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Monday, July 19, 2021
Ashadha 28, 1943 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XII Contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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19.07.2021

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**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF SEVENTEENTH LOK
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Ray, Prof. Sougata (Dum Dum)

Ray, Shrimati Sandhya (Bhind)

Reddeppa, Shri N. (Chittoor)

Reddy, Shri Manne Srinivas (Mahbubnagar)

Reddy, Dr. G. Ranjith (Chevella)

Reddy, Shri Adala Prabhakara (Nellore)

Reddy, Shri Anumula Revanth (Malkajgiri)

Reddy, Shri G. Kishan (Secunderabad)

Reddy, Shri Komati Reddy Venkat (Bhongir)

Reddy, Shri Kotha Prabhakar (Medak)

Reddy, Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu (Ongole)

Reddy, Shri P.V. Midhun (Rajampet)

Reddy, Shri Pocha Brahmananda (Nandyal)

Reddy, Shri Uttam Kumar (Nalgonda)
Reddy, Shri Y. S. Avinash (Kadapa)
Rehman, Shri Haji Fazlur (Saharanpur)
Revanna, Shri Prajwal (Hassan)
Rijiju, Shri Kiren(Arunachal West)
Roy (Banerjee), Shrimati Satabdi (Birbhum)
Roy, Dr. Jayanta Kumar (Jalpaiguri)
Roy, Dr. Rajdeep (Silchar)
Roy, Shrimati Mala (Kolkata Dakshin)
Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap (Saran)
Sadique, Shri Mohammad (Faridkot)
Sagar, Shri Arun Kumar (Shahjahanpur)
Sahoo, Shri Mahesh (Dhenkanal)
Sahu, Shri Chunnilal (Mahasamund)
Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar (Berhampur)
Sai, Shrimati Gomati (Raigarh)
Saikia, Shri Dilip (Mangaldoi)
Saini, Shri Nayab Singh (Kurukshetra)
Samadani, Shri M.P. Abdussamad (Malappuram)
Samanta, Prof. Achyutananda (Kandhamal)
Sangma, Kumari Agatha K. (Tura)

Sao, Shri Arun (Bilaspur)
Sarangi, Shri Pratap Chandra (Balasore)
Sarangi, Shrimati Aparajita (Bhubaneswar)
Sarania, Shri Naba Kumar (Kokrajhar)
Saraswati, Shri Sumedhanand (Sikar)
Sardinha, Shri Francisco (South Goa)
Sarkar, Dr. Subhas (Bankura)
Sarkar, Shri Jagannath (Ranaghat)
Saruta, Shrimati Renuka Singh (Surguja)
Satyanarayana, Shri M. V. V. (Visakhapatnam)
Satyavathi, Dr. Beesetti Venkata (Anakapalle)
Sawant, Shri Arvind (Mumbai South)
Selvam, Shri G. (Kancheepuram)
Selvaraj, Shri M. (Nagapattinam)
Senthilkumar S. , Dr. DNV (Dharmapuri)
Seth, Shri Sanjay (Ranchi)
Sethi, Shrimati Sarmistha (Jajpur)
Shah, Shri Amit (Gandhinagar)
Shah, Shrimati Mala Rajya Laxmi (Tehri Garhwal)
Shanmuga Sundaram, Shri K. (Pollachi)
Sharma, Dr. Arvind Kumar (Rohtak)

Sharma, Dr. Mahesh (Gautam Buddha Nagar)

Sharma, Shri Anurag (Jhansi)

Sharma, Shri Jugal Kishore (Jammu)

Sharma, Shri Kuldeep Rai (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

Sharma, Shri Vishnu Datt (Khajuraho)

Shejwalkar, Shri Vivek Narayan (Gwalior)

Shekhawat, Shri Gajendra Singh (Jodhpur)

Shetty, Shri Gopal (Mumbai North)

Shewale, Shri Rahul Ramesh (Mumbai South-Central)

Shinde, Dr. Shrikant Eknath (Kalyan)

Shrangare, Shri Sudhakar Tukaram (Latur)

Shyal, Dr. Bharatiben D. (Bhavnagar)

Siddeshwar, Shri G.M. (Davanagere)

Sigriwal, Shri Janardan Singh (Maharajganj)

Simha, Shri Prathap (Mysore)

Singari, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (Kurnool)

Singh 'Lalan', Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Munghyr)

Singh (Raju Bhaiya), Shri Rajveer (Etah)

Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari (Bolangir)

Singh, Dr. Amar (Fatehgarh Sahib)

Singh, Dr. Jitendra (Udhampur)

Singh, Dr. Satya Pal (Baghpat)
Singh, Gen. (Retd.) Dr V. K . (Ghaziabad)
Singh, Rao Inderjit (Gurgaon)
Singh, Shri Arjun (Barrackpur)
Singh, Shri Atul Kumar *alias* Atul Rai (Ghosi)
Singh, Shri Bhola (Bulandshahr)
Singh, Shri Brijbhushan Sharan (Kaiserganj)
Singh, Shri Brijendra (Hisar)
Singh, Shri Chandan (Nawada)
Singh, Shri Dharambir (Bhiwani-Mahendragarh)
Singh, Shri Dushyant (Jhalawar-Baran)
Singh, Shri Ganesh (Satna)
Singh, Shri Giriraj (Begusarai)
Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan (Gonda)
Singh, Shri Lallu (Faizabad)
Singh, Shri Mahabali (Karakat)
Singh, Shri Pashupati Nath (Dhanbad)
Singh, Shri Pradeep Kumar (Araria)
Singh, Shri R. K. (Arrah)
Singh, Shri Radha Mohan (Purvi Champaran)
Singh, Shri Raj Nath (Lucknow)

Singh, Shri Rajbahadur (Sagar)
Singh, Shri Rakesh (Jabalpur)
Singh, Shri Ravneet (Ludhiana)
Singh, Shri Sunil Kumar (Chatra)
Singh, Shri Sushil Kumar (Aurangabad)
Singh, Shri Uday Pratap (Hoshangabad)
Singh, Shri Virendra (Ballia)
Singh, Shrimati Himadri (Shahdol)
Singh, Shrimati Kavita (Siwan)
Sinha, Shri Jayant (Hazaribagh)
Solanki, Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai (Ahmedabad West)
Solanky, Shri Mahendra Singh (Dewas)
Soni, Shri Sunil Kumar (Raipur)
Sonkar, Shri Vinod Kumar (Kaushambi)
Soren, Shri Sunil (Dumka)
Sreekandan, Shri V. K. (Palakkad)
Srinivas, Shri Kesineni (Vijayawada)
Subba, Shri Indra Hang (Sikkim)
Subbarayan, Shri K. (Tiruppur)
Sudhakaran, Shri K. (Kannur)
Sule, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand (Baramati)

