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The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The Journal serves as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities. It provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Article 87 (1) of the Constitution of India provides for President's Address to members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first Session of each year. President's Address is a statement of policy of the Government. The Address contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to national and international issues. As such, the scope of its discussions is wide as it includes all sorts of national and international issues. During the discussions, several amendments are moved, highlighting different issues and making suggestions for government action. The Discussion on the "Motion of Thanks" is one of the liveliest events in the House. This year, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament in the Central Hall of Parliament House, at the commencement of the first Session of the year, on 23 February 2015. We reproduce the text of the Address in this issue of the *Journal*.

The 77th Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in Lucknow on 31 January 2015 and 1 February 2015. Inaugurating the Conference on 31 January 2015, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan said that this 94-year old organization provides a platform for exchange of ideas and thoughts. Talking about the phenomenon of having governments led by different parties at the Centre and in the States, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Mahajan observed that politics should not come in the way of development. She further added that there may be different governments and different parties but none of the parties are against development. There may be differences in the ways and means to achieve this goal but there should not be any difference in our thoughts on this issue. The Speaker further stated that the members expect the Presiding Officers to guide them and help them as they are more experienced and it is their responsibility to nurture them to become more effective legislators. Further, Smt. Mahajan stated that when the members get elected to any representative institution, they should come with a view to serve the people, irrespective of the fact that some of them may not have voted for them.

The 5th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference was hosted by the Goa CPA Branch from 11 to 14 February 2015. While inaugurating the Conference on 12 February 2015, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan highlighted the importance of debates and discussions in the House and observed that only through constructive participation of members that the solutions to various problems could be found. She also added that only when the House functions smoothly, the members will be able to effectively play their roles in making laws and ensuring the accountability of the Executive.

A Conference of the Chairpersons of Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State / UT Legislatures was held in New Delhi on 14 and 15 March 2015 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings. Inaugurating the Conference on 14 March 2015, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan said that these state-owned undertakings have built our nation brick-by-brick, and have, thus, remained the driving engines of growth and development.

We have included brief accounts of the above stated Conferences under the feature 'Parliamentary Events and Activities'. We also carry in this issue the other regular features, viz. Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Reviews, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always invite and welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome informative and original articles pertaining to parliamentary procedures and institutions from Members of Parliament, State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field.

Anoop Mishra
—*Editor*

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under article 86(1) of the Constitution, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 23 February 2015.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

In this New Year full of aspirations and hope, I welcome you to the Joint Sitting of the Two Houses of the Parliament with the belief that your deliberations will be productive and useful.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had said, “the greatest strength of India is her rich spiritual and civilizational heritage”. The core values of our civilization emphasize universal good-welfare of all human beings. The fundamental tenet of my Government is *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*—All Together, Development of All. Within a span of nine months, my Government has articulated and embarked on a comprehensive strategy for unleashing the full potential of our country and its precious resource of 125 crore people. Measures have been initiated to stir action in a range of fields from sanitation to smart cities, poverty elimination to creation of wealth, skill development to conquering space, tapping demographic dividend to diplomatic initiatives, enhancing ease of doing business to putting in place a stable policy framework, empowering

individuals to ensuring quality infrastructure, ending financial untouchability to making the country a manufacturing hub, containing inflation to stimulating economy, igniting minds to ensuring inclusive growth, promoting cooperative federalism to encouraging a competitive spirit among the States. A strong beginning has been made. A promising future awaits us.

Honourable Members,

Poverty is a bane to dignified human existence. Development is actualized only when the last person gets a sense of fulfillment, especially, regarding his minimum needs. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya had laid emphasis on holistic development of each and every human being—*Ekatm Manavata Darshan* (Integral Humanism). My Government is pledged to work for the welfare of the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable sections of the society.

Financial inclusion is critical to poverty elimination. My Government launched an ambitious *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* to provide universal access to banking facilities – a bank account, having in-built accidental insurance with a Rupay debit card. I am happy to state that the coverage under the scheme is close to 100 per cent with a record 13.2 crore new bank accounts being opened, 11.5 crore Rupay debit cards being issued and over 11,000 crore being deposited. This unprecedented target was achieved in less than six months, making it the largest such programme globally.

To ensure that the benefits of developmental programmes reach the last intended beneficiary without leakages and impediments, Direct Benefit Transfer Programme is being implemented with renewed vigour. The biggest Direct Cash Transfer programme in the world, *P A H A L*, for transfer of LPG subsidy, has been extended across the country from 1 January 2015, so far covering 75 per cent of the user-households. In all, 35 schemes have been brought under Direct Benefit Transfer architecture. Special emphasis is attached to make *Aadhar* enrolment coverage universal.

Honourable Members,

Swachhata is an article of faith for my Government. *Swachhata* will have an overarching impact on the overall quality of life and well-being of a person, particularly the poor. *Swachh Bharat Mission* has been launched to achieve a Clean and Open Defecation Free India by October, 2019. Government has rolled out '*Swachh Vidyalaya*' programme and is committed to construct a toilet in every school before 15 August 2015. *Swachhata* has a cascading impact on national development and

the potential to generate wealth from waste. Sanitation and the idea of *Swachhata* require changing the mindset of the people. My Government exhorts each and every individual to be an active participant in this mission. I appeal to all honourable members of Parliament to spend at least fifty per cent of their MPLADS funds on *Swachh Bharat Mission*.

India lives in her villages. My Government attaches the highest priority to sustainable socio-economic growth of rural areas. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (MGNREGS) can be a powerful weapon to combat rural poverty. While implementing MGNREGS with renewed vigour, emphasis is being placed on improving quality and durability of assets under the programme, besides mandating that at least sixty per cent of expenditure be directed for creation of agricultural infrastructure. In keeping with my Government's focus on "Skill India", "*Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana*" and "*Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana*" have been announced. *Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana* launched in October 2014, focuses on integrated and holistic development of our villages with active involvement of members of Parliament.

Housing is a fundamental requirement for dignified living. My Government is steadfast in fulfilling the aspirations of all households, particularly the poorest of the poor, to have a dwelling unit under the Mission "Housing for All" by 2022, marking 75 years of our independence. A set of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives have been devised to leverage the value of land holding with the Government and to afford flexibility to the State Governments in designing their own customized housing programmes. To aid investment in the housing sector, my Government has liberalized Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy; increased tax incentives for housing loans and enhanced the corpus of National Housing Bank.

My Government attaches paramount importance to safeguard the interest of farmers and families affected by land acquisition. While taking utmost care to protect the interest of farmers, including their compensation entitlements, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act has been suitably refined to minimize certain procedural difficulties in acquisition of land inevitably required for critical public projects of infrastructure and for creation of basic amenities like rural housing, schools and hospitals, particularly in remote areas.

Honourable Members,

Kisan is the sentinel of our food security. *Annadaata Sukhibhava*

has been one of our fundamental civilizational values. My Government attaches enormous importance to the wellbeing of farmers. This will need value-added agriculture, market reform, use of technology and improving productivity in areas with untapped potential. The year 2015 has been designated as International Year of Soils. In view of the critical role of soil for productivity and farm output, a Soil Health Card Scheme has been launched. Price stabilization fund with a corpus of ₹500 crore has been set up for perishable commodities. To address the irrigation requirements of every village in an effective and sustainable manner, *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana*, is being launched. Extension programmes have been devised targeting resource-poor, small and marginal farmers, particularly focusing on organic farming and green house technology. *Rashtriya Gokul Mission* has been launched with the objective of conserving and developing indigenous cattle breeds.

