**

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): In order to seek transparency on details of the current status of the Framework Agreement between the Centre and NSCN (IM) in North East, I request our Hon. Prime Minister to clarify the exact provisions of this agreement that will impact large areas of territory and the citizens of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. There is a strong sense of apprehension amongst people of these states, reflected in series of protests and disturbances staged in these areas. Combined with the complete absence of clarity on this matter by the Government, the situation is causing unprecedented confusion among people and authorities.

I request that the Centre, makes public, the details of this agreement considering the scale of its impact. Currently NSCN (IM) official map of Greater Nagalim shows a 1,20,000 sq. km sprawl across North East. The people of Assam shouldn't be made to compromise on the loss of territory and authority over its legal boundaries.

(xv) Need to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu, affected by cyclone 'Ockhi'

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): On the 29th and 30th November, Cyclone Ockhi had caused severe destruction in the southern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu especially Kanyakumari district. Thousands of houses were damaged, several acres of agricultural fields were inundated; paddy crops, coconut trees and plantain crops were also ruined completely. It had severely crippled normal life, affecting scores of fishermen. Even though more than 3500 fishermen had been rescued, some are still missing; and their families are inconsolable.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu immediately swung into action and allocated available resources from the State Govt. In this regard, the Chief Minister had telephonically contacted the Hon. Prime Minister and also Hon. Home Minister, and requested the Centre to allocate adequate funds for undertaking repair of power infrastructure, road network, fisheries infrastructure, among others.

Since the magnitude of the damage is humongous, it necessitates the intervention of the Centre and this requires to be declared as a 'National Disaster' and necessary financial assistance may be provided, accordingly by the Centre to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu immediately.

(xvi) Need to conduct a study by experts on the geographical condition of flood-prone villages in Arambag Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): My Arambagh constituency is a land of rivers like Damodar, Mundasori, Darakeshwar and their tributaries. It is a flood-prone area. I urge the government to send central team of experts to West Bengal to study and report on geographical condition of villages under my constituency areas and take suitable action for the development of the region in a planned manner.

(xvii) **Regarding safety of migrant labourers**

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Mr. Mohammad Afrazul, from West Bengal was hacked and burnt to death in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan by Shabhu Lal Raigar, who was seen ranting against “love Jihad” in a video. Unfortunately, Rajasthan Government did not take serious action to ensure security of migrated labourers. West Bengal Chief Minister announced Rs. 3 lakh and government job to the victim’s family. The video of the gruesome incident went viral on social media and after nationwide protest against the heinous crime, the state police was forced to arrest Raigar. West Bengal government directed its DGP to take necessary action to ensure the security of about 3,500 labourers from West Bengal who are working in the state of Rajasthan. I would urge central government to impress upon State Government to provide adequate safety to migrant labourers.

**(xviii) Need to reserve seats for patients suffering from Parkinson disease in AC
(III Tier) coaches in trains**

(Translation)

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI-SOUTH): People are suffering from various kinds of diseases nowadays and one of the main diseases among them is "Parkinson". Presently, Railways has provided facility to these patients to travel only in sleeper class. During the peak season and holidays, the trains are fully packed and passengers having general tickets also travel in these reserved coaches, due to which these patients face a lot of inconvenience in going to the toilet and in an attempt to avoid this trouble, sometimes they lose their lives. For the convenience of these patients, they should have reserved berths in 3 tier A.C. coaches.

I request the Government to reserve quota seats in 3 tier A.C. coaches for patients suffering from "Parkinson" and their co-passengers and this quota in sleeper class should be increased too.

(xix) Need to increase number of seats in Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): Section 26(1) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 clearly assures an increase in the number of seats from 175 to 225, in the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh. However, 84th Amendment to the Constitution in 2002, amended Article 170(3) and had applied a freeze on delimitation of constituencies till data of the first census after 2026 is published.

The people of Andhra Pradesh have been neglected for three years. The provision to increase the seats was inserted to pacify the agitation against reorganization, all the while keeping a backdoor via Article 170.

The possibility of reorganization was not envisaged by the Constitutional Amendment. I urge the current Government To provide justice and correct the wrong inflicted on the people of Andhra Pradesh by a forced reorganization. I call upon the Government to fulfill the promise that was made, even if it requires them to undertake a constitutional amendment.

(xx) Need to restore train services on Palakkadu-Pollachi railway line

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): From the date of its commissioning on 1st April 1932, the Palakkadu-Pollachi meter gauge line was extensively used for travel, trade and pilgrimage mainly by the people of Kerala and Tamilnadu. The route was closed in 2008 for gauge conversion works. The work had been completed at the end of 2015 and a train started operating on this route, but lasted only for one month. Southern Railway spent Rs.350 crores for constructing the Broad gauge line, new station buildings, level crossings, signalling and telecommunications system, standard platforms, foot over bridges, subways, shelters, ramps and other passenger amenities. Even after spending such a huge amount to build up the extensive infrastructure, it is quite unfortunate that the route is being underutilized by the southern railway. Conversion of the gauge resulted in modernization of Palakkad Town-Pollachi section and changed its entire outlook. But, presently, there is only one passenger special train operating on the route.

The Palakkadu-Pollachi route connects important religious centres such as Guruvayoor in Kerala and Rameswaram and Tamil Nadu via Palakkadu, Dindigal and Madurai. A train connecting Guruvayoor —Rameswaram was proposed long back.