Suman, Dr. Alok Kumar (Gopalganj)
Supriyo, Shri Babul (Asansol)
Suresh, Shri D.K. (Bangalore Rural)
Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil (Mavelikkara)
Suresh, Shri Nandigam (Bapatla)
Surya, Shri Tejasvi (Bangalore South)
Swamiji, Dr. Jai Sidheshwar Shivacharya (Solapur)
Swamy, Shri A. Narayana (Chitradurga)
Tadas, Shri Ramdas (Wardha)
Tamta, Shri Ajay (Almora)
Tatkare, Shri Sunil Dattatray (Raigad)
Teli, Shri Rameshwar (Dibrugarh)
Teni, Shri Ajay Misra (Kheri)
Tewari, Shri Manish (Anandpur Sahib)
Thakur, Shri Gopal Jee (Darbhanga)
Thakur, Sadhvi Pragya Singh (Bhopal)
Thakur, Shri Anurag Singh (Hamirpur)
Thakur, Shri Shantanu (Bangaon)
Thangapandian, Dr. T. Sumathy(A)Thamizhachi (Chennai South)
Tharoor, Dr. Shashi (Thiruvananthapuram)
Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Thol (Chidambaram)

Thirunavukkarasar, Shri Su. (Tiruchirappalli)

Tiwari, Shri Manoj (North East Delhi)

Tomar, Shri Narendra Singh (Morena)

Tripathi, Dr. Ramapati Ram (Deoria)

Tripura, Shri Rebati (Tripura East)

Tudu, Er. Bishweswar (Mayurbhanj)

Tumane, Shri Krupal Balaji (Ramtek)

Udasi, Shri S. C. (Haveri)

Uikey, Shri Durga Das (Betul)

Ulaka, Shri Saptagiri Sankar (Koraput)

Unnithan, Shri Rajmohan (Kasaragod)

Vaithilingam, Shri Ve. (Puducherry)

Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry (Machilipatnam)

Vardhan, Dr. Harsh (Chandni Chowk)

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai (Bharuch)

Vasava, Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai (Bardoli)

Veeraswamy, Dr. Kalanidhi (Chennai North)

Velusamy, Shri P. (Dindigul)

Venkatesan, Shri S. (Madurai)

Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh (Jalaun)

Verma, Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh (West Delhi)

Verma, Shri Rajesh (Sitapur)

Verma, Shri Ramshiromani (Shrawasti)

Verma, Shrimati Rekha Arun (Dhaurahra)

Vichare, Shri Rajan Baburao (Thane)

Vijaykumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, Shri (Kanyakumari)

Vikhe Patil, Dr. Sujay (Ahmednagar)

Vishnu Prasad, Dr. M. K. (Arani)

Yadav, Shri Akhilesh (Azamgarh)

Yadav, Shri Ashok Kumar (Madhubani)

Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra (Madhepura)

Yadav, Shri Giridhari (Banka)

Yadav, Shri Krishnapalsingh (Guna)

Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh (Mainpuri)

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal (Patliputra)

Yadav, Shri Shyam Singh (Jaunpur)

Yeptomi, Shri Tokheho (Nagaland)

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Om Birla

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shrimati Rama Devi

Dr.(Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki

Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Shri A. Raja

Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

Shri N.K. Premachandran

Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri Utpal Kumar Singh

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**CABINET MINISTERS**

Shri Narendra Modi	The Prime Minister and also in-charge of: (i) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; (ii) Department of Atomic Energy; (iii) Department of Space; and All important Policy issues and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
Shri Raj Nath Singh	The Minister of Defence
Shri Amit Shah	The Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation
Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	The Minister of Road Transport and Highways
Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman	The Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs
Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	The Minister of External Affairs
Shri Arjun Munda	The Minister of Tribal Affairs
Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani	The Minister of Women and Child Development
Shri Piyush Goyal	The Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of Textiles
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	The Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Shri Pralhad Joshi	The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines
Shri Narayan Rane	The Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH
Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	The Minister of Minority Affairs
Dr. Virendra Kumar	The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shri Giriraj Singh	The Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Panchayati Raj
Shri Jyoraditya M. Scindia	The Minister of Civil Aviation
Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh	The Minister of Steel
Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	The Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras	The Minister of Food Processing Industries
Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	The Minister of Jal Shakti
Shri Kiren Rijiju	The Minister of Law and Justice
Shri R. K. Singh	The Minister of Power and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	The Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Shri Bhupender Yadav	The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Labour and Employment
Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	The Minister of Heavy Industries
Shri Parshottam Rupala	The Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Shri G. Kishan Reddy	The Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	The Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Rao Inderjit Singh	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State of the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Dr. Jitendra Singh	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Minister of State in the Department of Space

MINISTERS OF STATE

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
Gen. (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation

Shri Krishan Pal	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Power and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
Shri Ramdas Athawale	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Shri Nityanand Rai	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri Pankaj Chaudhary	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Shrimati Anupriya Patel	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Kumari Shobha Karandlaje	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Shrimati Darshna Vikaram Jardosh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shri V. Muraleedharan	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
Shri Som Parkash	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Shrimati Renuka Singh Saruta	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Shri Rameshwar Teli	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
Shri Kailash Choudhary	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Shrimati Annpurna Devi	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Shri A. Narayanaswamy	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Kaushal Kishore	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Adv. Ajay Bhatt	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
Shri B.L. Verma	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
Shri Ajay Misra Teni	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Shri Devusinh Chauhan	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	The Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Kumari Pratima Bhoumik	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Dr. Subhas Sarkar	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Dr. Bhagwat Karad	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Dr. R.K. Ranjan Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Er. Bishweswar Tudu	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
Shri Shantanu Thakur	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Dr.(Prof.) Mahendra
Munjapara

The Minister of State in the Ministry of
Women and Child Development and
Minister of State in the Ministry of
AYUSH

Shri John Barla

The Minister of State in the Ministry of
Minority Affairs

Dr. L. Murugan

The Minister of State in the Ministry of
Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and
Dairying and Minister of State in the
Ministry of Information and
Broadcasting

Shri Nisith Pramanik

The Minister of State in the Ministry of
Home Affairs and Minister of State in
the Ministry of Youth Affairs and
Sports

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol.XII First day of the Sixth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha No.1

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 19, 2021/Ashadha 28, 1943(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

[English]

(The National Anthem was played)

11.01 hrs

MEMBERS SWORN

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: General Secretary.

SECRETARY GENERAL: Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy

[English]

ANDHRA PRADESH

Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy (Tirupati) - Oath - Telugu

KARNATAKA

Shrimati Mangal Suresh Angadi
(Belgaum) - Oath - Kannada

KERALA

Shri M P Abdussamad Samadani
(Malappuram) - Oath - English

TAMILNADU

19.07.2021

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Shri Vijayakumar (ALIAS)Vijay - Oath - Tamil
Vasanth (Kanyakumari)

11.07 hrs

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are a senior leader. You should maintain the dignity and traditions of the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the traditions of this House have been high. I would request all of you that it would be better if these traditions are maintained and not broken. You have been part of the government for a long time. You should not bring down the dignity of the House by breaking these traditions.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, I would only like to make an appeal that *[English]* it is customary and tradition in the Lok Sabha to introduce the Council of Ministers by the Hon. Prime Minister. After that they

have the right to raise their issues. I appeal to them to allow the introduction of Council of Ministers by the Hon. Prime Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am once again requesting you all to maintain the dignity of this House. The Hon. Prime Minister is the leader of the House and would like to introduce the newly reshuffled Ministers in the Council of Ministers. You should not break the dignity and tradition of the House.