Food Processing has immense potential for generating employment in rural areas, particularly for the landless poor, besides guaranteeing remunerative price for the farm-produce. Creating infrastructure in rural areas to minimize supply chain losses is a priority. A special fund of ₹2000 crore to provide affordable credit to the units in 72 notified food parks has been made operational. Two Mega Food Parks, at Tumkur and Fazilka, each to provide direct/indirect employment to 30,000 people have been commissioned in the last 6 months.

Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said and I quote: "Poverty has multiple effects. Besides impacting our economy, it corrodes our democracy". Inclusive growth covering the poorest of poor from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of our society is my Government's topmost priority. Thrust has been given to streamlining scholarships schemes for students from SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities to ensure timely disbursement to the beneficiaries. Government has set up a new Venture Capital Fund for SC entrepreneurs. To upgrade skill and training in traditional arts/crafts of minorities, a new scheme "Upgrading the Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)" is being launched. Outcome based integrated approach has been adopted for tribal development under the *Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana*. Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme is being launched for construction of Hostels for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes.

Honourable Members,

Education is the priority of priorities for my Government. '*Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat*' has been launched to improve foundational learning outcomes. An initiative to map the entire country on a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform to identify habitations without schools,

has been taken. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teacher Training has been launched to empower and increase the capacity of teachers. The *Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan* has been announced to imbibe scientific temper among students. To ensure access to education in the remotest areas, *Ishan Vikas* and *Ishan Uday* schemes have been started with focus on students of North-Eastern regions. My Government has formulated National Sports Talent Search Scheme for encouraging sporting talent amongst children in the age group of 8 to 12 through National Sports Development Fund and Target Olympic Podium.

India has the largest population of youth in the world. Majority of her population is already in the working age group. To tap this demographic dividend and to bridge the demand-supply gap in skilled workforce, my Government has created a new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with the theme "*Hunar hai to Kalyan hai*". A new "National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship" is on the anvil to align skilling initiatives with global standards. Focus will be on the youth from deprived households in rural areas. Public-Private Partnership is being fostered to create skill development models and channelize CSR funds into skilling activities.

Honourable Members,

My Government is committed to providing affordable and accessible health care to all its citizens, particularly the vulnerable sections, in an efficient and equitable manner. To reduce preventable deaths, India New Born Action Plan has been initiated and four new vaccines have been approved. '*Mission Indradhanush*' has been launched to achieve universal immunization with special focus on 184 high priority districts across the country. To create an inclusive, enabling and empowering environment for Persons with Disabilities, my Government has launched new scholarship schemes for students with disabilities. A national help line with toll free number has been launched for those who need help against drug de-addiction and for rehabilitation.

My Government has recently elevated the erstwhile Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) to a full-fledged Ministry with an objective to increase the global and local footprint of the traditional systems of healthcare, duly recognizing that our villages have been the repositories of our rich Ayurvedic heritage. National AYUSH Mission has been launched to promote cost effective AYUSH services, strengthen the education system and facilitate availability of quality AYUSH drugs.

Honourable Members,

Women have had a place of reverence in our society since time immemorial. My Government has taken several measures to empower and protect the dignity of women. To provide complete support to women affected by violence, One Stop Crisis Centres, one in every State, are being set up for provision of integrated services including medical aid, police assistance, temporary shelter, and legal and psycho-social counseling. Another initiative has been the launch of *Himmat*, a mobile based application, to ensure women's safety in Delhi.

The unabated decline in Child Sex Ratio since 1961 is a matter of grave concern. This trend has to be reversed. To ensure survival, protection and education of the girl child, my Government has launched *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyaan*, which seeks to change mindsets to celebrate the girl child. A new small saving scheme '*Sukanya Samridhi Account*' has been notified for enabling the education of the girl child. A Bill to amend Juvenile Justice Act has been introduced in Parliament to reform the law relating to juvenile offences.

Honourable Members,

Shramik is the backbone of our economy. My Government believes in *Shrameve Jayate* and has taken several labour welfare measures. *Apprentice Protsahan Yojana* has been launched to promote apprentices in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in manufacturing sector. EPF subscriptions have been made portable benefiting casual workers in the unorganized sector. Under the Employees Provident Fund Act, the statutory wage ceiling and the minimum pension have been enhanced to 15,000/- and 1,000/- respectively. While my Government is fully committed to expand the job market and to promote the welfare of workers, it is also committed to bringing in transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour-related regulations. To this end, the *Shram Suvidha Portal* has been launched to ensure ease of doing business by allowing industry to register online and file a single online return instead of 16 separate returns. A transparent online inspection scheme has been launched. Recent amendments to the Apprentices Act, 1961 have made the legal framework friendly to both industry and employable youth.

Honourable Members,

Legal reform is one of the priorities of my Government. My Government believes that Governance and reforms are a combined effort of Team India, consisting of the Parliament, the Union Government, the State Legislatures, the State Governments and the People of India.

An example of this collaborative effort is the reform in the process of appointment of Judges to the High Courts and Supreme Court and the legislation to set up National Judicial Appointments Commission. The Government is also committed to repeal the obsolete and redundant laws. A Committee constituted for this purpose has identified 1741 Central Acts for repeal under various categories.

Maximum Governance Minimum Government is the guiding principle of my Government. With an aim to take Governance to the doorstep of the poorest of the poor in remotest areas, focus is on simplification of official procedures and reducing the decision-making levels in Government by leveraging technology. The system of Group of Ministers has been dispensed with and emphasis is on swift decision-making. While introducing stricter and sterner measures to deal with corruption; effort is being made to ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect *bona fide* decisions taken in public interest and to inspire confidence in the civil service.

My Government is firmly committed to engage people in the process of Governance and policy-making. My Govt. Online Platform, a path breaking initiative, has been launched. This platform has ensured public participation in decision-making and ideation of various national flagship programmes like *Swachh Bharat Mission*, *Namami Gange*, *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* and National Institution for Transforming India (*NITI*) *Aayog*.

My Government has envisioned an ambitious umbrella programme, Digital India, to prepare India for technology based transformation and citizen centric transparent governance with service orientation. *Aadhar* based attendance system and *Jeevan Praman*, *Aadhar* based Digital Life Certificate Portal, have shown that innovative use of technology can make enormous difference. Measures are being taken to accomplish digital inclusion in rural areas, small towns, north-east and other remote areas, opening up immense job opportunities in these areas. Promoting manufacturing of electronic goods has been an area of thrust.

My Government is pledged to decentralization of power and as an important step in this direction, the Planning Commission has been replaced with a new body- The National Institution for Transforming India-*NITI Aayog*. The underlying spirit of *NITI Aayog* is to foster the spirit of cooperative federalism so that the Union and the State Governments come on a platform to forge a common national agenda for development, with thrust on empowering the impoverished.

Honourable Members,

As a result of my Government's sustained efforts and series of policy initiatives, our economy is again on the high growth trajectory. According to the latest estimates, our GDP is growing at 7.4 per cent, which makes India the fastest growing large economy in the world. Inflation and Food inflation, in particular, are at a record low due to a number of decisive measures taken by the Government. Fixed capital formation, which faced a near stagnation in the last few years, has increased. Capital Markets are upbeat. Our external sector is now far more resilient, particularly with a moderate current account deficit and a broadly stable rupee. Our foreign exchange reserves have been substantially augmented.

While my Government has intensified efforts to bring greater efficiency and equity into the tax system, prudence in expenditure management is also high on the agenda of my Government. A Constitutional (Amendment) Bill has been introduced to bring in Goods and Services Tax that will simplify the indirect tax regime, broaden the tax base and result in better tax compliance.

