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Friday, July 22, 2022
Ashadha 31, 1944 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIX contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

**Seventeenth Series, Vol. XIX, Ninth Session, 2022/1944 (Saka)
No. 5, Friday, July 22, 2022/Ashadha 31, 1944 (Saka)**

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 81 and 82	12-18
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 83 to 100	19
Unstarred Question Nos. 921 to 1150	

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	21-33
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	
14 th Report	34
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES	
17 th Report	35
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	36
MOTION RE: ASSOCIATION OF ONE MEMBER OF RAJYA	
SABHA WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	37-38
MOTION RE: REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021-EXTENSION OF TIME	
	39
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	40-56
(i) Regarding introduction of a train from Etah to Delhi via Agra	
Shri Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya)	40

- (ii) Regarding Bihta – Aurangabad railway line project

Shri Sushil Kumar Singh 41

- (iii) Regarding stoppage of trains at Biswanath Chariali and Gohpur Railway Stations in Assam

Shri Pallab Lochan Das 43

- (iv) Need to frame effective law to ban fraudulent Ponzi schemes

Shri Rahul Kaswan 44

- (v) Need to connect Bundelkhand expressway to Gwalior - Jhansi-Kanpur Expressway

Shri Anurag Sharma 45

- (vi) Need to include 'Bhuihar Munda'/Bhuihar caste of Jharkhand in the list of Scheduled Tribes

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 46

- (vii) Need to set up a regulatory board for online games

	Shri Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar	48
(viii)	Regarding setting up of a Kalari Academy and Museum at Kadirur	
	Shri K. Muraleedharan	49
(ix)	Regarding various issues pertaining to implementation of reservation in jobs and promotion.	
	Dr. D. Ravikumar	50
(x)	Need to grant citizenship to Srilankan Tamils who repatriated to India under Indian Citizenship Act, 1955	
	Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy	51
(xi)	Need to take suitable measures against documentaries hurting religious sentiments	
	Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale	52
(xii)	Regarding price hike of Kerosene oil	
	Shri Hibi Eden	53

- (xiii) Regarding addition of Kalanamak Chawal to the list of special products under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act)

Shri Jagdambika Pal 54

- (xiv) Regarding alleged shoddy construction of National Highways in Nagaur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

Shri Hanuman Beniwal 55

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Sitting of the House 57

INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL, 2022 59-

Motion to Consider 61

Dr. Jitendra Singh 60-61,
74-75,78-81

Shri Jayant Sinha 63-66

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	67-71
Clauses 2 to 57 and 1	
Motion to Pass	76

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 22, 2022/Ashadha 31, 1944 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 81, Shri Thomas Chazhikadan.

.... (*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs

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

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will permit all of you to speak. Please do not interrupt the Question Hour. This Question Hour is yours. This House is yours. I have to run the House in order.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It would be appropriate if we collectively decide to run the House. I want to run the House. The people of the country want the House to function. Therefore, we should have discussion, we should have dialogue. You are requested to sit down. You are a senior member of Parliament. I request you to sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.03 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jaskaur Meena ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

(Q. 81)

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA: Hon. Speaker, as the hon. Minister has stated in reply to the question that four Appellate Benches can be set up for Eastern region at Kolkata and for Western region at Mumbai.... *(Interruptions)* Besides, it was also stated in the reply that there is no justification of setting up the Bench.... *(Interruptions)* However, through you I would like to submit that to dispose of increasing cases of atrocities against women in States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, there is a need to set up Benches in these states.... *(Interruptions)* Would the Minister like to give an assurance in this regard? *(Interruptions)* Will he ensure justice for those women by announcing independent Benches for women? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, this question was about bifurcation of Hon. Supreme Court.... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Member has associated it with the issues of women and asked the question about setting up of separate benches for them. I absolutely agree with her views and question, but today the main question is ... *(Interruptions)* *[English]*

The main question is with regard to the bifurcation of the Hon. Supreme Court into different Benches. *[Translation]* This question is not directly related to it.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH: Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. ... *(Interruptions)* In its 229th Report, the Law Commission of India made recommendations on the need for division of the hon. Supreme Court into a Constitutional Bench at Delhi and Cassation Benches in four regions, namely, Delhi, Chennai/ Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai. It is also called for the hon. Supreme Court to consist of two Divisions namely, Constitutional Division and Legal Division. ... *(Interruptions)* The judicial system in India is overburdened. As of May, 2022, there are over 4.7 crore pending cases.

Of them, 87.4 per cent are pending in subordinate courts and 12.4 per cent in High Courts. Nearly 1,82,000 cases have been pending for over 30 years. But this spike is not reflected in the number of judges available to hear these cases. Can the Minister state the details of the measures being taken or proposed to be taken to ensure faster disposal of cases and timely justice?

An all-India Judicial Service on the lines of the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service was mooted soon after Independence. It was also proposed in the 14th report of the Law

Commission in the year 1958 which was later endorsed by the Supreme Court of India. Such a move will keep a check on the persisting vacancies in the Judiciary and pendency of cases. I would like to know from the Minister whether such a proposal is being considered by the Government?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, Hon. Member has asked various questions and raised certain issues which are very vital. But the main point is that it deals with the issue of the Reports submitted by the Law Commission. In fact, Law Commission has already submitted three Reports.

One report has already been mentioned by the hon. Member. The 229th Report of the Law Commission is the latest Report submitted in 2009. Before that, the Law Commission also submitted the 95th Report in 1984 and another Report was submitted in 1988. In all the Reports submitted by the Law Commission of India, they have recommended that there should be an establishment of Supreme Court regional benches in different regions of the country specifically East, West, North and South. But there are various views on that.