Hon. Prime Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I was thinking that there would be an atmosphere of enthusiasm in the House today because a large number of our women MPs have become Ministers. ...((*Interruptions*)) It would have been a matter of joy today for me and for everyone that a large number of our Dalit brothers and our Scheduled Tribe friends have become Ministers, I would have been happy about this. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, this time our fellow MPs in the House are hailing from farmer families, from rural background and belonging to socio-economically backward classes. They belong to OBC community, they got a lot of opportunities in the Council of Ministers. It would have been a joy to introduce

them, they would have been honoured by patting on the benches by everyone.... (Interruptions) However, perhaps some people don't like the idea that a Dalit, a woman or an OBC should become a Minister, sons of farmers should become Ministers and so they don't even allow the House to run for their introduction....(Interruptions) Therefore, Hon. Speaker Sir, the newly appointed Members of the Cabinet should be treated as introduced in the Lok Sabha....(Interruptions)

11.10 hrs

At this stage, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal, Shri Hanuman Beniwal, Shri Bhagwant Mann and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Hon. Prime Minister would like to introduce the Hon. Ministers. I once again urge upon you to uphold the dignity and traditions of the House. This is not fair. You are demeaning the tradition and dignity of the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, all of you please sit on your respective seats. I would request the Hon. Prime Minister that he can place the list of Ministers and Ministers of State on the Table.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Sir, with your permission, I lay on the Table the list* of new Members of the Council of Ministers.

[English]

Cabinet Ministers

Shri Narayan Tatu Rane Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH

Dr. Virendra Kumar Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Minister of Civil Aviation

Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh Minister of Steel

* Laid on the Table.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest; and Climate Change, and Minister of Labour and Employment
Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Ministers of State

Shri Pankaj Chaowdhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture

Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Shri A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Shri Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
Shri Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Sushri Pratima Bhoumik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
Shri John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Shri Nisith Pramanik

Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Will you create ruckus in the House in this manner on mention of obituary references; do not start this practice. Hon. Leader of the House, please explain to them not to start this tradition. At the time of obituary references, make them sit on their respective seats. You should make them sit for the obituary.

... (Interruptions)

11.12 hrs

At this stage, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal, Shri Hanuman Beniwal, Shri Bhagwant Mann and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are demeaning the dignity of the House and breaking good traditions. The nation is watching this. India is the

largest democracy in the world, but your actions are neither appropriate nor justified. This is not good for the democracy of the country.

... (Interruptions)

11.13 hrs

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with profound grief I have to inform the House about the demise of 40 of our former colleagues.

Shri Sakariah Thomas ji was a Member of the Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabha representing the Kottayam Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Shri Thomas passed away on 18th March, 2021 in Kochi at the age of 74 years.

Shri Harish Narayan Prabhu ji was a Member of the 10th Lok Sabha, representing the Panaji Parliamentary Constituency of Goa. He had earlier been a Member of the Goa, Daman and Diu Legislative Assembly for two terms, and also a Member of Goa Legislative Assembly. He has also served as a Minister in the Government of Goa and Government of Daman and Diu. Shri Harish Narayan Prabhu passed away on 20th March, 2021 in Panaji at the age of 85 years.

Shri Mukhtar Anis was a Member of the 11th Lok Sabha, representing the Sitapur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Anis also served as Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for four terms and also served as Deputy Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Mukhtar Anis ji passed away on 30th March, 2021 in Lucknow at the age of 77 years.

Shri Shyama Charan Gupta was a Member of the 14th and 16th Lok Sabha, representing the Banda and Allahabad Parliamentary Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Gupta was a Member of the Parliamentary Committees on Finance, Subordinate Legislation and Information Technology. He passed away on 09th April, 2021 in New Delhi at the age of 76 years.

Shri Digvijaya Singh was a Member of the 7th and 8th Lok Sabha representing the Surendranagar Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat. Shri Singh also served as Deputy Minister in the Department of Ecology and Environment. He was also a Member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly for two terms prior to this.

Shri Digvijaya Singh passed away on 3rd April, 2021 in Wankaner at the age of 88 years.

Shri Ajmeera Chandulal was a Member of the 11th and 12th Lok Sabha, representing the Warangal Parliamentary Constituency of Telangana. Shri Chandulal was a Member of the Committee on Human Resource

Development, Committee on Labour and Welfare and Committee on MPLADS.

He had earlier been a Member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly for two terms. He had served as Minister in the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Ajmeera Chandulal passed away on 15th April, 2021 in Hyderabad at the age of 66 years.

Shri Bachi Singh Rawat was a Member of the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Almora Parliamentary Constituency of Uttarakhand. Shri Rawat also served as Minister of State for Defence and Minister of State for Science and Technology. He was also a Member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Shri Rawat had earlier served as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for two terms and also served as a Minister in the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Shri Bachi Singh Rawat passed away on 18th April 2021 in Rishikesh at the age of 71 years.

Shri Jagdish Singh Rana was a Member of 15th Lok Sabha, representing the Saharanpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri

Rana was a Member of the Estimates Committee and the Commerce Related Committee.

Earlier he has served as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for five terms. He also served as a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Jagdish Singh Rana passed away on 19th April, 2021 in Saharanpur at the age of 66 years.

Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra was a Member of the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha, from Bilhaur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Mishra was the Chairman of the Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution and Joint Committee on the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1998 and Member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra passed away on 20th April, 2021 in Kanpur at the age of 82 years.

Shri Suresh Pasi was a Member of the 13th Lok Sabha, representing the Chail Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Pasi was a Member of various parliamentary committees.

Earlier he also served as a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Shri Suresh Pasi passed away on 22nd April, 2021 in Allahabad at the age of 64 years.

Professor Dukha Bhagat was a Member of the 13th Lok Sabha, representing the Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency of Jharkhand. Shri Bhagat was a Member of the Committee on Communications.

Shri Dukha Bhagat passed away on 23rd April 2021 in Ranchi at the age of 67 years.

Shri Sugrib Singh was a Member of the 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha. He was a Member of various parliamentary committees.

Shri Sugrib Singh passed away on 26th April, 2021 in Bhubaneswar at the age of 57 years.

Shri Rameshwar Patidar was a Member of the Sixth, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Lok Sabha, representing the Khargone Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Patidar was a Member of the Petroleum and Chemicals, Commerce, Subordinate Legislation and Estimates Committee.

Shri Rameshwar Patidar passed away on 27th April, 2021 in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 82 years.

Shri M. Satyanarayana Rao was a Member of the 5th, Sixth and 7th Lok Sabha, representing the Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Telangana. He was a Member of the House Committee.