Honourable Members,

My Government is committed to taking all possible measures to stop generation of black money, both domestically and internationally. These measures include putting in place robust legislative and administrative frameworks, systems and process with due focus on capacity building, integration of information through technology, and fast tracking prosecution.

Financial Sector institutional restructuring is a priority area. My Government will expedite implementation of the recommendations of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission. SEBI's new Foreign Portfolio Investment Regulations have established a unified, simple regulatory framework. The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was promulgated enhancing the foreign equity cap from 26 per cent to 49 per cent while safeguarding Indian ownership and control. This will enhance capital availability and ensure better access to insurance services, especially in rural areas and for economically weaker sections. Small Banks and Payments Banks are being permitted to expand the reach of the banking system.

Honourable Members,

My Government has taken major initiatives for improving 'Ease of Doing Business' through simplification and rationalization of existing rules and procedures. Leveraging IT and use of modern technologies is

a key strategy. Single window in a *Hub-Spoke* model is being made a reality. Applying for Industrial License and Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum can now be done online on 24x7 basis on the eBiz website. A number of entry and exit regulations have been eased out.

My Government has launched the “Make in India” programme which aims to create a wholesome eco-system to transform India into a manufacturing hub. FDI in Railways has been opened up selectively to bring in much needed capital, state-of-the-art technology and global best practices. FDI in Defence has been increased to 49 per cent subject to certain conditions. FDI norms in Construction and Development sector have been relaxed. Continuous evaluation of Inverted duties is being undertaken to make Indian industries competitive. Stress is being laid on research and innovation. While focusing our attention on manufacturing for creating more jobs, my Government will continue to work on our formidable strength in the service sector.

Honourable Members,

My Government is committed to realizing the true potential of entrepreneurs of India by nurturing the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. 21 MSME clusters are being supported by providing soft skills and common facilities through 965 interventions. *Khadi* and village industries and traditional industries clusters are initiated in border, hill and poverty-stricken areas of the country. Focus is on technology upgradation, better financial access and market linkages to MSME units.

Textiles sector is the second largest employer after agriculture, providing direct employment to over 4.5 crore people. The sector also contributes one seventh of industrial production and brings more than one fourth of country’s foreign exchange inflows. The growth and all round development of this sector has a direct bearing on the improvement of our economy, particularly the poor artisans. Recent initiatives like setting up of trade facilitation centres in different parts of India, bringing textile marketing on-line, incentives for technical textiles, promotion of *Pashmina*, special focus on increasing the coverage in North-Eastern part of the country would lead to advancement of this sector.

Honourable Members,

Cities are the engines of economic growth. My Government is committed to building modern amenities and infrastructure in our urban areas. The National Urban Development Mission is being finalized, particularly focusing on water and solid waste management infrastructure. After extensive stakeholder consultations, the Smart City programme is

close to finalization. These two programmes are interlinked and will prepare our nation for an increasingly urban future.

Honourable Members,

Robust infrastructure is critical for accelerating economic development and reviving economic growth. Indian Railways are the arteries of our economy. My Government is committed to reform and infuse new vitality into this sector through better services, improved passenger-safety, and increased movement of freight. Two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), namely, Eastern DFC and Western DFC are likely to be commissioned by 2019. Action for conducting feasibility studies for the Diamond Quadrilateral project of High Speed Trains connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata has been taken up. Metro Rail projects have been sanctioned for Ahmedabad and Nagpur.

Several policy initiatives to revive the Highway sector have been taken. "National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited" has been set up for creation of infrastructure in the North Eastern States and border regions of the country. New standards have been set to improve quality of roads, both on highways and in rural areas and electronic tolling has been introduced for hassle-free traffic on selected highways. e-Rickshaw and e-Cart have been introduced as a separate category under the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, enhancing convenience of passengers and generating thousands of jobs.

My Government has taken proactive steps to promote shipping industry. These include giving life-time licenses to Indian ships, allowing Indian ships to flag out of country's waters freely, reduction of excise duty on bunker fuel and reduction of customs duty on the steel scrap of ship breaking. Government has also formulated "*Sagar Mala*" Project to promote Port-led development of the coastal regions and communities. As part of "Make in India" initiative, ship designing capabilities, ship-building and ship-repair activities will be strengthened. An environment is being created to increase the Indian shipping tonnage and to reduce the transaction time on ports. An institutional arrangement for comprehensive development of National Waterways for transportation has been envisaged through the '*Jal Marg Vikas*' Project.

Honourable Members,

Power sector has made commendable progress achieving 76 per cent capacity addition by January, 2015 against the 2014-15 target of 17,830 MW. In order to provide 24x7 quality power in rural and urban areas, the *Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana* with an outlay of more than 43,000 crore and the Integrated Power Development Scheme



Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee arriving in procession at the Central Hall of Parliament House to address the Members of both the Houses of Parliament on 23 February 2015.

with an outlay of more than 32,600 crore, have been launched. Special attention is being paid to the un-electrified villages in remote areas. My Government has started major project for improving transmission and distribution system in the North Eastern States. We will focus on developing and strengthening the National Grid by developing high capacity power corridors. To deepen the reforms in the Electricity sector, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014 has been introduced. The ambitious National Smart Grid Mission and Energy Saving Schemes have been started.

My Government lays enormous emphasis on clean energy. The share of renewable energy in electricity generation is being significantly enhanced from 6 per cent to 15 per cent of the energy mix in the next 7 years. The scheme for setting up 25 mega Solar Parks has been approved. The implementation of the Green Energy Corridor Scheme has been accelerated. Setting up of solar generating capacities along the international borders will be a key area of attention. My Government has made successful efforts in attracting the Global investors in this sector. Similar attention is being paid to bio-mass and hydro-energy. Government will further expand India's nuclear power capacity with the highest global standards of safety and technological standards.

Honourable Members,

The petroleum sector has seen major reforms. Diesel prices have been deregulated and are now market driven. The price of petrol has also been decreased by more than 17 per litre. The Government has put to rest all speculation regarding the long pending issue of revising gas prices and put in place a prudent policy in national interest. The ethanol policy has been revised to promote use of ethanol in petrol and help sugarcane farmers.

My Government is committed to optimum utilization and transparency in allocation of natural resources. The process for auction of coal blocks has been started in a manner which will reduce the power costs in the country, provide adequate fuel to increase power generation, enhance production of steel, cement, aluminium and other essential materials. This will also provide huge resources from allotment of mines to the mineral and coal bearing states particularly in eastern areas for accelerated development of the region. The swift and timely action taken by my Government in this regard prevented the closure of mines which otherwise would have rendered thousands jobless. In coming years, my Government would make focussed efforts to expand exploration capacity and to increase domestic coal production to 1000 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA).

Honourable Members,

Water is the lifeline of human civilization. River Ganga has a very special place in the collective consciousness of our country. “*Namami Gange*”, an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission has been set-up with budgetary allocation of more than 2000 crore. The Government is fully committed to the implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Project with due consultation process.

My Government took several proactive steps for protecting wildlife and for promoting cleaner environment. Stringent emission norms for cement industry were prescribed. Real-time online monitoring of industrial units in 17 critically polluting sectors was started and National Air Quality Index launched. Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) would be strengthened and adequate funds released to the States/UTs for aggressive afforestation and wildlife protection. Government has taken significant steps to streamline clearance processes in environmental sector by bringing in transparency and by empowering the State Governments. Online application processes for Environment, Forest and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Clearances were introduced from July 2014.