I would like to dwell at length about various views but I would like to mention the important part of the Supreme Court decision. It is because the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India and in the full judgment held on 18th February, 2010, the full bench of the Supreme Court decided that this recommendation will not be considered because it does not justify and there are various issues mentioned as justification but I would not like to take much time of this House. If necessary, if a larger

discussion takes place, I would like to explain it in detail to this august House.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask questions on a very important subject. ... *(Interruptions)* More than five lakh people across the country are languishing in jails due to delay in disposing off bail applications. ... *(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister of the country raised this issue a year ago. ... *(Interruptions)* Our Law Minister is working very hard on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)* He ventilated his sentiment on the issue during his visit to Rajasthan. ... *(Interruptions)* There are many people who do not have resources and are languishing in jails. ... *(Interruptions)* Many people did not get bail, so they are incarcerated. ... *(Interruptions)* Several under trials are languishing in jails because their cases are not being heard in the court... *(Interruptions)* The Law Minister has said that before August 15, some solution would be taken out of this problem. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, I would like to once again ask the Hon. Minister through you and thank him for his efforts as to whether he would take a final decision in this regard before August 15? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Speaker, the question that the hon. Member has asked is very important.... *(Interruptions)* Many important decisions

have been taken under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Modi. ... (*Interruptions*) Especially this year is being celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. ... (*Interruptions*) An Advisory Committee has been constituted by the Government, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. ... (*Interruptions*) Under this, we could have set the convicts free who have been languishing in jail for many years, but we couldn't do it for so many reasons. ... (*Interruptions*) A decision has been taken for their special release. ... (*Interruptions*) We have decided to provide legal assistance through NALSA, ... (*Interruptions*) Recently, in a big programme organised in the presence of the Chief Justice of Supreme Court, all the judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justices of all the High Courts of the country, in Jaipur, I also made an announcement there. ... (*Interruptions*)

We will provide legal assistance to all the under trials, under the program of NALSA. We will expedite the process of dispensing justice through the judges of the district court and the under-trial review committee under their leadership, ~~which will enhance speed~~ so that that all the under trials that are there should be released... (*Interruptions*) They are languishing in jails in absence of legal service. ... ~~[Translation]~~ (*Interruptions*) More and more such people can be released during Amrit kal. We have announced it by preparing a legal framework in this regard, the judiciary and the executive are working in unison. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 82, Shri K Navasakni.

(Q. 82)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there is an important matter on fisherman and you are not asking supplementary questions about such an important matter. Have you come here to raise slogans or ask questions? Have you come here to raise slogans and put up placards? You can raise slogans outside the Parliament, but here in the House you should ask questions, raise issues related to the public.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rattan Lal Kataria ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

Hon. Speaker, the Government has repeatedly said, that as soon as the Hon. Finance Minister recovers and comes back. When you decide to hold a discussion on price rise, we express our willingness. We are ready for discussion. We can also allow you time to make a mention, during the Zero Hour. We have no objection, they can speak with your permission....

(*Interruptions*) But what do they want to do, ... (*Interruptions*) They do not want to let the Question Hour run, nor do they want debate. You neither want to pass the bill, nor want to have any discussion. This House is open to discussion. [*English*] Majority of the hon. Members of this

House want the Question Hour to run. They are depriving the rights of the Members ... (*Interruptions*) I condemn this attitude. We are ready for discussion as soon as the hon. Finance Minister comes after recovery. ... (*Interruptions*) They are trying to delimiting the House and the stature of the hon. Members. I condemn this attitude ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rattan Lal Kataria ji.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I want to say that the way the Hon. Prime Minister of India has popularized 21st June as Yoga Day across the world, today the entire world follows suit. ... (*Interruptions*)

Similarly, I want to ask through you that Indian women are often found to be anaemic. Can we spread awareness regarding this through yoga... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER This question is of the Ministry of External Affairs.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 83

... (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 83 to 100

Unstarred Question Nos. 921 to 1150

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

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at Twelve O'clock.

11.13 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

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

... (*Interruptions*)

12.01 hrs

At this stage, Shri Hibi Eden, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri Jasbir Singh Gill and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.02 hrs**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[Translation]

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

Item No 2, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL): Hon. Chairperson, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Judicial Academy, India, Bhopal, for the year 2019-2020 along with Audited

Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Judicial Academy, India, Bhopal, for the year 2019-2020.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above
 - [Placed in Library, See No. LT 7162/17/22]
- (3) A copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Notifications, under sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 2001: -
 - (i) The Andaman and Nicobar Advocates Welfare Fund Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. 84/2003/F. No. 48-739/2002-SW in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 4th June, 2003, together with a Corrigendum (in English language only) published in Notification No. 120 of the 16th June, 2004.
 - (ii) Chandigarh Advocates Welfare Fund Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. 8/1/101-1H (8)-2017/22271 in the Chandigarh Administration

Gazette dated 8th September, 2017.

- (iii) The Delhi Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. 219/Petition/01/Deputy-Secretary Law/1932-51 in Delhi Gazette dated the 8th May, 2009.
- (iv) Delhi Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. F. No. 2(22)/Lit./01/Wall IV-19/6380-6429 in Delhi Gazette dated the 25th September, 2019.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7163/17/22]

- (5) A copy of the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English Versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice for the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7164/17/22]

- (6) A copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Notification No. S.O.2223(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2022 under Section 62 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, specifies the 20th May, 2022 as

the date on which the orders of the Delimitation Commission published in Notification No. O.N.6(E) dated the 14th March, 2022 and in Notification No. O.N.17(E) dated the 5th March, 2022 published Order No. 1 dated the 14th March 2022 and Order No. 2 dated the 5th May, 2022 respectively will come into effect.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7165/17/22]

- (7) A copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Notification No. O.N.6(E) issued under sub-section (5) of Section 60 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 read with sub-section (2) of Section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2022, regarding delimitation of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and specifies 21st March, 2022 (Monday) as the date, when a motion for consideration of the motions moved by it on or after the date on which the motions are moved.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7166/17/22]

- (8) A copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Notification No. O.N.17(E) issued under sub-section (1) of Section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Part-V of the Jammu and

Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2022, regarding delimitation of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7167/17/22]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): I

beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Centre for Migration, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the India Centre for Migration, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7168/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI): I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7169/17/22]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

(ADV. AJAY BHATT): Hon. Chairperson, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

(1) A copy of the Annual Administration Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment Board for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7170/17/22]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.