Shri Rao passed away on 27th April, 2021 in Hyderabad at the age of 87 years.

Shrimati Karuna Shukla was a Member of the 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Janjgir Parliamentary Constituency of Chhattisgarh. Shrimati Shukla was a Member of Committee on Coal and Steel and Committee on Empowerment of Women.

Shrimati Karuna Shukla passed away on 27th April, 2021 in Raipur at the age of 70 years.

Shri S. B. Sidnal was a Member of the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Lok Sabha, representing the Belgaum Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka. Shri Sidnal was a Member of the Railway Convention Committee.

He passed away on 27th April, 2021 in Belagavi, Karnataka at the age of 85 years.

Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad was a Member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha, representing the Mumbai-South Central Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. Shri Gaikwad was a Member of various parliamentary committees. He had earlier been a Member of Maharashtra Legislative

Assembly for three terms. He had also served as Minister in Government of Maharashtra. Shri Gaikwad passed away on 28th April, 2021 in Mumbai at the age of 81 years.

Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat was a Member of the 8th and 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Barabanki Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Rawat was a Member of the Committees on Water Resources and Labour. Earlier, he also served as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Rawat passed away on 29th April, 2021 in Barabanki at the age of 66.

Shri Laxman Giluwa was a Member of the 13th and 16th Lok Sabha, representing the Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency of Jharkhand. Shri Giluwa was a Member of various parliamentary committees. He had also been a Member of the Bihar and Jharkhand Legislative Assemblies.

Shri Laxman Giluwa passed away on 29th April, 2021 in Jamshedpur at the age of 56 years.

Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddin was a Member of the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Siwan Parliamentary Constituency of

Bihar. He was also a Member of various parliamentary committees. Earlier, Dr. Shahabuddin had also been a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddin passed away on 1st May, 2021 in New Delhi at the age of 53 years.

Shri Ram Charitra Nishad was a Member of the 16th Lok Sabha, representing the Machhlishahr Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Nishad had served as Member of the Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture and the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Ram Charitra Nishad passed away on 3rd May, 2021 in Noida at the age of 57 years.

Shri Jorawar Ram was a Member of the 9th Lok Sabha, representing the Palamu Parliamentary Constituency of Jharkhand. Apart from being a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, he had also served as a Minister of State in the Bihar Government.

Shri Jorawar Ram passed away on 03rd May, 2021 in Palamu at the age of 78 years.

Shri Sabbam Hari was a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha, representing the Anakapalli Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Hari was a Member of the Industry Committee.

Shri Sabbam Hari passed away on 3rd May, 2021 in Visakhapatnam at the age of 68 years.

Shri Jai Narain Roat was a Member of the 7th Lok Sabha, representing the erstwhile Salumber Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. He had also served as a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

Shri Jai Narain Roat passed away on 5th May, 2021 in Udaipur at the age of 82 years.

Shri Jagmohan was a Member of the 11th 12th and 13th Lok Sabhas, representing the New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency. He had also served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1990 to 1996. Shri Jagmohan also served as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Goa, Daman and Diu and Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Jagmohan had served as Cabinet Minister in the Ministries of Communications, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Programme Implementation and Statistics, Tourism and Culture and also served as Chairman of the Committee on Energy.

In the honour of his services to the nation, Shri Jagmohan had been awarded the Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016.

Shri Jagmohan passed away on 4th May 2021 in New Delhi at the age of 93 years.

Shri Ajit Singh was a Member of the 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th and 15th Lok Sabha. He represented the Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

He served as a Union Cabinet Minister in the Ministries of Industry, Food, Agriculture and Civil Aviation.

Shri Ajit Singh had also served as a Member of Parliamentary Committees on Finance, Government Assurances, Chemicals and Fertilisers and MPLADS.

Shri Ajit Singh passed away on 6th May, 2021 in Gurugram at the age of 82 years.

Shri R. L. Bhatia was a Member of the 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 13th Lok Sabha, representing the Amritsar Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab.

Shri R. L. Bhatia served as a Union Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs from 1992 to 1996.

Shri Bhatia had served as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions and the erstwhile Committee on Food and Civil Supplies.

Shri R. L. Bhatia passed away on 6.5.2021 in Amritsar at the age of 99 years.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat was a Member of the 9th 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Ajmer Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Prof. Rawat was a Member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat passed away on 10th May, 2021 in Ajmer at the age of 79 years.

Shri Sambhajirao Kakade was a Member of the Sixth and 8th Lok Sabha, representing the Baramati Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

He had earlier been a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

Shri Sambhajirao Kakade passed away on 10th May, 2021 in Pune at the age of 85 years.

Shri Ramendra Kumar Yadav was a Member of the 9th Lok Sabha, representing the Madhepura Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar.

He had also been a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Shri Ramendra Kumar Yadav passed away on 14th May, 2021 in Patna at the age of 78 years.

Shri Rajeev Shankarrao Satav was a Member of the 16th Lok Sabha, representing the Hingoli Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. He had also been a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha.

Shri Satav had been a Member of the Committee on Defence, Committee on Welfare of the Other Backward Classes and Committee on Railways and had also been a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

Shri Rajeev Shankarrao Satav passed away on 16th May, 2021 in Pune at the age of 46 years.

Shri K. T. Vandayar was a Member of the 10th Lok Sabha, representing the Thanjavur Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu. He passed away on 17th May, 2021 in Chennai at the age of 92 years.

Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta was a Member of the 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha, representing the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta had served as a Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Minister of State in the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Defence. He was also a Member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Earlier, he has also been a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta passed away on 18th May, 2021 in Jammu at the age of 87 years.

Shri Jagannath Pahadia was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha representing from Sawai Madhopur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan and the fourth, fifth and seventh Lok Sabha from Bayana Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Shri Jagannath Pahadia was the Governor of Bihar and Haryana. He had also served as Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Union Deputy Minister and Minister of State for Finance in the Ministries of Finance, Food and Agriculture, Supplies, Communications and Labour.

Earlier, Shri Pahadia had also been a Member of Rajya Sabha and Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

Shri Jagannath Pahadia passed away on 19th May, 2021 in New Delhi at the age of 89 years.

Shri Krishna was a Member of the 11th Lok Sabha, representing the Parliamentary Constituency of Mandya in Karnataka. Shri Krishna had also served as the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He had served as a Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly for three terms. He had also served as Minister in the Government of Karnataka.

Shri Krishna passed away 21st May, 2021 in Mysuru at the age of 79 years.

Shri T. M. Kaliyannan was a Member of the Provisional Parliament representing the erstwhile State of Madras.

Shri Kaliannan had also served as a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

Shri T. M. Kaliyannan passed away on 28th May, 2021 in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu at the age of 101 years.

Shri Hemendra Singh Banera was a Member of the 5th and 9th Lok Sabha, representing Bhilwara Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Shri Banera was a Member of the Estimates Committee.