Honourable Members,

To harness the enormous potential in the tourism sector, a new Tourism policy for growth and sustainability of tourism is on the anvil. “Tourist Visa on Arrival” enabled with Electronic Travel Authorization, has been expanded to 44 countries. Infrastructure and amenities are being upgraded in major tourist and pilgrimage destinations. River Ghats in several pilgrim destinations are being renovated. A special initiative for protecting and preserving the sanctity of our tourist destinations and monuments of national heritage has been launched. Dedicated tourist trains covering *Jyotirling Circuits*, *Sukhmangal Circuit* and *Dakshin Dham Circuit* have been started. A new scheme has been launched for development of tourist circuits called “*Swadesh Darshan*”, which includes Krishna Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Buddha Circuit, and North East Circuits. A Statue of Unity is being constructed to commemorate the memory of Sardar Patel.

Honourable Members,

My Government is committed to restore and rejuvenate the soul of cities that are home to rich cultural heritage of our country. A scheme ‘Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana’ (HRIDAY) covering 12 cities in the first phase has been launched with the predominant objective of preserving the tangible and intangible cultural assets of

these cities. A special scheme called “*PRASAD*”–Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive”–has been announced for rejuvenation of 12 pilgrim centres in convergence with “*HRIDAY*”.

Honourable Members,

Terrorism and Left Wing Extremism pose a grave challenge to the internal security of our nation. My Government is firmly committed to deal with these challenges in cohesive collaboration with the affected people and Governments of the affected States in a holistic manner.

Jammu & Kashmir occupies a place of enormous importance in the agenda of my Government. Government has endeavoured to create a conducive and enabling environment in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, especially for the various displaced segments of its population. This includes facilitating the rehabilitation of over 60,000 Kashmiri Pandits families. The Government has taken effective steps in this regard. These include, *inter alia*, providing Government jobs, economic opportunities and security. During the recent unprecedented flood situation in the State, my Government made special efforts in collaboration with the State Government to minimize the impact of disaster and augment rehabilitation measures. The nation is deeply indebted to our armed forces and paramilitary forces for the outstanding service rendered during the relief operations to flood affected people in Jammu & Kashmir.

A high state of Disaster preparedness is the key to contain loss of life and damage to the property due to any natural disaster. This has been amply demonstrated during the response to the very severe cyclone ‘HUDHUD’, by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha together with the Central Government.

My Government is committed to implement the idea of SMART Police (Smart but Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive, Tech-savvy and well Trained) to provide efficient, courteous and effective citizen services and meet the operational needs of the police personnel including women police personnel.

Government is accelerating the modernization of our Armed Forces, with a strong emphasis on “Make in India” in defence acquisition plans. Several initiatives have been taken to expand domestic defence industry, including liberalization of FDI for the defence sector; a new Defence Exports Strategy; a liberalized process for issuing clearances for defence exports; and a Technology Development Fund. To encourage domestic manufacturing of defence equipments and decrease import

dependency, the list of Defence items which require industrial licensing has been pruned.

Honourable Members,

Our Space journey continues to make impressive progress. On 24 September 2014, *Mangalyaan* was successfully placed in the Mars Orbit, making India the first country to do so in the first attempt. We successfully launched the first experimental flight of GSLV Mark-III on 19 December 2014, which will enable us to launch heavier satellites in the near future. My Government is committed to use space technology and its applications in governance, social and economic development and resource management. My Government has also decided to launch a satellite for the use of SAARC countries to foster greater partnership and development of South Asian Region.

My Government is committed to deeper penetration of electronic media in remote and distant areas. Auctions will be conducted for 135 vacant channels in 69 existing cities of FM Phase-II as part of first batch of FM Phase-III. It will also facilitate migration of FM Phase-II to FM Phase-III. This will take private FM radio to cities having population of more than one lakh and border towns of Jammu & Kashmir, North-eastern region and island territories in a phased manner.

Our developmental challenges will continue to shape the strategic priorities in science, technology and innovation. Steps are being taken to channelize more resources for research and development in India; build world class research centres; nurture young talent and, promote international collaboration, including in the world's largest optical 'Thirty Meter Telescope'.

Honourable Members,

Recognizing that our destiny is linked with our neighbourhood, my Government has reinvigorated our relations with our neighbours and is promoting greater cooperation and integration in South Asia. At the same time, we speak clearly about our interests and are fully prepared to defend our borders and secure our people.

With the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping, we have significantly expanded our relations with our largest neighbour, China, based on mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns and interests. We have restored confidence and momentum in our time-tested strategic partnership with Russia with President Vladimir Putin's visit. The historic visit of U.S. President Barack Obama as the Chief Guest of the Republic Day has elevated our relations with the United States to a new

level. In the coming months, we intend to further deepen our cooperation with Europe. With Japan, a deeper political, economic and security relationship is at the forefront of a more active and purposeful Act-East-Policy, which is anchored in our relations with Southeast Asia and now extends to Australia and the Pacific Islands. We are also committed to deeper engagement with West Asia, Central Asia, Africa and South Americas.

My Government will continue to work with others to reform multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, and seek India's rightful place in these institutions. We will also participate actively in regional and international groupings.

Honourable Members,

My Government's efforts have enhanced global recognition for India's rich cultural heritage and traditions. On 11 December 2014, the United Nations, with a record co-sponsorship of 177 out of 193 member countries, took the historic decision to declare 21 June as 'International Yoga Day', exactly within 75 days of Prime Minister's call at the United Nations General Assembly.

My Government has made an unprecedented effort to reach out to the Indian community abroad, which today not only feels more connected to India, but has responded enthusiastically to the call to participate in India's transformation, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, whose 100th anniversary of return to India was commemorated at this year's *Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas*. Our decisions on PIO and OCI card-holders have been widely welcomed by the Indian community abroad.

Honourable Members,

Our Parliament is the sanctum sanctorum of Democracy. The people of India, particularly the poorest of the poor in remotest areas, have reposed unflinching faith in this institution for fulfillment of their hopes and expectations. My Government will constantly endeavour for smooth conduct of legislative business and enactment of progressive laws in the Parliament which reflects the will and aspirations of the people. I urge all members of the Parliament to discharge their solemn responsibility in a spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. By channelizing the patriotic energies of every citizen, we all collectively must work towards building a strong and modern India. *Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat*.

Jai Hind.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Meeting of the Follow-up Subcommittee of the Standing Committee of All India Presiding Officers Conference: A meeting of the Follow-up Sub-committee of the Standing Committee of All India Presiding Officers Conference was held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 5 and 6 January 2015 to deliberate on the subject "Independent Secretariat for Legislatures". The meeting was chaired by Dr. A. Chakrapani, Chairman, APLC and Convener of the Follow-up Sub Committee. The meeting was attended by Shri Uday Narain Chowdhury, Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly; Dr. Sita Saran Sharma, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Shri K.N. Rai, Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner for the Presiding Officers and Members of the Follow-up Sub-committee on 5 January 2015.

Standing Committee Meeting of CSPOC in Jersey in January, 2015: The Standing Committee Meeting of Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held in Jersey from 15 to 18 January 2015. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha attended the Meeting.

The Standing Committee finalized the programme and agenda of the 23rd CSPOC to be held in Kota Kinablu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 14 January 2016. Following agenda items were finalized as agenda:

- 1) The challenges facing independence of Speaker.
- 2) The role of Speakers in the Security of Parliaments and their precincts.
- 3) Parliamentary privilege – protecting the effective functioning of democracies.
- 4) Orientation and Development for Parliamentarians (As suggested by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha).

Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India: The 77th Conference of Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in

India was held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 31 January and 1 February 2015. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of the Conference, inaugurated the 77th Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India at a solemn function held in the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Chamber. The Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Mata Prasad Pandey delivered the Welcome Address at the Inaugural Function. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also addressed the participants at the Inaugural Function.