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

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7171/17/22]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR): I

beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7172/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deoghar, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by

the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7173/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7174/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7175/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, for the year 2020-2021.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7176/17/22]

(11) A copy of the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. Stds/SP-05/A-1.Y(01) in Gazette of India dated 6th May, 2022 under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7177/17/22]

(12) A copy of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions 3rd (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.2360(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd May, 2022 under sub-section (2) of Section 69 of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7178/17/22]

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940: -

1. The Medical Devices (Third Amendment) Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.356(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th May, 2022.
2. The Drugs (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.357(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th May, 2022.
3. The Medical Devices (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.450(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th June, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7179/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH (DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA): I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Adoption Resource Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Adoption Resource Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7180/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of

Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7181/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.

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

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7182/17/22]

12.04 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

14th Report

[English]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Committee on the subject 'India and Bilateral Investment Treaties'.

12.04½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

17th Report

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI (BALASORE): I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on “Flood Management in the Country including International Water Treaties in the field of Water Resource Management with Particular Reference to Treaty/Agreement entered into with China, Pakistan and Bhutan” of the Standing Committee on Water Resources.

12.05 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 25th of July, 2022 will consist of: -

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper: - *[it contains: - Consideration and passing of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022.]*
 2. [Translation] Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
-
 - I. The Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022;
 - II. The Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2019;
 - III. The National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 and
 - IV. The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.
 3. Consideration and Passing of the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022, *after its introduction.*
-

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON Item No.-11, Dr. Satyapal Singh ji.

12.05½ hrs

**MOTION RE: ASSOCIATION OF ONE MEMBER OF RAJYA
SABHA WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

[Translation]

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move the following:

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the un-expired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is that:

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the un-expired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy retired from Rajya Sabha and do

communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”.

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs

**MOTION RE: REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021- EXTENSION OF TIME**

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Chairperson

Sir, I beg to move the following:

“That this House do further extend up to the last week of Monsoon Session 2022 of the Parliament the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was extended up to the first week of the current session on a motion adopted by this House on 18 July, 2022.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is that:

“That this House do further extend up to the last week of Monsoon Session 2022 of the Parliament the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was extended up to the first week of the current session on a motion adopted by this House on 18 July, 2022.”

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.08 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Matters under Rule 377 – Shri Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya).

... (Interruptions)

(i) Regarding introduction of a train from Etah to Delhi via Agra

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA) (ETAH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Etah Kasganj is among the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh and its main reason is lack of means of transport. Rail is one of the major modes of transport in our country which is used by every working person. There is no direct train from Etah-Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh to Delhi. Therefore, I demand from the Hon. Railway Minister to ply a train from Etah-Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh to Delhi via Agra, so that residents of my area could travel with convenience to Delhi and Agra for their education, jobs, employment, and business.

(ii) Regarding Bihta-Aurangabad railway line project

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH(AURANGABAD): Hon. Chairperson Sir, in the year 2007, approval was granted for the new rail project from Bihta to Aurangabad under the East Central Railway, at a cost of 326 crore rupees. This project was to be completed in 2011-12. This project will benefit the people of Patna, Arwal, Jehanabad and Aurangabad. Majority of this area is extremely backward and infested with LWE. The project underwent several surveys, and notices were issued to farmers for land acquisition. Now the estimated cost of the project has increased from 326 crore rupees to 2800 crore rupees. As a result of the indifference of officials, there has been a significant increase in the estimated cost of the project, that has deprived the people of this backward region of the development schemes.

It is requested that immediate steps should be taken to expedite the completion of the Bihta-Aurangabad rail project. Gaya-Aurangabad are adjacent to insurgency infested districts like Chatra, Hazaribagh etc. of Jharkhand. For years, the local people have been demanding that Daltonganj in Jharkhand should be connected with the railways to this insurgency infested area via Gaya, Sherghati, Bankey Bazar, Imamganj, Dumariya. The extension of the Railways would be beneficial for countering insurgency effectively along with providing better local connectivity.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil: Not present; Shri Rahul Kaswan: Not present.

(iii) Regarding stoppage of trains at Biswanath Chariali and Gohpur Railway Stations in Assam

SHRI PALLAB LOCHAN DAS (TEZPUR): Sir, Biswanath Chariali is the headquarters of Biswanath District which is an important city of northern Assam, and has a lot of commuters such as Government employees, patients, students, farmers, defence personnel and businessmen travelling to New Delhi on frequent basis. Currently, the Bi-Weekly Rajdhani Express *via* Bogibeel and Delhi-Naharlagun Arunachal Express does not halt at Biwanath and Gohpur due to which thousands of passengers have to travel up to Rangapara or Harmuti to board long-distance trains bound to Delhi. ... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister for stoppage of 20505/20506 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Bi-Weekly Rajdhani Express (*vis* Bogibeel) and 22412/22411 Delhi-Naharlagun Arunachal Express at Biswanath Chariali Railway Station and Gohpur Railway Station at the earliest. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the notices given by rest of the Members are laid on the Table. You may lay your notices under Rule 377 on the Table of the House. *

... (*Interruptions*)

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(iv) Need to frame effective law to ban fraudulent Ponzi schemes

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): Adarsh Credit Cooperative Society trapped more than 20 lakh people of Rajasthan in the name of giving them higher interest and other facilities on their deposited amount and absconded with more than Rs 8 thousand crore of their hard-earned money. Apart from this, many credit cooperative societies in Rajasthan are running such Ponzi schemes to loot the general public of their hard-earned money. As a result of such schemes, many companies have fled with crores of rupees belonging to numerous citizens of Rajasthan. The victims are taking refuge in the court and law but they are not able to get back the amount deposited by them. Therefore, I request the Government to make effective law to ban those who are looting the public in the name of such Ponzi schemes and also provide relief to those who have suffered loss by Adarsh Credit Cooperative Society.