I urge the Government to take necessary steps to restore the previous train services stopped following gauge conversion of Palakkadu —Pollachi line and take urgent steps to start new trains on the route as early as possible.

(xxi) Need to set up a steel plant in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY (KADAPA): It is to bring to your kind notice that in Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 in its 13th schedule clearly mentioned the establishment of a steel plant in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. It has been 3 years since the formation of new Andhra Pradesh state but yet the promises made during the bifurcation are yet to be fulfilled.

It had been recently informed that the SAIL had submitted the feasibility report on 2nd December 2014 itself. As per the feasibility report, setting up of steel plant is prima facie not financially viable. Subsequently, a task force has been constituted on 19th October, 2016 comprising of representatives from the Central Government, State Government, SAIL, RINL, NMDC, MECON Ltd and MSTC to consider the feasibility issues and to prepare a road map for setting up of steel plant in Andhra Pradesh. During the last meeting the task force held on 9th March, 2017 it was decided that the findings of the survey of the regions of Andhra Pradesh by Geological Survey of India may be shared with MECON as and when they become available and MECON would then submit its report about iron ore deposits.

Sir, if we look at a big steel plant like Vizag Steel Plant, Iron ore comes from faraway places. Yet it is a feasible and profitable project reaping good profits. But, in Kadapa the question of feasibility does not arise as large deposits of iron ore are available in and around Kadapa, and in Anantapur, Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh so availability of Iron ore is abundant.

Further, if Government of India and State Government provide some tax incentives and subsidy, then the project will become viable without any doubt.

The division of erstwhile AP state was done completely ignoring and against the feelings, opinions of the Seemaadhra region. The bifurcation of the state was done by hurting the sentiments of the people of Rayalaseema region in particular.

After division, the only thing the people of Rayalaseema region are anxiously looking for is setting up of steel plant in YSR District of Andhra Pradesh as promised in AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

In view of the above, I request you to kindly expedite the matter to initiate setting up of steel plant in YSR Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh at the earliest.

(xxii) **Need to construct a new railway line in Doaba region of Punjab and improvement in railway infrastructure**

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): In my constituency, Doaba Region is the most important part of Punjab. Famous river Satluj divides Malwa and Doaba Region. New rail line (about 30 km) from Rahon to Khanna can reduce by 100 km the distance between New Delhi and this region. Many religious, historical and tourist spots like native village of Shaheed Bhagat Singh fall on this route. It may be pointed out that thousands travel on this route to attend the annual Mela, etc. So, I would urge upon the Hon'ble Railway Minister to instruct the Railway authority to construct this 30 km new Rail link. Similarly work on (already declared) SAS Nagar to Rajpura rail line should be started immediately.

Escalator facility may kindly be provided at SAS Nagar (Mohali) railway station as the height of platform is very high and is difficult for the old person to climb up the stairs to take the train.

Last but not the least, it is humbly demanded that the platform at Kurali, Ropar and Shri Anandpur Sahib may be constructed on both sides keeping in view the number of casualties witnessed every year due to non-availability of platform on the other side.

(xxiii) **Need to impress upon the Government of Bihar to withdraw Bihar Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA) : Bihar Government's decision to amend the Gram Swaraj i.e. the Panchayati Raj system through the Bihar Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance - 2017 and to end the existence of Gram Sabha, the basic soul of democracy, and to modify other important sections of the Panchayati Raj Act-2006, and instructions imposed by the State Government against the guidelines of the 14th Finance Commission for Central Grants have led to development work getting stalled due to the non-spending of funds for almost a year. With the constitution of the 14th Finance Commission, the amount of central grant was to be used for successful implementation of schemes of various sectors as per the priority selected and determined by the Gram Sabha, but by bringing this ordinance, the state government is spending about 80 percent of the total amount on the Mukhyamantri Gramin Peyjal Nishchay Yojana and Mukhyamantri Gramin Gali-Nali Pakkikaran Nishchay Yojana, whereas the state government had to implement these schemes with its own resources. It has also been declared unconstitutional by the Hon. High Court.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government that the ordinance brought by the Government of Bihar, which seeks to end the existence of the Gram Sabha - the basic soul of democracy, should be repealed so that the existence of the Gram Sabha - the basic soul of democracy, is saved and the Panchayats can progress through it.

(xxiv) Need to restore services of eight passenger/MEMU trains in Kerala*[English]*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thiruvananthapuram Railway Division cancelled eight passenger/MEMU trains. The domestic passengers of the State especially the short distance passengers totally depend on passenger/MEMU trains for their daily journey. No alternate arrangements were made by the railways for the journey of daily passengers. Long distance travellers and regular passengers are depending on passenger/MEMU trains to reach their destination between the main stations. There is no means of journey for season ticket holders. The arbitrary decision of the Thiruvananthapuram Railway Division resulted in untold hardship to the passengers totally depending on passenger/MEMU trains for their journey.

Hence I urge upon the Government to look into the decision of cancelling the trains and restore the services of all the earlier trains at the earliest.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: It is not done like this.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You raise an issue every day, you should avoid it.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: There are so many things to be discussed.

... (Interruptions)

12.23 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Tuesday, December 19, 2017/Agrahayana 28, 1939 (Saka).*

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