The Conference deliberated on two subjects, viz., (i) '*Role of Parliaments in Development*' and (ii) '*Paperless Parliaments*'. Besides, the "Report of the Follow up Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee of All India Presiding Officers' Conference on Committee System" was presented by Dr. A Chakrapani, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council and Convenor of the Committee.

After the inauguration of the Conference, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, inaugurated the Exhibition entitled "Parliamentary Democracy in India—An Overview", set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Uttar Pradesh in the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha premises.

55th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India:

The Conference of Presiding Officers was preceded by the 55th Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India on 30 January 2015 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Pradeep Kumar Dubey, Principal Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha delivered the Welcome Address. The Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Anoop Mishra, delivered the Inaugural Address. The Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff also addressed the Conference. The Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of almost all the State / Union Territory Legislatures attended the Conference. The Conference deliberated on six subjects delving into diverse areas of parliamentary practices and procedures viz., (i) The Need for a broad based Questions Procedure; (ii) Question of Privilege; (iii) Whether ratification of a Constitution Amendment Bill under Article 368 by State Legislatures may include a proposal for amendments also?; (iv) Prioritization of Notices to be done by ballots / lots or should be left to the discretion of the Speaker; (v) Legislature and Information Technology; and (vi) Discussions of the Secretaries' Conference – Follow up mechanism.

International Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights in the Modern Day Commonwealth: "Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter",

London, 4-6 February 2015: In commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the 'Magna Carta' UK CPA Branch hosted an International Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights in the Modern Day Commonwealth from 4 to 6 February 2014 in the Parliament House, London.

Shri Prem Prakash Chaudhary and Dr. Satya Pal Singh, both MPs from Lok Sabha attended the Conference.

Following topics were discussed in the Conference:

1. Rights, Democracy and the rule of Law.
2. UN Declaration of Human Rights: A Magna Carta for all Humanity.
3. The Commonwealth Charter debate: can it have any impact?
4. Human Rights in the Modern Day Commonwealth: Ethical Questions.
5. The nexus between culture and rights
6. Freedom of Speech
7. Final Plenary: The Commonwealth – A global force for good?
8. Debate: Can you legislate for a moral issue?

5th CPA India Region Conference held in Goa from 11 to 14 February 2015: The 5th CPA India Region Conference was hosted by the Goa CPA Branch from 11 to 14 February 2015. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the Conference on 12 February 2015. Shri Laxmikant Parsekar, Chief Minister of Goa also addressed the distinguished gathering at the inaugural session. Shri Rajendra Arlekar, Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly welcomed the delegates to the Conference in Goa. The Conference was attended by 36 delegates from 23 State CPA Branches of India. The theme of the Conference was "*Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy*". Prof. P.J. Kurien, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha also attended the inaugural session.

There were two plenary sessions which discussed following topics:

- (i) The Legislatures and their representational role: Need for uninterrupted functioning of Legislatures
- (ii) Optimum utilization of Parliamentary processes and devices for Good Governance and pursuing matters of public importance to their logical conclusion.

The plenary session-I was on the topic "*The Legislators and their Representational Role: Need for uninterrupted Functioning of Legislatures*".



Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan at the Inaugural Session of the Fifth India Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference in Panaji, Goa on 12 February 2015. Also seen in the photograph are (L to R) Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri Anoop Mishra; Rajya Sahba Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien; and Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Laxmikant Parsekar

The lead speakers on the topic were Prof. P.J. Kurien, Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha and Dr. Subhash Kashyap, eminent Constitutional expert and former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha. Fourteen delegates participated in the session.

The Second plenary session was held on the topic "Optimum utilization of Parliamentary processes and devices for Good Governance and pursuing matters of public importance to their logical conclusion". Shri Manohar Parikar, Hon'ble Minister of Defence, Government of India initiated the discussion. Dr. M. Thambi Durai, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha was the second lead speaker on the topic. Fourteen delegates participated in the discussion.

CPA India Region Executive Committee meeting and General Assembly were also held during the Conference. Post Conference tour to historical and tourist places was also arranged by the Goa CPA Branch.

Conference of Chairpersons of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures: A Conference of Chairpersons of Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State / UT Legislatures was held at New Delhi on 14 and 15 March 2015 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings. The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan. The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha released a Souvenir entitled "Golden Jubilee Souvenir" (1964-2014)". Shri Shanta Kumar, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings and Chairperson of the Conference presided over the Conference. The Chairpersons of Committee on Public Undertakings from around 13 State/UT Legislatures and 7-Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings participated in the Conference.

The following subjects were discussed at the Conference: (i) Committee on Public Undertakings—Historical perspective and mandate *vis-à-vis* achievements; (ii) Issues relating to furnishing of comprehensive, focused and timely replies / action taken notes / materials, etc. by the concerned Ministries / Departments / PSUs; (iii) Impact of Recommendations of Committee on Public Undertakings; and (iv) Parliamentary oversight in the context of autonomy and efficiency of Public Undertakings – Role of Committee on Public Undertakings.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the

leaders. Booklets containing the profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are distributed on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 January to 31 March 2015:

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2015 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha; and senior officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat paid floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2015 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Union Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Information & Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley; Union Minister of Urban Development Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh; former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; and the Secretaries-General of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha paid floral tributes to Lala Lajpat Rai.

Shri. M.A. Ayyangar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri. M.A. Ayyangar, a function was held on 4 February 2015 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; Union Minister of Urban Development Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Dr. M. Thambi Durai; Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament; and the Secretaries-General of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha paid floral tributes to Shri. M.A. Ayyangar.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2015 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani;

Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; and senior officers of the Secretariats of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha paid floral tributes to Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 28 February 2015 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Prof. P.J. Kurien; Union Minister of Urban Development Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Shri Kalraj Mishra; former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha; and senior officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats paid floral tributes to Shri Morarji Desai.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2015 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya; Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; and the Secretaries-General of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha paid floral tributes to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Foreign Parliamentary Delegations Visiting India

Russian Federation: A 12-member Parliamentary Delegation from Russian Federation led by H.E. Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russian Federation visited India from 25 to 27 February, 2015. On 26 February 2015, the delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Session from the 'Special Box'. On the same day they called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India and Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha. A meeting of the '3rd Session of India-Russia Inter-Parliamentary Commission' was held which was co-chaired by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and Chairperson of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Sergey Naryshkin.

United Nations: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 13 January 2015.

Iran: H.E. Mr. Gholamreza Ansari, Ambassador of Iran called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 2 March 2015.

Poland: H.E. Mr. Tomasz Lukaszuk, Ambassador of Poland called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 3 March 2015.

Vietnam: H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan, Politburo Member and President, Vietnam Fatherland Front called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 20 March 2015.

PARLIAMENT MUSEUM

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2015, a total of 7,815 visitors visited the Museum. Apart from general visitors, 2,795 students from 45 schools/colleges from all over the country visited the Museum. A number of present and former Members of Parliament, Members of State legislatures and foreign dignitaries/delegations also visited the Museum. Among the foreign dignitaries, Delegations from Afghanistan, Czech Republic and Uganda visited the Museum. As many as 2,52,710 visitors have visited the Museum from 5 September 2006 (*i.e.* the date of opening of the Museum for general public) to 31 March 2015.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

Call-on Meeting with Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha: (i) 69 Tribal Representatives and Guests from various States of India, who attended the Republic Day celebration called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 29 January 2015.

Orientation Programmes for Members of State Legislatures: (i) An Orientation Programme for the newly-elected Members of Maharashtra Legislature was organized by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) at New Delhi, from 2 to 4 March 2015. The Programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan. Shri Haribhau Bagde, Hon'ble Speaker of Maharashtra Assembly, also addressed the Members at the Inaugural Session.