**(v) Need to connect Bundelkhand expressway to Gwalior - Jhansi-
Kanpur Expressway**

[English]

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA (JHANSI): It's my immense pleasure to thank the Hon. Prime Minister to India, Shri Narendra Modi ji & Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari for giving the Bundelkhand region and to the Uttar Pradesh state. The humongous project worth Rs. 14,000 crores and with a length of 296 kilometres, states a clear intention of the development in the region of Bundelkhand which was unexplored by the previous governments.

I am just adding up the request to have an attention to connect Bundelkhand expressway with Gwalior-Jhansi-Kanpur Expressway. It will connect Jhansi to Bhojla, Unnao Balaji and Unnao Balaji to Bhandar, Bhandar to Konch and Konch to Jalaun. Lastly, Mauranipu to Garotha expressway can be connected to the Bundelkhand Expressway. The inspection area there will be of 110 kilometres which will have to be extended in the proposed project.

(vi) **Need to include 'Bhuihar Munda'/Bhuihar caste of Jharkhand in the list of Scheduled Tribes**

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Munda caste is notified as Scheduled Tribe under the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order 1956, and Bhuihar/ Bhuihar Munda is a group of tribesmen notified as its sub caste. The community primarily resides in Gumla and Latehar districts of Jharkhand, as well as in parts of Chhattisgarh state. Bhuihar/Bhuihar Munda caste has been notified as a Scheduled tribe in Chhattisgarh which is the neighbouring state of Jharkhand.

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi, sent a detailed research report and letter no. 237 dated 25.02.2021 to the Personnel, Administrative Reforms & Rajbhasha Department, Jharkhand Government on 19.03.2019, in this regard. Then Government of Jharkhand sent it to the Ministry of Tribal affairs of the Government of India on 18.02.2021. It has been sent by the Ministry to Registrar General & Census Commissioner India on 28.10.2021. I also made a request in this regard by writing a letter to the Hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs on 07th April 2022.

Therefore, the Tribal Affairs Minister is again requested to complete the process of including Bhuihar Munda/Bhuihar caste in the list of

Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand state and move a bill related to it in the Parliament.

(vii) Need to set up a regulatory board for online games

SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR (GWALIOR): Online games addiction among children poses a huge challenge in their growth. These games are also incapacitating the children mentally and making them violent. Gaming addiction has been identified by the World Health Organization as a disease i.e. gaming disorder ~~disease~~. Many countries of the world are on alert mode to deal with the addiction of such games. Games with excessive violence have been discontinued. The basis of the ban has been stated to be objectionable and violent content. There are no strict rules regarding this in India yet. Senior IT and cyber experts believe that there is no clear-cut policy in our country that can control and censor online games. For this, the Government of India should develop a platform on the lines of the Film Censor Board to assess the usefulness of games being launched or currently running in the country. This platform would evaluate online games on a standardized scale and assess their usefulness. So that our progeny could be saved from its ill effects.

**(viii) Regarding setting up of a Kalari Academy and Museum at
Kadirur**

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Kalaripayattu also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in Kerala. The Sports Ministry, Government of India has recently inducted Kalaripayattu into the Khelo India Youth Games. Apart being a martial art, Kalaripayattu has its own medical system called Kalari Chikthsa. Kalaripayattu is mentioned in the Vadakkan Pattukal, a collection of ballads written about the Chekavar of the Malabar region of Kerala.

It is a long-standing aspiration of the people of Malabar to see a Kalari Academy and Museum in the region. Kadirur in Kannur district is the most suitable location for setting up such an institution as it has historical links with Kalaripayattu. Kadirur Gurukkal also known as Mathilure Gurukkal was a celebrated martial artist of medieval period from Kadirur. A Kalari Academy and Museum is proposed by the Kalari lovers at Kadirur to impart the martial art to the people interested in the art and to introduce Kalaripayattu to tourists. As on now, there is no such institution in Kerala. The Kadirur Gram Panchayat has expressed its willingness to support the proposal.

Hence, I request the Government of India to set up a Kalari Academy at Kadirur.

(ix) Regarding various issues pertaining to implementation of reservation in jobs and promotion

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM): As per the Annual report submitted on 20.09.2020 by the National Commission for SCs, a Legislation on reservation Bill may be redrafted including the recommendations of the Commission and the opinion of the Commission may also be sought on the redrafted Bill as per the provisions of Article 338(9) of the Constitution. That reservation should be strictly implemented in all the projects of Government which last for more than 45 days and also in engagement of young professionals. Reservation rosters should be strictly maintained and followed to ensure adequate representation of SCs in services. Special Recruitment Drives should be launched to clear backlog vacancies.

All the instructions issued by DoPT to safeguard the interest of the Scheduled Castes like appointment of Liaison Officers, setting up of SC/ST Cells, etc. must be followed. Steps should be laid down to improve the percentage of SCs in Group 'A' and 'B' posts of Central/State Governments. As per DoPT OM dated 15.06.2018, reservation in promotion may be continued to be implemented in all the Central/State Governments, PSUs and PSBs. In the wake of the SC judgement in Jarnail Singh & Ors Vs Lachmi Narain Gupta & Ors, the Government should consider a Constitutional amendment for putting reservation in promotion in place.

(x) Need to grant citizenship to Srilankan Tamils who repatriated to India under Indian Citizenship Act, 1955

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Srilankan Tamils are descendants of indentured labourers who settled down in tea estates of Sri Lanka during colonial times. There is no doubt that they are tamil speaking people. Their forefathers hailed from what is present day State of Tamil Nadu. They faced severe discrimination at the hands of the Sri Lankan Government after it gained independence in 1948. Sri Lanka witnessed a genocidal and brutal ethnic strife. 1983 was one of the worst moments in history. There was a virtual exodus of Tamil people from Sri Lanka to India. They reached India by whatever mode that was available. However, they were having hope from Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 but this hope too was over as this act only allowed Indian Citizenship for persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis or Christians and leaves out Sri Lanka. Refugees from Sri Lanka have been neglected by the CAA.

I request the Union Government to provide Citizenship to these repatriates and their family members who repatriated to India after intermittent settlement in tea estates of hill areas in Sri Lanka under the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955.