Shri Hemendra Singh Banera passed away on 31st May, 2021 in Jaipur at the age of 75 years.

Shri Shankar Sakharam Nam was a Member of the 12th Lok Sabha, representing the Dahanu Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

He had been a Member of the Committee on Labour and Welfare. He had served as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for three terms and Deputy Minister in the Government of Maharashtra.

Shri Shankar Sakharam Nam passed away on 5th June, 2021 in Thane at the age of 72 years.

Shri Deen Bandhu Verma was a Member of the 7th Lok Sabha, representing the Udaipur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Shri Verma had earlier been a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. He had also served as a Minister of State in Government of Rajasthan.

Shri Deen Bandhu Verma passed away on 9th June, 2021 in Jaipur at the age of 83 years.

Shri Sharad Tripathi was a Member of the 16th Lok Sabha, representing the Sant Kabir Nagar Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Tripathi had been a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee. Shri Sharad Tripathi passed away on 30th June, 2021 in Gurugram at the age of 49 years.

The House also condoles the demise of one of the greatest sportspersons of India, athlete Shri Milkha Singh ji. He brought glory to the country in various competitions in the field of Athletics.

Shri Milkha Singh ji passed away on 18th June, 2021 in Chandigarh.

The Sabha also expresses its profound sorrow at the demise of Shri Dilip Kumar ji, one of the greatest artists of the country.

Shri Dilip Kumar ji also entertained us through his excellent acting and gave a positive message to the society. He had also been a former Member of Rajya Sabha, who passed away on 7th July, 2021 in Mumbai.

The House also expresses condolences on the demise of other great personalities of the country.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleagues and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to their bereaved families.

Now this House will pay tribute to them by observing silence for some time.

11.30 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

HON. SPEAKER: Om Shanti.Om Shanti.Om Shanti.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajnath Singh.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We will listen to your matter as per rules and procedures.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I will give ruling, when the time for adjournment motion comes.

Now Hon. Rajnath Singh ji.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Speaker Sir, the entire Parliament will agree with this....((Interruptions) If there is any biggest strength of this Parliament it is its healthy tradition.... (Interruptions)

Hon.Speaker. Sir, I was making this request.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Rajnath Singh ji is speaking on an important subject.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: You can raise the issue, there is no objection, but please give me one minute. ... (Interruptions)

Speaker Sir, I was requesting that a healthy tradition is the biggest strength of the Parliament and it is the collective responsibility of the treasury benches and the opposition to maintain it.... (Interruptions)

11.33 hrs

At this stage, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal, Shri Hanuman Beniwal, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

Speaker Sir, the healthy traditions that are carried forward in the Parliament are formed through the provisions of the Constitution. ... (Interruptions) All healthy traditions are conducted through rules and procedures. I have been discharging my responsibilities as a Member of Parliament for 24 years.... (Interruptions)

Speaker Sir, I have seen that whenever there has been a Prime Minister, if he expands his cabinet, whether it is the swearing-in of one Minister or 50 Ministers, the Prime Minister comes to Parliament and first of all introduces all the Members of his cabinet as soon as the proceedings of the House begin and the entire House listens to the Prime Minister in a peaceful manner. ... (Interruptions) All the Ministers are introduced in the House. This has been a healthy tradition here. ... (Interruptions)

Speaker Sir, for the first time in my 24 years of parliamentary life, I have seen this that tradition has been broken in Parliament this time....

(Interruptions)

Speaker Sir, I would like to say that what the Congress has done is sad, it is unfortunate and at the same time it is an unhealthy approach....

(Interruptions) here I conclude my speech.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Question hour is a very crucial time. I request the Hon. Members to please take their seats so that you can make the Government accountable by raising important questions.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I once again request the Hon. Members to take their seats.

... (Interruptions)

11.35 hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 1, Shri Ramesh Chandra Kaushik.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK: We have fought with this pandemic together. ... (Interruptions)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
(Starred Question Nos.2 to 20
Unstarred Question Nos.1 to 230)**

[Translation]

HON SPEAKER: The House then adjourned till Fourteen of the clock.

11.36 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

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

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

14.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

14.0 ½ hrs

At this stage, Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri P.R. Natarajan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have to inform you that the Hon. Speaker has received a request from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, stating that permission be granted to the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to lay on the Table the papers listed under the head, 'To be laid on the Table' in the List of Business during the Sixth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha, on behalf of all Ministers due to the current COVID-19 situation. The Hon. Speaker has accepted his request.

... (Interruptions)

14.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the papers will be laid on the Table.

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, on behalf of Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I lay on the Table a copy of the explanatory Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by promulgation of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 (No.2 of 2021).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4340/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, I lay the following papers on the Table:

- (1) The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 (No. 2 of 2021) promulgated by the President on 4th April, 2021.
- (2) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (No. 3 of 2021) promulgated by the President on 4th April, 2021.
- (3) The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2021 (No. 4 of 2021) promulgated by the President on 13th April, 2021.
- (4) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (No. 5 of 2021) promulgated by the President on 22nd April, 2021.
- (5) The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (No. 6 of 2021) promulgated by the President on 16th May, 2021.
- (6) The Essential Defence Services Ordinance, 2021 (No. 7 of 2021) promulgated by the President on 30th June, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4341/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, on behalf of Shrimati Renuka Singh Saruta, I lay the following papers 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:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4342/17/21]

- (2)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, New Delhi.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4343/17/21]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4344/17/21]

14.02 hrs**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Hon. Members permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today, may kindly lay the approved text of their matter individually on the Table within twenty minutes.

... (Interruptions)

- (i) Need to open new sections from class first to tenth in Kendriya Vidyalaya, BSF, Chakur in Latur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra**

SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE (LATUR): There are many students in my Latur Parliamentary Constituency and its surrounding areas who are eligible to take admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya, BSF, Chakur but due to limited capacity, it is not possible for all such students to get admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chakur. Some time ago I had proposed that one section should be increased in each class from class one to ten but due to lack of space it was not possible. Now a new building of Kendriya Vidyalaya, BSF, Chakur, Maharashtra has been constructed and has also been made

*Treated as laid on the Table.

available to this school. There is sufficient rooms available in this new building to open new sections.

Therefore, I request the Education Minister to issue orders for increasing one section in all the classes from class one to class ten in Kendriya Vidyalaya, BSF, Chakur as soon as possible so that it becomes possible for all the eligible students of this area to get admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya, BSF, Chakur.

(ii) Need to develop Tiger Reserve in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan

[English]

SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI (RAJSAMAND): I would like to use this opportunity to put forth the demand for developing Kumbhalgarh as the 5th potential tiger reserve in Rajasthan. Kumbhalgarh Reserve covers more than 1280 square kilometres which is larger than that of Sariska and has recorded tiger presence in the late 1970s. The prey base at present is sufficient to hold 4 tigers at initial phase and has the potential to hold at least 45 tigers in the coming years. In Ranthambore, the growing tiger population is wandering out of protected areas to find new territory and results in human-tiger conflict. It is very important to develop new tiger reserves while protecting the existing ones. Therefore, it is requested that the Government look into the matter and speeds up the process of tiger introduction at Kumbhalgarh to promote tiger conservation in the country.