International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The 30th International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting for Foreign Parliamentary Officials was organized from 12 February to 13 March 2015. The Programme was inaugurated by the Chairman, Committee of Privileges, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia on 13 February 2015. 32 Parliamentary Officials from 25 countries attended the month-long Programme. The Programme was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs under the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) Plan and Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP).

Study Visits : During the period from 1 January to 31 March 2015, Study Visits were organized for: (i) 5-Member Delegation of the Sectoral Committee on Education and Sports of Parliament of Uganda, on 27 February 2015; (ii) 16-Member Delegation of MPs of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House) of Afghan Parliament, on 3 March 2015; (iii) 3-Member Delegation of the Budget Committee of the Parliament of Uganda, on 5 March 2015; (iv) 2-Member Delegation from Community of Democracies (COD), Warsaw, Poland, on 30 March 2015; and (v) 24 Delegates from the National Defence College of the Sultanate of Oman, on 21 January 2015.

Besides, 48 National Study Visits were organized in which there were 2158 participants.

Appreciation Courses: Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for the following participants: (i) 32 Probationers of the Indian Economic Service Officer Trainees, from 5 to 7 January 2015; (ii) 21 Probationers of the Indian Statistical Service, from 14 to 16 January 2015; (iii) 5 Probationers of Assistant Security Commissioners of the Railways Protection Force, from 2 to 4 February 2015; (iv) 183 IAS Officer Trainees of 2014 Batch and Officers of the Royal Bhutan Civil Service, from 16 to 20 February 2015; (v) 23 Officer Trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) 2014 Batch, from 16 to 18 February 2015; (vi) 41 Officers of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Defence Accounts Service and Indian P&T Finance and Accounts Service from 23 to 25 February 2015; (vii) 18 Probationers of the Indian Railways Accounts Service, 2012 Batch, from 25 to 27 February 2015; (viii) 12 Probationers of the Indian Postal Service from 2 to 4 March 2015; (ix) 180 Officer Trainees of Indian Revenue Service (IRS), 68th Batch from 9 to 13 March 2015; (x) 49 Probationers of the Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers(IRSEE), from 9 to 11 March 2015; (xi) 9 Probationers of Indian Information Service, from 25 to 27 March 2015; and (xii) 9 Probationers of Indian Defence Estates Service, from 25 to 27 March 2015.

Professional Development Programme for/by the Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat: (i) 2 Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the 6th Hindi Conference and Workshop organized by the Rajbhasha Academy, Puri, Odisha, from 6 to 8 January 2015; (ii) 24 Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Management Development Programme organised by the National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT), Nagpur, from 12 to 16 January 2015;(iii) 26 Officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended a half-a-day

customized Training Programme on Income Tax, organized by Office of Commissioner of Income Tax (TDS-I), New Delhi, on 22 January 2015; (iv) 2 Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Workshop on “Team Building and leadership” organised by the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management, New Delhi, from 28 to 30 January 2015; and (v) 2 Officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended Training Programme for appearing in the Competitive Departmental Examination for the post of JLA in Lok Sabha Secretariat, from 13 to 16 February 2015.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on Table of House: On 25 February 2015, during discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to the members of both the Houses, the Chair permitted 10 members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 26 February 2015, during discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted 31 members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 27 February 2015, during discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted 14 members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 11 March 2015, during General Discussion on the Budget (Railways)–2015-16, the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways)–2015-16 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways)–2014-15, the Chair permitted 26 members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 12 March 2015, during General Discussion on the Budget (Railways)–2015-16, the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways)–2015-16 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways)–2014-15, the Chair permitted 109 members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The Fourth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Thirty Fourth Session of the Rajya Sabha (the Budget Session of Parliament) commenced on 23 February 2015 with the Address by the President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for recess on 20 March 2015 till 20 April 2015, to enable the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. The Rajya Sabha was prorogued on 28 March 2015.

Resignation of Union Minister: On 5 March 2015, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Raosaheb Dadarao Danve resigned from the Council of Ministers.

Lok Sabha Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Smt. Mamata Thakur of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) was declared elected from Bongaon Lok Sabha Constituency (West Bengal), bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

Rajya Sabha Elections: Elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir were held on 7 February 2015. The winners were: Shri Nazir Ahmed Laway and Mir Mohammad Fayaz of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (J&KPDP); Shri Shamsher Singh

Manhas of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); and Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Indian National Congress (INC). While the term of Shri Manhas and Shri Mir Mohammad Fayaz commenced on 11 February 2015, the term of Shri Azad and Shri Laway commenced on 16 February 2015. They all took oath/affirmation on 23 February 2015.

Elections to three Rajya Sabha seats were held on 13 March 2015. The winners were: Shri Amar Shankar Sable of the BJP from Maharashtra; Shri Raj Babbar of the INC from Uttarakhand; and Ms. Dola Sen of the AITC from West Bengal. The term of all the above members commenced on 14 March 2015 and they all took oath/affirmation on 17 March 2015.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members: Shri Mohammad Shafi of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (J&K NC) member from Jammu and Kashmir and Shri Srinjoy Bose of the AITC resigned from the Rajya Sabha on 12 January and 5 February 2015, respectively.

Death of Rajya Sabha Member: On 18 February 2015, Smt. Manorama D. Sharma, a INC member from Uttarakhand passed away.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Shri Mannuru Suguna of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was declared elected from Tirupati Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Shri Nyamar Karbak of the INC was declared elected from Liromoba Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

ASSAM

Resignation of Ministers: On 19 January 2015, all the 14 Ministers in Shri Tarun Gogoi-led Congress Government tendered their resignations to the Chief Minister.

New Cabinet: On 23 January 2015, the Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi re-constituted his Council of Ministers with 11 Cabinet Ministers and 3 Ministers of State.

The names of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios was as follows*: Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister and also holding portfolios not allotted to any Minister; Smt. Ajanta Neog, *PW (Roads and Building, NH), Planning and Development, Judicial, Legislative, Law; Sarvashri Ajit Singh, Transport, Excise, Sports and Youth Welfare; Atuwa Munda, Environment and Forest, Tea Tribes Welfare; Basanta Das, Fisheries, Water Resources, Scheduled Castes Welfare; Chandan Kumar Sarkar, Irrigation, Soil Conservation; Dr. Bhumidhar Barman, Revenue and DM, Administrative Reforms and Training, Implementation of Assam Accord; Dr. Nazrul Islam, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Health and Family Welfare; Sarvashri Khor Sing Engti, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Cooperation, Hill Areas; Rockybul Hussain, Panchayat and Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture and Food Processing, Parliamentary Affairs; Sarat Barkotoky, Education, Pension and Public Grievance; and Sukur Ali Ahmed, Public Health Engineering, Welfare of Minorities Development.*

The Ministers of State with Independent Charge were: Ms. Bismita Gogoi, *Cultural Affairs, Hand loom, Textiles and Sericulture, Backward Classes Welfare; Shri Girindra Mallik, Mines and Minerals, Jail, Border Areas; and Smt. Sumitra Doley Patir, Tribal Welfare, Housing, Tourism.*

BIHAR

High Court Restores Disqualified MLAs Membership: On 7 January 2015, the Patna High Court sets aside the State Legislative Assembly Speaker, Shri Uday Narain Choudhary's earlier order, disqualifying four Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] members on the grounds of "anti-party activities" and reinstated their membership. The members were: Sarvashri Gyanendra Singh Gyanu (Barh), Neeraj Kumar Babloo (Chhatapur), Rahul Sharma (Ghoshi) and Ravindra Rai (Mahua).