(xi) Need to take suitable measures against documentaries hurting religious sentiments

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Amid rising religious communal tensions in the country, a film poster shared by a documentary filmmaker from India has triggered another controversy. The producer shared a poster of his film showcasing a woman who under the influence of Goddess Kali was smoking a cigarette. Many internet users considered the poster an insult to Hindu religion and called for legal action against the filmmaker, while others called for respecting the religious sentiments of every community. Many political leaders have also raised objections and demanded strict action against the filmmaker. According to the filmmaker he has incorporated Kali in his subjective perspective as both a poet and a filmmaker. We must strongly condemn any attempt to insult any religion in such an expression of freedom. It is the duty of every Indian to respect each and every religion. The government is requested to strongly condemn any such attempt and take immediate and strict action in this regard.

(xii) Regarding price hike of Kerosene oil

[English]

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): I invite the attention of the Government towards the exorbitant price hike of Kerosene by Rs 80 in the last two years. The price has reached Rs. 102 after the price hike which is more than the price for one litre of diesel and just Rs 5 short of the cost for a litre of petrol. The steep hike will affect the traditional fishermen who are allowed to fish in the sea during the trawling ban as they use kerosene as fuel for the boats. The anti-people policies are pushing commoners and fishermen in serious debts. They are forced to buy kerosene from the open market for a high price as they are not getting the subsidised kerosene. The 30700 OBM boats in Kerala use 98000 KL kerosene in a year, and in the financial year of 2021-22, only 15188 KL of Kerosene was sanctioned for the state. I urge the Department of Food and Distribution to look into this matter with utmost priority as it puts the lives of common people and traditional fishermen at stake.

(xiii) Regarding addition of Kalanamak Chawal to the list of special products under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act) was amended in 2009 which added Section 10A. This will provide the much-needed boost to demand for special Indian products in international markets. However, till date only "Basmati Rice" has been added to the list of Special Products. Kalanamak Chawal of District Siddharathnagar, Uttar Pradesh is taken as Lord Buddha Prasad all over the world. Kalanamak Chawal is a special aromatic rice from Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh. It is famous for its nutritional properties and rich cultural history. It is also known as Buddha Rice and has garnered huge demand in international markets due to its popularity as Buddha Prasad and also due to the efforts of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. It is very essential to add Kalanamak Chawal under APEDA for its promotion all over the world. I, therefore, request the Government of India to consider adding Kalanamak Chawal of District Siddharathnagar Uttar Pradesh under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act). This will also be benefited in the long run for the economy of our country.

**(xiv) Regarding alleged shoddy construction of National Highways
in Nagaur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): While drawing attention of the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to the situation arising out of the negligence and lack of quality work being done in the construction of National Highways passing through my Parliamentary Constituency Nagaur, I would like to inform him that strengthening of the road stretch on Ajmer-Nagaur National Highway 58 is being done at many places which is not in accordance with the parameters and a thin layer of DBM is being laid and work is also going on at a slow pace. Along with it, construction quality of Bikaner-Nagaur stretch of Bikaner-Nagaur-Jodhpur National Highway, is very poor. Along with that in Nagaur District Headquarter construction of bypass of National Highway 58 outside Nagaur city was done callously and during that road construction, 10-metre-wide bypass cc pavement was built which was damaged soon after. It made the traffic movement difficult, since the quality of the Ring Road outside Nagaur city is not good, the road gets damaged as soon as it is constructed and the negligence in the construction of the above mentioned highways and the use of low quality material in the construction and work being carried out against the norms are highly condemnable and regrettable. Despite crores of rupees being spent from

the treasury on the construction of National Highways, the lack of positive results is against the intention of the Government and the policy of National Highways. The government agencies involved in the construction along with the engineers are also responsible for this.

Therefore, centre level teams should be dispatched to inspect these roads and strict action should be taken against engineers and executive agencies exercising negligence in the construction besides imposing penalty on them. So that misuse of public funds could be prevented and high-quality construction of national highways could be ensured.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the House is for holding discussion on issues. The Government is ready for discussion. Whatever issues you have, you should discuss them in the House. This is not the way to maintain the decorum of the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m. today.

12.13 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Two Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

14.02½ hrs

At this stage, Shri Hibi Eden and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

14.03 hrs**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have to inform that the proceedings of the House will commence from 2 pm on Monday, the 25th July, 2022.

... (Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Sir, will the proceedings of the House commence from two o'clock from Monday?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the House will run from two o'clock on Monday only.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item no. 14, Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022.

Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.04 hrs

INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL, 2022

[Translation]

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 (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Hon. Chairperson, with your permission, I lay on the Table the Indian Antarctic Bill.

[English]

Sir, with your permission, I beg to move*:

“That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, will you say something on the bill?

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, this is a very important subject and there is also an interesting aspect to it... *(Interruptions)* Antarctic is an area which is spread across approximately 14 million square kilometres... *(Interruptions)* It is 60 degrees South of the Southern Hemisphere. About one-third area of Southern Hemisphere is considered to be an area of Antarctica... *(Interruptions)* It is considered to be the fifth-largest continent on the Earth. The habitat conditions are also difficult here... *(Interruptions)* Climate-wise, the temperature in winter is minus 90 degree Celsius and in summer also it remains 10 degrees Celsius below zero.

It is sparsely populated, mostly researchers and scientists live here and their number belonging to different nationalities does not exceed 1000 or 5000. ... *(Interruptions)* There are about 40 research centres here. I will talk about it further in the reply, during the discussion on the Bill that has been introduced today. One important aspect of the Bill is that India has established two of its stations - Maitri and Bharati there. ...