(iii) Regarding notification of Ministry of Defence pertaining to restricted zones

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): The Ministry of Defence through a 2016 notification had listed 193 stations under Part A of the circular wherein any construction or repair activity within such restricted zone of 10 meters from the outer wall of Defence establishments in these stations will require prior NOC from Local Military Authority. The circular contains names of cities under Southern Command but omits the name of Ahmednagar. Due to non-inclusion under Part A of 2016 notification and presence of defence establishments such as VRDE, MIRC, KK range, the residents of Ahmednagar are prohibited from carrying out any construction activity within 100m of the establishment and require NOC from Local Military Authority. I request the Ministry of Defence to amend the 2016 guidelines and include Ahmednagar under Part A of the notification to facilitate construction and industrial development through reduction in restricted zone from existing 100m to 10m and provide a time bound mechanism for granting NOC to the local residents.

(iv) Regarding grant of CCS Pension to Navodaya Vidyalaya staff

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR):

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have occupied a niche in field of school education in decades due to its employees who have been striving hard in remote corners of the country for the upliftment of the rural talent.

The Government has introduced New Pension Scheme for those joining the service on or after 01-01-2004. But staff who joined the NVS before 01-01-2004, request the government to treat their services at par with their counterparts in the KVS and sanction the pension benefits. The employees of NVS were denied the benefit on the grounds that the organization came into existence after the cut-off date 01.01.1986. All autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Education which came into existence after the cut-off date have been sanctioned CCS pension except NVS employees.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Education to consider their genuine case for granting CCS Pension to the Navodaya Vidyalaya Staff.

**(v)Need to provide irrigation facilities under Pradhan Mantri Krishi
Sinchai Yojana in backward areas of Bharuch Parliamentary
Constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH): The Government of India is continuously taking various initiatives to enrich the farmers. Along with the modernisation of farming methods in the country, the Government is giving priority to financial inclusion in the agricultural sector. Our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi also thinks that unless the farmers of India are not made well-equipped and economically strong, all efforts to develop India will be insufficient. Today all the progressive countries of the world are not only promoting financial inclusion in the agricultural sector but are also equipping them with irrigation facilities. Even after seven decades of independence, a large part of arable land in our country is deprived of irrigation. The concern of our Hon. Prime Minister about the problem of irrigation in the country is well known and he believes that unless every farm in the country gets water, neither bumper yield is possible nor the economic condition of the farmers can improve. 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' has been started, keeping this concern of the Prime Minister in mind. In the context of the above important irrigation project, I request the Government to take immediate concrete steps to provide irrigation facilities in the backward areas falling under my parliamentary constituency Bharuch.

(vi) Need to formulate an appropriate export-import policy for the betterment of onion growers

SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE (RAVER): India ranks second in the world in onion production and most of the onion production in the country comes from Maharashtra state. Most of the farmers from Maharashtra state cultivate onion and 75 to 80 percent of the country's total onion production comes from Nashik, Jalgaon, Dhulia and Buldhana districts. Recently, due to the lack of a comprehensive and concrete policy on onion import and export by the Government, onion producing farmers are facing huge losses. After cotton, onion is produced by most of the farmers in my parliamentary constituency Raver. I request the Government to formulate a proper import and export policy so that Indian farmers can benefit from onion trading at the international level as well and the farmers will get some relief from the loss they have suffered due to the Corona epidemic and they will get the right price for onion agricultural produce from the market.

**(vii) Regarding increase in number of doctors and hospital beds in
Odisha**

[English]

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR): I would like to draw attention of the Government towards Doctor to Population Ratio of Odisha as estimated in the Report of the Fifteenth Financial Commission for 2021-2026. As opposed to the all-India ratio of 1 doctor for every 1161 patients, Odisha has 1 doctor for every 1864 patients. It is even more disturbing to note that there are 9761 patients per 1 government doctor in the state of Odisha, forcing citizens to turn to private healthcare which can sometimes be unaffordable. The Report states that bed densities are also particularly low in Odisha. When India is battling a deadly pandemic, Odisha fails dismally at providing its citizens their rightful access to reliable and affordable healthcare. I implore the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to seek a Report from the Government of Odisha outlining their plan of action to increase the number of doctors and hospital beds.

(viii) Need to develop waterlogged low land in Bahiyara in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar as a fishing hub

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): My parliamentary constituency is Maharajganj in Saran division, Bihar, there is a Bahiyara Chawar with about three thousand hectares of land in Saran and Siwan districts under my parliamentary constituency, where waterlogging remains throughout the year, under the Fisheries Development Project, this Chawar can be developed into a fish farming hub by constructing large ponds in it, in this regard a five-year fisheries project was earlier started in 2018 but this project could not take shape.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Fisheries, Government of India to take immediate necessary steps to develop the above-mentioned Chawar so that employment opportunities can be created for the farmers and fishermen of my parliamentary constituency and they could be economically strengthened.

(ix) Need to include OBC census in Census 2021

SHRI RAMDAS TADAS (WARDHA): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Home Minister to this important issue and request that the country needs to include the OBC category under line number 13 of the Census Schedule 2021. By doing so, the comprehensive details of all castes falling under OBC category in India will be furnished and this information can be utilised on large scale by the Union and state Governments in the future.

I request you to positively consider the inclusion of OBC category under line number 13 of the Census Schedule 2021 and to take appropriate action in this regard.

(x) Regarding updating the Scheduled Areas (Maharashtra) Order, 1985

[English]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR):The President of India had issued the Scheduled Areas (Maharashtra) Order, 1985 under Fifth schedule of the constitution which provides for specification of “Scheduled Areas” in relation to a State after consultation with the State Government concerned. Parliament in 1996 enacted the PESA Act to extend the Panchayati Raj system to the Fifth Schedule areas. However, the 1985 order has not been updated for the last 36 years and as a result of this several newly formed villages and Gram Panchayats have not been included under scheduled areas and therefore they are not governed by PESA Act which results in denial of several benefits to the substantial tribal population residing in these areas. I request the Government to kindly pass necessary orders to update the 1985 order at the earliest by considering the proposal sent by Government of Maharashtra for including eligible Village and Gram Panchayats as Scheduled Areas.

(xi) Regarding protest in Union Territory of Lakshadweep over the draft policy changes promulgated by the Administrator

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): The union territory of Lakshadweep is witnessing massive protests over the draft policy changes promulgated by the Administrator. The arbitrary policy decisions enunciated by the administrator stands rejected comprehensively by the Islanders and a black day was observed in protest against the draconian legislations. The basic tenets of stakeholder participation in policymaking are ignored by the administrator, and consequently, the natives of Lakshadweep suffered loss of employment, livelihood, endured arbitrary violations of their rights and are denied access to justice.