Political Developments: On 9 February 2015, the JD(U) expelled the Chief Minister and senior leader Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi from the Party. Shri Nitish Kumar was elected as the Leader of State Legislature Party.

On 19 February 2015, the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly, Shri Uday Narain Choudhary recognized the Shri Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) as the main Opposition party while notifying party leader Shri Vijay Chaudhury as Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly replacing BJP leader Shri Nand Kishore Yadav.

* As on 9 March 2015

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 22 February 2015, the Chief Minister, Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi resigned.

Shri Nitish Kumar was sworn in as the new Chief Minister. Along with him, 22 Ministers also took oath of office.

The names of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios was as follows*: Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, *Home, General Administration*, all other departments/subjects not assigned to any of the Ministers; Sarvashri Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, *Water Resource, Agriculture, Information, Public Relations*; Bijendra Prasad Yadav, *Finance, Commercial Taxes, Energy*; Ramai Ram, *Transport, SC and ST Welfare*; Damodar Rawat, *Building Construction, PHED*; Narendra Narayan Yadav, *Revenue, Land Reform, Law*; Prashant Kumar Sahi, *Forest, Environment, Planning, Education*; Shyam Rajak, *Food, Civil Supply, Industries*; Awadesh Prasad Kushwaha, *Excise, Registration, Urban Development*; Smt. Leshi Singh, *Social Welfare, Disaster Management*; Sarvashri Dulal Chandra Goswami, *Labour Resources*; R.R. Singh (Lalan Singh), *Road Construction*; Shrawan Kumar, *Rural Works, Parliamentary Affairs*; Ram Lakhan Ram Raman, *Mines, Geology, Art, Culture*; Ramdhani Singh, *Health*; Jai Kumar Singh, *Co-operative, IT*; Manoj Kumar Singh, *Minor Irrigation*; Javed Ekbal Ansari, *Tourism*; Smt. Beema Bharti, *BC and OBC Welfare*; Smt. Ranju Geeta, *Cane Industries*; Sarvashri Vaidhnath Sahni, *Animal, Fisheries Resources*; Naushad Aalam, *Minority Welfare*; and Vinod Prasad Yadav, *Panchayati Raj*.

DELHI

Assembly Election Results: The elections to 70-seat Delhi Legislative Assembly were held on 7 February 2015. The results were announced on 10 February 2015. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 67 seats while the BJP secured 3 seats.

New Speaker and Deputy Speaker: On 23 February 2015, Shri Ram Niwas Goel and Ms. Bandana Kumari were elected as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

New Government: On 14 February 2015, Shri Arvind Kejriwal was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Along with him, six other Ministers also took oath of office.

The names of Council of Ministers with their portfolios was as follows**: Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister; Shri Manish Sisodia,

* As on 29 April 2015

** As on 9 March 2015

Deputy Chief Minister, *Education, Finance, Planning, Urban Development, Land and Building, Revenue, Vigilance, Services, Administrative Reforms, Information Technology*, and all other Departments not specifically allotted to any Minister; *Sarvashri Gopal Rai, Employment, Development, Labour, Transport, General Administration Department, Irrigation and Flood Control*; *Satyendar Jain, Health, Industries, Gurudwara, Public Work Department, Power*; *Jitender Singh Tomar, Law and Justice, Tourism, Art and Culture, Home*; *Asim Ahmed Khan, Food and Supply, Environment and Forest, Election*; and *Sandeep Kumar, Women and Child, Social Welfare, Language, SC and ST*.

GOA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Shri Sidharth Sripad Kuncalienker of the BJP was declared elected from Panaji Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

New Governor: On 24 January 2015, the Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Kalyan Singh was given additional charge of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in place of Smt. Urmila Singh who completed her tenure.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

End of Governor's Rule and New Government: On 1 March 2015, the President's rule imposed in the State on 9 January 2015, ended with the new Government being sworn in.

Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Along with him, 24 Ministers were also sworn in.

The names of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios was as follows*: Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Chief Minister, all other departments/subjects not assigned to any of the Ministers; Dr. Nirmal Kumar Singh, Deputy Chief Minister, *Power Development and Housing and Urban Development*; *Sarvashri Abdul Rehman Bhat, Horticulture and Haj and Auqaf*; *Chander Parkash, Industries and Commerce*; *Javaid Mustafa Mir, Revenue*; *Lal Singh, Health and Medical Education and ARI and Trainings*; *Abdul Haq Khan, Rural Development*; *Bali Bhagat, Social Welfare, Forest, Ecology and Environment*; *Syed Basharat*

* As on 9 March 2015

Ahmed Bukhari, *Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Relief and Rehabilitation*; Sukhnandan Kumar, *Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control*; Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, *Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and Tribal Affairs*; Sajad Gani Lone, *Science and Technology and Animal Husbandry*; Haseeb A. Drabu, *Finance, Labour and Employment and Culture*; Ghulam Nabi Lone, *Agriculture Production*; Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, *Public Works, Floriculture and Gardens and Parks*; Imran Raza Ansari, *Information Technology, Technical Education and Youth Services and Sports*; and Naeem Akhter, *Education*.

The Ministers of State (MoS) were: Sarvashri Chering Dorjay, *Minister of State for Cooperative (Independent Charge)* and MoS *Ladakh Affairs*; Abdul Majid Padder, *Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Flood Control, Animal Husbandry and Forest*; Sunil Kumar Sharma, *Public Works (R and B) and Revenue*; Mohammad Ashraf Mir, *Industries and Commerce, Power Development and Housing and Urban Development*; Abdul Ghani Kohli, *Transport (Independent Charge), MoS Rural Development and Horticulture*; Ms. Priya Sethi, *Information, Education and Culture*; Shri Pawan Kumar Gupta, *Finance and Information Technology*; and Ms. Asiya Naqash, *Health and Social Welfare*.

JHARKHAND

New Speaker: On 7 January 2015, Shri Dinesh Oraon was elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

KERALA

Death of Assembly Speaker: On 6 March 2015, the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly Shri G. Karthikeyan passed away.

MAHARASHTRA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Shri Tushar Govindrao Rathod of the BJP was declared elected from Mukhed Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

PUNJAB

New Governor: On 21 January 2015, the Governor of Haryana, Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki was given additional charge of the Governor of Punjab and also as Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh in place of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, who completed his tenure. He was sworn in on 23 January 2015.

TAMIL NADU

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Smt. S. Valarmathi of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was declared elected from Srirangam Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

UTTARAKHAND

Death of Minister: On 7 February 2015, the Transport and Social Welfare Minister, Shri Surendra Rakesh passed away.

UTTAR PRADESH

Disqualification of MLAs: On 24 January 2015, Shri Kaptan Singh Rajput Samajwadi Party (SP) member of the State Legislative Assembly was disqualified from the membership of the House. Shri Kaptan Singh, along with his brother Shri Laxman Singh, was convicted by a Jalaun court and awarded life sentence earlier on 5 January 2015 in a murder case. The Supreme Court had ruled last year that elected representatives, both of the Parliament and the State Assemblies, shall be disqualified soon after they were convicted.

On 29 January 2015, the Governor, Shri Ram Naik ordered disqualification of Shri Uma Shankar Singh of the BSP and Shri Bajrang Bahadur Singh of the BJP as members of the State Legislative Assembly. The members were found guilty of using their position for acquiring Government contracts. The BSP member was disqualified on the basis of the Election Commission's report from the date he was elected an MLA (6 March 2012) and the BJP member was disqualified from 15 October 2012, the date on which he acquired the Government contract.