(Interruptions) Similarly, other countries like China, Japan, France, New Zealand have established their respective stations there. ... *(Interruptions)* A treaty was signed in 1959 – Antarctic Treaty, which came into force in 1961 and from 1983 onwards India also became its signatory. ... *(Interruptions)*

Initially, 12 countries were part of the treaty, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and the Soviet Union. ... *(Interruptions)* Now out of its 54 countries, there are 29 such countries which have been accorded consultative status, that is, they can be part of decisive topic and decisive action. ... *(Interruptions)* It is mutually agreed that all the countries should bring such legislation in their respective Parliaments, so that if any such activity takes place there, which violates the law or any such activity takes place which is not a part of that treaty, because the basic objective of this treaty was to demilitarize Antarctica, so that there would be no activity of any kind, which would involve land occupation or any kind of military action. ... *(Interruptions)* In view of that treaty and accepting its recognition, it becomes obligatory for India also to bring such legislation here that if any such violation occurs in Antarctica, then how it should be dealt with, what should be the solution and what action should be taken on it. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be silent. Adhir Ji, will you say something?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the thing is that the House has come to a standstill for a week...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Would you like to say something on this Bill?

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, please give me one minute.... (*Interruptions*) We repeatedly plead; we want discussion....
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: But this Government is adamant and does not want discussion.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adhir ji, do you want to speak on this Bill?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jayant Sinha ji.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Hon. Chairperson, we are so fortunate that due to the able and decisive leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, we are heading on the path of becoming Vishwaguru. ... (*Interruptions*) Today, what the Hon. Minister has told us about this Bill, it is clear that through this Bill and many other steps, we will achieve the goal of becoming a Vishwaguru soon. ... (*Interruptions*)

This Bill which has been brought, about which the Hon. Minister has told us in detail, this is a comprehensive and visionary Bill and has two main objectives, about which I would like to tell you in detail. ... (*Interruptions*) The first objective is that Antarctic, which is a continent located in south of 60-degree latitude, which is absolutely untouched in today's time, we must conserve it. ... (*Interruptions*) This continent is being used only for scientific reasons, so while maintaining peace there, it has to be conserved for scientific purpose, we are going to achieve this completely through this bill. ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. External Affairs Minister is also present here. ... (*Interruptions*) Along with it, since we are

consultative partners, as the Hon. Minister has informed, we have to make such laws in our country, as a responsible consultative partner, which are consistent with the International Treaties so that we can give effect to the treaties we have signed, through our legal mechanisms. ...
(Interruptions)

These are the two main objectives, for which this Antarctic Bill has been presented before the House today. I would request the hon. Members that they should also understand this, because this is a very crucial matter related to climate change affecting not only India, but the entire world, and also the Antarctic region. I would like to submit in detail in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, as the Hon. Minister said, Antarctica is a place, where temperatures are very low. The temperature goes down to minus 90 degree centigrade in winter while in summer the temperature remains at just minus 10 degrees centigrade. ... *(Interruptions)* Its average temperature is minus 60 degree centigrade. The entire Antarctic continent is covered with snow. As a result of this even today 62 percent of the world's fresh water is in the ice sheet of the Antarctic, but due to climate change, the temperature of the Earth is gradually increasing. ... *(Interruptions)* Earth's temperature has increased by 1.1 degrees, 1.2 degrees centigrade, because global warming is rising very rapidly. Now it seems that the global warming may not just increase by 1.1 degree or 1.2 degree centigrade, but up to 2 degrees centigrade. If global warming increases by 2 or 3 degree

centigrade, then 62 percent of the fresh water and the ice sheet of the Antarctic will start melting slowly. Melting of it gradually can cause a lot of crisis in the world. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, India has a huge coastal line. There are many such metros and big cities like Goa, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Chennai, which are on the coast, along the sea. In this way, if the sea level begins to rise due to melting of the Antarctic, then a huge damage can be caused to our coastal cities by flooding. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, it is very essential for India and the world to understand scientifically how rapid global warming is impacting Antarctic. Therefore, scientific missions should take place here employing full safety measures and without causing any environmental disruption. All of this is very important for us. It is very essential for us to get it done. ... (*Interruptions*)

Ever since our accession to the treaty, India has conducted 41 scientific missions here till date. We have two research centres here. One is Bharti Research Centre, and the other is Maitri Research Centre. Apart from this, one is of Gangotri, which runs temporarily, but that is also very important. ... (*Interruptions*) 41 scientific missions have been undertaken there. Today 50 to 60 of our research staves live in Antarctica. That's why we have a lot of scientific work going on there. We should pass this bill to protect it. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to summarize this Bill that there are three-four such provisions in the Bill which has far reaching consequences. Other

countries of the world have also passed bills to protect Antarctica, but this bill includes two to three provisions that are not present in other bills. First thing is that if any scientific mission goes to Antarctic, then it has to pay a lot of attention to waste management. ... (*Interruptions*) One has to ensure that the environment there is not adversely affected in any way, therefore you have to focus on waste management. A waste management plan that includes waste management system is also needed. This is an important part of it. ... (*Interruptions*)

Another thing is that we have formed a committee of 14 members, which includes each representative of the government along with experts. If one needs a permit, then he/she has the plan approved from this committee only and thereafter one can do scientific research there. ... (*Interruptions*) Another thing is that one can do only limited work there. Like, permit is given only if any scientific research pertaining to climate change is required to be done there. This has also been explained fully in this bill. This is a very comprehensive and far-sighted bill. I support it. I hope that Hon. Members would also pay attention to the Bill and extend their full support. Thank you very much. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, what is going on?...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please all of you go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You were given an opportunity to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, no.