The decision of the administrator to restrict the entry of elected representatives from Kerala, citing covid-19 pandemic is unwarranted as he flew to Lakshadweep with his entourage and his decision to change the jurisdiction of Lakshadweep from Kerala high court to Karnataka high court is not beneficial.

(xii) Regarding road accidents in Palakkad district

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): The road accident at Panniyampadam under Karimba Panchayat in Palakkad district on 966 Palakkad-Kozhikode National Highway is a regular phenomenon and accidents are taking place between Dubai Kunnu and U.P. School. Many people have lost their lives. The accidents occur due to steep slope curves, uneven and slippery road. Lack of drainage system, causing damage to road and making it unfit to drive during the rainy season. The improper digging made the road up and down at many places. The improper construction work damaged the pipe water system in the area and many houses on both sides of the road were facing flow of water into their homes. In all, the work at the above stretch was carried out in an unscientific way. Therefore, I urge upon the honourable Minister to direct the concerned to convene a meeting consisting of public representatives and officials from both NHAI and State government to rectify the errors urgently.

(xiii) Regarding compassionate employment for eligible family members of Covid-19 deceased employees

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thanks for this opportunity to raise an important matter of COVID 19 induced death and unemployment which is globally chaotic. Deaths are prominent among public utility service employees. Families who have availed bank credit and have lost an earning member to COVID19 are now unable to repay their credit obligations leading to serious socio-economic problems. There is no doubt that NPAs in Banks and NBFCs will worsen. Families living on meagre wages of a single earning member will perish as monetary requirement for senior members to buy medicines and educational requirement is relinquished. Compassionate employment policy exists for Death while in employment. Training helps to make victim's family member eligible. Thus, considering the grave situation, I appeal for urgent compassionate employment to be ordered for eligible family member of COVID 19 deceased employees.

(xiv) Regarding concrete action to check inflation

SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (ARAKKONAM): Prices of metals and intermediate goods like steel, copper and other metals are rising leading to overall increase in prices of finished products. If this continues then there would be widespread inflation and there are chances of India going to the bad inflation phase of 2010-2015. Also, despite the RBI's mandate to target inflation at 4 percent, prices have been rising more than the target. If this is the case during the slow economic growth phase, won't that accelerate and derail economic growth once the economy returns to normal after the Covid-19 pandemic?

I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to spell out concrete action plans to check inflation slipping out of hand and to usher in economic stability for common man.

(xv) Regarding doubling of Farmers' income

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (MACHILIPATNAM): It is not just PM but also AP CM who resolved to double farmers' income by 2022. AP CM has gone one step ahead and wants to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs, small shopkeepers, weavers, fishermen, craftsmen, etc., through MUDRA loans. We have to focus on agriculture and allied sectors to double farmers' income. For this, GOI should direct bankers to provide loans to farmers/tenant farmers by setting monthly target for each district. Bankers should strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by RBI for this purpose. Bankers should also be directed to provide collateral and hassle-free MUDRA loans by setting targets district-wise to fishermen, farmers, people depending on animal husbandry, pottery, mechanics, roadside dhabas, small shopkeepers, weavers, cobblers, service-based units, etc., by following RBI guidelines which mandates banks to sanction loans upto 1.6 lakhs without any collateral. I request the Finance and Agriculture Ministry to strictly ensure to achieve above objectives of doubling farmers' income and MUDRA loans.

(xvi) Need to construct a platform shed at the Canning Railway station in West Bengal

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Canning railway station over Sealdah-Canning line is one of the busiest ones in the state of West Bengal. It falls under my parliamentary constituency area and witnesses a heavy footfall from the adjoining areas and serves the tourist population as the gateway into the forests of Sundarban. This clearly depicts the importance of the railways station. Here, I would also state that the area experiences extreme weather conditions be it the scorching heat, heavy rainfall and lightning or chilly winds. The Absence of platform shed causes great discomfort for the waiting passengers, at Canning Railway Stations. Thus, the significance and importance of a platform shed at Canning Railway Station cannot be ignored. Thus, I would like to request the minister for constructing a platform shed over the Canning Railway Station.

(xvii) Regarding inclusion of road from Mangalpur (Gopalganj) to Saran Border in Bihar under National Highway

[Translation]

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways towards Saran Dam located in my Parliamentary Constituency Gopalganj. Saran Dam serves as a very important route for Gopalganj district which connects people to many districts.

If the dam from Mangalpur (Gopalganj) to Pakaha (Saran Border) is included in the National Highway, then it will be a great convenience to the people of my parliamentary constituency and a population of 26 lakh will benefit. It will result in progress in the agriculture sector and increase in regional trade and the Government of India will also earn a lot of revenue from it. I would like to mention that if the National Highway is extended from Saran Border (Pakaha) to Mangalpur (Gopalganj), then direct connectivity with many districts of Bihar will be established through National Highway.

Hence, I request the Hon. Minister to connect National Highway from Saran Border (Pakaha) to Mangalpur (Gopalganj) for the development of my parliamentary constituency Gopalganj, and the work of the National Highway should begin on Saran Dam after including it in the National Highways.

(xviii) Regarding setting up of a permanent bench of the High Court in Berhampur, Odisha

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BERHAMPUR): Southern Orissa has large number of tribals. Poor people living in remote areas are far off from the State Capital and Cuttack, the seat of the High Court of Orissa. Case from south Odisha constitutes more than 30 percent of total cases in Odisha High Court. The main justification advanced by these people is that since the people of these regions are generally poor and the High Court is at a long distance from these areas, they cannot actually avail the opportunity of getting justice in time.

Berhampur with its urban agglomeration is the second biggest city of Odisha. It has all necessary infrastructure for the establishment of a permanent bench of the high court connected to South Odisha.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Law and Justice to consider the above proposal for making available speedy justice to the poor people of the region at Berhampur.

(xix) Need to ensure payment of sugarcane arrears to farmers by sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Today, the farmers of the country are facing a lot of problems. I have raised the issue of doubling the income of farmers, increasing the rate of sugarcane, payment of arrears of sugarcane procurement etc. 8 times in the Parliament, 3 times in the meetings of the Parliamentary Committees and have 4 times written letters to the Ministers of UP and last year to the Hon. Minister of Finance too. In this manner, I have raised this matter 16 times and am raising it for the 17th time today that along with an increase in the purchase price of sugarcane, the price of the produce should also be increased in the cost ratio at the earliest, and the money worth thousands of crores owed to the sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh and lakhs of crores owed to the farmers of the country should be recovered from sugarcane factories so that agriculture sector, the backbone of the country may be strengthened and which will lead to strengthening our economy and prospering the farmers.

(xx) Regarding development of Mega Tourism near Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project, Telangana

[English]

SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY (MEDAK):I would like to draw kind attention of the House regarding the need to develop a mega tourism project near the prestigious Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in Telangana State.