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I stand here to support the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*) The subject for today's discussion is of great importance, of course, not only for our country but also for the whole world. ... (*Interruptions*) You remember that yesterday when this Bill was taken up for consideration, the Minister with open heart had stated that because most of the Oppositions' seats are vacant, I would like to have a discussion where Opposition also takes part in the deliberation, and without Oppositions' participation passing of a Bill is not the intent of the Government. ... (*Interruptions*) That is the reason why the Bill was deferred and it has been taken up today. ... (*Interruptions*) But I am sorry to see that the Opposition Members are still in the well, and they are not considering to listen to what other Members are saying. ... (*Interruptions*)

As I was saying, Antarctica is the White Continent of the world, and it is the 5th largest continent of our Earth. ... *(Interruptions)* It has very inclement weather, and as the Minister has very rightly said, it goes up from -10 to -30 degree during winter and at times during summer certain parts are also fully covered under ice. ... *(Interruptions)*

Antarctica has an area of around 14 million square kilometres, and is known to be the fifth largest continent. Around 98 per cent of the geographical area is covered by ice which is about 1.6 kilometre thick. ... *(Interruptions)* About 90 per cent of the total ice of the earth is found in Antarctica. As it is completely covered with ice, it is also called the White Continent. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would also like to mention here that it has a short history of last 140 years. ... *(Interruptions)* For a long time, Antarctica represented the last great frontier of human exploration. ... *(Interruptions)* Ships first explored the boundaries of the White Continent on sea voyages. ... *(Interruptions)* By the beginning of the 20th century, some were beginning to venture into Antarctica's unforgiving climate. ... *(Interruptions)* Before long the 'Race to the South Pole', as it was stated, began. Key competitors included some of history's great explorers. ... *(Interruptions)* Roald Amundsen, Robert Falcon Scott, Edward Adrian Wilson and Ernest Shackleton – all competed in the Race to the South Pole. ... *(Interruptions)* Roald Amundsen's expedition team became the

first to reach the South Pole on 15th December 1911, and his team was the first to return hale and hearty to the civilized world. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to mention here that the ice sheet of Antarctica is the single largest piece of ice on Earth. ... (*Interruptions*) The ice increases from about three million square kilometres at the end of summer to around 19 square kilometres in winter. ... (*Interruptions*) As my predecessor speaker mentioned about global warming, this is the incident which we should be aware of. ... (*Interruptions*) Small Island countries in Pacific and also in Indian Ocean are in great danger, if the ice of the South Pole melts. The ice of Antarctica is a great wealth for the whole human kind. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, Antarctica is also home to a number of mountain summits with altitude of more than 4500 meters.

The Transantarctic mountains divide the Continent into eastern and western regions. Under the ice sheet is a giant peninsula and archipelago of mountainous islands known as Lesser Antarctica or West Antarctica. East Antarctica is composed of older, igneous and metamorphic rocks. West Antarctica is made up of younger, volcanic and sedimentary rocks. ... (*Interruptions*)

Antarctica is considered a desert, the largest desert on earth. In fact, it is the coldest, windiest and driest of the seven Continents. ... (*Interruptions*)

Here, I would like to mention that the surrounding Southern Ocean, however, is one of the most biologically diverse marine areas on the planet. The upwelling that occurs here allows plankton and algae to flourish.

This in turn attracts an abundance of fish, which creates the perfect feeding ground for the larger fish and marine mammals. Blue, fin, humpback, minke and sperm whales are abundant in Antarctica. ... *(Interruptions)* Antarctica is home to several seal species, including leopard seals, one of the most aggressive of all marine predators. This 400-kilogram apex predator feeds mostly on penguins and fish. ... *(Interruptions)* This is the natural habitat of Antarctica and to protect this habitat, it is necessary that we also become a party to the United Nations Agreement, about which the Minister has just now mentioned. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, this Bill aims at promoting Antarctica as a natural reserve that is devoted to science and peace, and to ensure that Antarctica does not become the scene of international discord. That is the basic purpose for which this Bill is being introduced and I believe, cutting across party lines, everybody should support this, Bill. ... *(Interruptions)* India maintains two research stations in Antarctica – Maitri since 1989 and Bharati since 2012 – and has launched 41 expeditions to the Continent so far. The Antarctica Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on the 1st day of December, 1959. India signed the Antarctica Treaty on 19th August, 1983 and received consultative status on the 12th September,

1983. The Treaty covers the area South of 60-degree latitude and 27 countries, of which some names have already been mentioned by the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) There is a need for the law. While India has been sending expeditions to Antarctica for the last 40 years, these expeditions have been circumscribed by international law. This Bill now puts into place a comprehensive list of regulations related to Antarctica for scientific expeditions as well as for individuals, companies and tourists. This reminds me of what the DRDO has done. The bio-toilets, that are being used in most of the trains today, were actually explored by our scientists in DRDO which were put into experiment in Antarctica. That is the direct effect which the scientific exploration has made and it is necessary. ... (*Interruptions*) I need not go into the key features of the Bill, but here I would like to mention that this is a necessity not only for our country, but also for the whole world. We will become a part of the greater brotherhood, the international brotherhood and therefore, I believe that everybody should support this Bill wholeheartedly.

Thank you. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your Leader is going to speak now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, please allow me to speak till I conclude.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please speak on this Bill only.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I will speak on the Bill, but you will have to give time till I conclude my point *(Interruptions)*

Sir, please do not be influenced by whatever they say. ... *(Interruptions)* You are our custodian. ... *(Interruptions)* Why are we being subjected to this kind of treatment by the Government? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You were absent yesterday, so this Bill is being discussed today. Now, please cooperate.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Everyone please go back to your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury – please continue.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, the Minister was explaining to us the significance of the Antarctic Bill. Considering its importance, at the time when this Antarctic Bill was introduced in this

House, I myself stood up and had given some advice to improve it and further streamline this Bill. We are still quite interested in participating in this discussion, but what do we do? If this Government conducts a meeting of BAC, call all of us in it and discusses this matter once, then everything can be run smoothly. Many Members want to take part in this discussion. There are members not only of my party but also of other parties.

Considering the importance of this bill, everyone should participate in it, but what are they doing? By dint of their majority, and without caring for anyone's opinion, they are getting this important bill passed. I would like to suggest that it will be resolved immediately, once meeting of all the floor-leaders of the opposition parties is called.

Sir, as Antarctic Bill is being discussed today, the economy of India has also become as fragile as the condition of Antarctic today.... *(Interruptions)* So, I wish to say that if you do not give us a chance, we will stage a walk out. ... *(Interruptions)*

14.26 hrs

At this stage, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and some other hon.

Members left the House.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, while participating in the discussion on this Bill as my friend and fellow MPs, hon. Shri Jayant Sinha ji and Mahtab Sahib just said, Antarctic has a special significance and also a very interesting geographical situation.... (*Interruptions*)

As was shared just now that the temperature there remains below zero to minus 10 degrees in summer and minus 90 degrees Celsius below zero in winter season. I have already given a little background on this, there is no dispute in that. All I want to discuss is that what is the purpose of bringing the Antarctic Bill today? I will conclude by saying this because not many subject matters have been raised.

This treaty was signed in the year 1959 and India became a signatory in the year 1983. Its main objective was that the Antarctic territory should not be misused for any military or for any other reason. Which in English means - to ensure demilitarisation, so that there is no military activity there. Secondly, no country should undertake any kind of mining activity or illegal activities because it is more or less no man's land. The possibility for that kind of situation to arise should not be there. It should not happen that someone uses that land for nuclear explosion.

Overall, to ensure that all the countries having research stations in Antarctic, like Indian research stations like 'Maitri' and 'Bharti' which Mahtab Sir rightly said, should restrict themselves to research or other

experiments related to climate or geography. Since India also has two research stations along with other countries hence under this treaty it was decided that a legislation should be brought by each signatory country. There was a belief that the legislation or law of the same country should be applicable to its own territory.

Now since we also have two research stations, it is obvious that only the law of India would be applicable there. This means that there is demilitarisation and we have also ensured it should not to be used for illegal activities in any manner. But despite that, if such a situation ever arises, then under which law should action be taken? You know that all over the world there is some kind of law, in some form or the other, applicable in every country, in every region. Since this is an area over which no country has sovereignty, its sole objective is that Indian law should apply to the territory that is part of India.

Once this bill is passed, a committee will be formed here, with the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences as its Chairperson.

Sir, there will be representatives of other ministries also in that committee because some work of fisheries keeps on going. Not only do we have the work pertaining to the defence ministry, but also that of shipping, environment, space and tourism ministries. So, this bill doesn't have that kind of broad implication. After this bill is passed, Indian law will be applicable in the areas occupied by the Indian institutions and the Indian personnel living in that Continent.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (BARDHAMAN-DURGAPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to say something on this subject.

Sir, Antarctica is a virgin land and there is only ice and its surface is very thick. All the things are below that layer of ice and they fall in virgin category. There are virgin poly metallic modules, cobalt, nickel and gas too beneath that layer. Hence, the Hon. Minister said that there should be no illegal mining. Norway is near Antarctic. Norway is the largest seller of crude oil today and all the oil and gas and crude oil is being extracted from its nearby areas. It is being extracted from beneath its surface only. Do our research stations during the course of their research make an assessment of the impact of the extraction of oil and gas on the Antarctic? We are focusing solely on global warming, but if gas and oil are extracted from beneath the surface, and if ultimately the filling of that surface is not proper, then that surface begins to sink in. We also need to be concerned about the future as subsiding of ice in areas where vacuum is created as a result of mining may also pose a risk of earthquakes. Seismological studies show that earthquakes occur not only on land, but also under the sea. Similarly, earthquakes also occur under Antarctica. By conducting studies in all these spheres, India can become a Vishwaguru, by offering protection and can do a good work, and there is a need to establish a centre there in this regard. You have formed a committee to prevent unauthorized entry, which is a good measure, but tomorrow if private operators and

players start going there, it will be difficult to maintain control because they will focus on commercial exploitation.

I would like to submit that the Hon. Minister should throw some light in this regard.

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Sir, I would like to raise my agony before you. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If there is any clarification related to the Bill, then convey in brief, [*English*] so that hon. Minister can respond on that.

SHRI RAVI KISHAN: Sir, I would like one clarification on a Private Members' Bill, for which I have been waiting since 2019. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, you may speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Sir, I would like to seek one clarification from the Hon. Minister with respect to clause 2 of the Bill which provides that this Act shall apply to citizens of India. But at the same time, it is also mentioned that it will apply to citizens of any other country as well as any vessel or aircraft registered outside India. ... (*Interruptions*)

On the issue of jurisdiction, how can it be extended to the vessel registered outside India, and to non-citizens of India? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, our senior Member Shri Ahluwalia Saheb is well acquainted with this subject and has spoken after thorough study. He has rightly observed that there are other neighbouring countries which have also established their institutions there. For example, Norway, is only 100 kilometres away from there. We have laboratories there; they also have an institute there. This treaty was also envisaged so that no country should be tempted or develop tendency to do any oil extraction activity or mining activity there. There should be a common agreement regarding this matter. In total there are 3 treaties related to Antarctic. First among them is this treaty under which we are bringing this bill. Secondly, Convention of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which means, how to preserve other types of resources present there. Thirdly, Protocol on Environmental Protection, which was also referred to by Hon. Ahluwalia ji... (*Interruptions*)

14.37 hrs

At this stage, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Shri Rajmohan Unnithan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is that:

"That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting Antarctic Environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Protocol on Environment Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the House will consider the Bill clause-by-clause

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Among the Hon. Members who have given their amendments on this bill, only Shri Ritesh Pandey is present.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

CLAUSE 6 Permit for vessel and aircraft entering
Antarctica

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ritesh Pandey ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 12?

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Sir, I beg to move that:

on page 5, after line 23 –

please insert (12)

"Provided further that no authorized tour operator will use vessels carrying more than 500 passengers will be allowed entry in the Antarctic."

"Provided further that the number of passengers on the shore at any time is 100 or less, unless otherwise specified."

"Provided further that the minimum ratio of guides and passengers on the beaches will be kept at 1:20 unless otherwise specified." ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now I present Amendment No. 12 moved in clause 6 by Shri Ritesh Pandey to the House for voting.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That clause 6 stands part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 to 57 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula, Preamble and Long Title of the Bill
stand part of the Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now hon. Minister should move the proposal that the Bill be passed.

[English]

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please go back to your respective seats. You were given full opportunity.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Adhir ji, the bill was taken for consideration today only in view of your absence yesterday. You were given full opportunity. Please, don't do this.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again at Fourteen of the clock Monday, 25th July 2022.

14.39 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock on Monday,
July 25, 2022/Sravana 3, 1944 (Saka)*

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