The Government of Telangana proposes to complete the Kaleshwaram project having full flow of water of River Godavari and studying the possibility of creating an ambience to improve tourism by providing similar recreation facilities and proposes to operate cruise boats, introduce water sports and gliding facilities, etc on the 22-km stretch along the backwaters between Kaleshwaram temple town and Laxmi Barrage which is also known as Medigadda barrage as the tourists are looking for nightlife at the waterfront. There is need to develop other tourism sites at related reservoirs including Midmanair, Annapoorna, Sri Ranganayaka Sagar, Sri Komaravelli Mallanna Sagar, Kondapochamma projects, etc. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, through the Chair, to kindly intervene in the matter

(xxi) Regarding Railway projects causing discontent among farmers

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (SATARA): The present work being carried out by the railways is causing great discontent among the farmers. Reasons being there are rampant discrepancies in the land maps, records and drawings used by railways, the official maps and records available with the district revenue department and the actual ground situation.

In spite of the fact that the farmers have expressed their willingness to cooperate with the project after due completion of the land acquisition process, it seems that the railways has started work based on some arbitrary maps and records without confirming them with local revenue authorities, without clearly demarcating the railway boundaries or without completing the land acquisition process.

You are requested to direct the concerned railway authorities to reconcile the land records with the revenue department and complete the process.

(xxii) Regarding introduction of daily express train between Chennai and Karaikkudi and passenger trains between Thiruvarur and Karaikudi

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): It is more than 2 years since Tiruvarur-Karaikudi stretch was converted into broad gauge. Due to the prolonged delay in introduction of regular train services, the huge demand for train service from Tiruvarur to Karaikudi has been brought to the notice of the railway administration requesting to consider the long-pending demand that will benefit the elders, women, traders, agriculturists and fishermen of the east coast of the delta, besides providing rail service to Chennai.

Despite the fact that crores of money have been spent by the railway administration for laying the new broad gauge track and creating new assets as part of gauge conversion, this BG section has remained completely non-utilised.

I urge the Minister of Railways to introduce a daily express train between Chennai and Karaikudi via Tiruvarur, Pattukottai and operation of passenger trains between Thiruvarur and Karaikudi section at the earliest.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is the monsoon session; it will be a bit harsh but if there is some gentle rain then it will be better.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All of you please go to your respective seats, please, all of you sit down.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the proceedings of the House continue, please go back to your respective seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I request you all to please go to your respective places, *[English]* please go back to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3:30 PM.

14.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.30 hrs

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

... (Interruptions)

15.30 ½ hrs

At this stage, Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I request you to kindly take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you will be given enough time and opportunity to discuss every subject and issue. All of you please sit on your seats.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, I

want to reassure that the Government is ready for any discussion on any subject at any time. ...(*Interruptions*) I only appeal to them to allow the House to run. People are looking at us. People want to know what the issue is, what they want and what discussion they want. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government is ready for discussion on any subject. Why are they agitating? Let them explain to the nation. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The Government has said that it is ready to discuss every issue. Please take your seat. The Government is ready to discuss. This House is for discussion and dialogue.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members kindly take your seats.

Hon. Minister, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.

... (*Interruptions*)

15.31 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Reported use of Spyware Pegasus to compromise phone data of some persons as reported in media on 18th July, 2021

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW):

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a statement on the reported use of spyware Pegasus to compromise phone data of some persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

A highly sensational story was published by a web portal yesterday night. Many over the top allegations have been made around this story. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Press reports have appeared a day before the Monsoon Session of Parliament. This cannot be a coincidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

In the past, similar claims were made regarding the use of Pegasus on WhatsApp. Those reports had no factual basis and were categorically denied by all parties, including in the Supreme Court. The Press reports of 18th July, 2021 also appear to be an attempt to malign the Indian democracy and its well-established institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

We cannot fault those who have not read the news story in detail. I request all hon. Members of the House to examine the issues on facts and logic. ...*(Interruptions)*

The basis of this report is that there is a consortium which has got access to a leaked database of 50,000 phone numbers. The allegation is that individuals linked to these phone numbers were being spied upon. However, the report says that:

“The presence of a phone number in the data does not reveal whether a device was infected with Pegasus or subject to an attempted hack.

Without subjecting a phone to this technical analysis, it is not possible to conclusively state whether it witnessed an attempted hacker was successfully compromised.”

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the report itself clarifies that presence of a number in the list does not amount to snooping. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, now let us examine what NSO, the company which owns the technology, has said. I quote:

“NSO Group believes that claims that you have been provided with are based on misleading interpretation of leaked data from basic information, such as HLR Lookup services, which have no bearing

on the list of the customers' targets of Pegasus or any other NSO products.

Such services are openly available to anyone, anywhere, and anytime, and are commonly used by governmental agencies as well as by private companies worldwide. It is beyond dispute that the data has nothing to do with surveillance or with NSO. So, there can be no factual basis to suggest that a use of the data somehow equates to surveillance.”

Sir, I highlight that the NSO has also said that the list of countries shown using Pegasus is incorrect and many countries mentioned are not even their clients. It also said that most of its clients are western countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is evident that the NSO has also clearly rubbished the claims in the report. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, let us look at India's established protocols when it comes to surveillance. I am sure, my colleagues in the Opposition who have been in Government for years are very well aware of these protocols.

Since they have governed the country, they would also be aware that any form of illegal surveillance is not possible with the checks and balances in our laws and our robust institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

In India, there is a well-established procedure through which lawful interception of electronic communication is carried out for the purpose of national security, particularly on the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, by agencies at the Centre and States. ...(*Interruptions*) The requests for these lawful interceptions of electronic communication are made as per the relevant rules under the provisions of section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. ...(*Interruptions*)

Each case of interception or monitoring is approved by the competent authority. These powers are also available to the competent authority in the State Governments as per the IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009. ...(*Interruptions*)

There is a very-well established oversight mechanism in the form of a review committee headed by the Union Cabinet Secretary. In case of a State Government, such cases are reviewed by a committee headed by the Chief Secretary concerned. The law also provides an adjudication process for those people who are adversely affected by any such incident. ...(*Interruptions*)

The procedure, therefore, ensures that any interception or monitoring of any information is done as per due process of law. The framework and institutions have withstood the test of time. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker Sir, in conclusion, I humbly submit that:

1. The publisher of the report states that it cannot say if the numbers in the published list were under surveillance.
2. The company whose technology was allegedly used has denied these claims outrightly.
3. And the time-tested procedures of our country are well-established to ensure that unauthorised surveillance cannot occur. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, when we look at this issue through the prism of logic, it clearly emerges that there is no substance whatsoever behind this sensationalism.

Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No.LT 4344A/17/21]

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Government has also said that it is ready to discuss every subject and every issue. I would request all the Hon. Members that it would be appropriate if you raise and discuss the matters of public interest and national interest. This is the dignity of the Parliament.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 AM on Tuesday, the 20th July, 2021.

... (Interruptions)

15.38 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 20, 2021/Ashadha 29, 1943 (Saka)

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