Legislative Council Election Results: On 24 January 2015, biennial elections for 12 Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) seats were held. The SP won 8 seats while the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) secured 3 seats. The BJP won the other seat. The winners were: Sarvashri Ahmed Hasan, Ramesh Yadav, Sahib Singh Saini, Ashok Bajpai, Virendra Singh Gurjar, Ramjatan Rajbhar Ashu Malik and Smt. Sarojini Agarwal (all of SP); Sarvashri Naeemuddin Siddiqui, Dharamveer Ashok and Pradeep Jatav (all of BSP); and Shri Laxman Acharya (BJP).

WEST BENGAL

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2015, Shri Satyajit Biswas of the AITC was declared elected from Krishnaganj Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2015.

EVENTS ABROAD

CROATIA

New President: Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic was elected as the President in the two rounds of presidential elections held on 28 December 2014 and 11 January 2015.

GREECE

Legislative elections: Legislative elections to the 300-seat Hellenic Parliament were held on 25 January 2015. The party position following the elections were as follows: Coalition of the Radical Left: 149; New Democracy: 76; Golden Dawn: 17; The River: 17; Communist Party of Greece: 15; Independent Greeks: 13; and Panhellenic Socialist Movement-Democratic Alignment: 13.

ISRAEL

Legislative elections: Legislative elections to the 120-seat *Knesset* were held on 17 March 2015. The party position following the elections were as follows: Likud: 30; Zionist Union: 24; Joint List: 13; Yesh Atid: 11; Kulanu: 10; The Jewish Home: 8; Shas: 7; Yisrael Beiteinu: 6; United Torah Judaism: 6; and Meretz: 5.

ITALY

President Sworn in: On 1 February 2015, Mr. Sergio Mattarella was elected as the new President. He was sworn in on 3 February 2015.

SAUDI ARABIA

Death of Monarch: On 23 January 2015, the King, Abdullah bin Abdulaziz died. Mr. Salman, was confirmed as the new King.

SRI LANKA

New President: Mr. Maithripala Sirisena was elected as the President of Sri Lanka, elections to which were held on 8 January 2015.

TUNISIA

New Prime Minister: On 6 February 2015, Mr. Habib Essid was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

YEMEN

Resignation of President and Prime Minister: On 22 January 2015, the President Mr. Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi resigned. Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister, Mr. Khaled Bahah had also resigned.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015: The Citizenship Act, 1955 (the Citizenship Act) provides for the acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship, after the commencement of the Constitution by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and citizenship by incorporation of territory and for renunciation, termination and deprivation of citizenship under certain circumstances.

The Citizenship Act was amended, from time to time, *inter alia*, making enabling provisions for registration of Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, conferment of certain rights on such citizens, renunciation of overseas citizenship and cancellation of registration as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

The proposed amendments to the Citizenship Act were required due to certain lacunae that were noticed during its implementation and review of provisions in the Citizenship Act. The proposed amendments, *inter alia*, provided for—

- (a) amendment of section 5 of the Citizenship Act, so as to,—
 - (i) substitute the words “has been residing in India for one year” with the words “is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months” in clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1);
 - (ii) substitute the words “overseas citizen of India” with the words “Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder”; and
 - (iii) insert new sub-section (1A) to enable the Central Government to relax the period of twelve months specified in clauses (f) and (g) and clause (i) of *Explanation* 1 of sub-section (1), up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks;
- (b) substitution of sections 7A, 7B, 7C and 7D of the Citizenship Act to provide for—
 - (i) registration of Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder and also that the Persons of Indian Origin Cardholders shall be deemed to be Overseas Citizen of India Cardholders;
 - (ii) conferment of rights on Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder;
 - (iii) renunciation of Overseas Citizen of India Card; and
 - (iv) cancellation of registration as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder;
- (c) insertion of a proviso to clause (c) of the Third Schedule to the Citizenship Act to empower the Central Government to relax the period of twelve months as resident of India or in the service of a Government in India

specified as one of the qualifications for grant of certificate of naturalisation by a period up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 2 and 4 March 2015, respectively. The President assented to it on 10 March 2015.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 2015: In pursuance of the provisions of clause (1) of article 341 of the Constitution, Presidential Orders were issued specifying Scheduled Castes in respect of various States and Union territories. These Orders have been amended from time to time by Acts of Parliament enacted under clause (2) of article 341 of the Constitution.

The State Governments of Haryana, Karnataka and Odisha and the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli had proposed for certain modifications in the list of Scheduled Castes, by way of inclusion of certain communities therein. The Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes had conveyed their concurrence to the proposed modifications.

In order to give effect to the above modifications, it was necessary to amend the following two Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders, namely:—

- (i) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950; in respect of Haryana, Karnataka and Odisha; and
- (ii) The Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2015, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 24 February and 17 March 2015, respectively. The President assented to it on 20 March 2015.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

As Act further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 6th day of January, 2015.

2. Amendment of section 2. In the Citizenship Act, 1955 (hereinafter

referred to as the principal Act), in section 2, in sub-section (1), for clause (ee), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

‘(ee)“Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder” means a person registered as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder by the Central Government under section 7A;’.

3. Amendment of section 5. In the principal Act, in section 5,—

(i) in sub-section (1),—

(a) in clause (f), for the words “has been residing in India for one year”, the words “is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months” shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (g),—

(A) for the words “Overseas Citizen of India”, the words “Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder” shall be substituted;

(B) for the words “has been residing in India for one year”, the words “is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months” shall be substituted;

(ii) after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1A) The Central Government, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, may after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months, specified in clauses (f) and (g) and clause (i) of *Explanation 1* of sub-section (1), up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.”.

4. Substitution of new sections for sections 7A, 7B, 7C and section 7D. In the principal Act, for sections 7A, 7B, 7C and section 7D, the following sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“7A. *Registration of Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.*

(1) The Central Government may, subject to such conditions, restrictions and manner as may be prescribed, on an application made in this behalf, register as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder—

(a) any person of full age and capacity,—

(i) who is a citizen of another country, but was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after the commencement of the Constitution; or

(ii) who is a citizen of another country, but was eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of the commencement of the Constitution; or

- (iii) who is a citizen of another country, but belonged to a territory that became part of India after the 15th day of August, 1947; or
- (iv) who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or
- (b) a person, who is a minor child of a person mentioned in clause (a); or
- (c) a person, who is a minor child, and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India; or
- (d) spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder registered under section 7A and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application under this section:

Provided that for the eligibility for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, such spouse shall be subjected to prior security clearance by a competent authority in India:

Provided further that no person, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under this sub-section.

(2) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the date from which the existing Persons of Indian Origin Cardholders shall be deemed to be Overseas Citizens of India Cardholders.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, “Persons of Indian Origin Cardholders” means the persons registered as such under notification number 26011/4/98 F.I., dated the 19th August, 2002, issued by the Central Government in this regard.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Central Government may, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, after recording the circumstances in writing, register a person as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

7B. Conferment of rights on Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder;

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the

time being in force, an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be entitled to such rights, other than the rights specified under sub-section (2), as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

(2) An Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India—

- (a) under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment;
- (b) under article 58 of the Constitution for election as President;
- (c) under article 66 of the Constitution for election as Vice-President;
- (d) under article 124 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court;
- (e) under article 217 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the High Court;
- (f) under section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 in regard to registration as a voter;
- (g) under sections 3 and 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States, as the case may be;
- (h) under sections 5, 5A and section 6 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council, as the case may be, of a State;
- (i) for appointment to public services and posts in connection with affairs of the Union or of any State except for appointment in such services and posts as the Central Government may, by special order in that behalf, specify.

(3) Every notification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

7C. Renunciation of Overseas Citizen of India Card. (1) If any Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder of full age and capacity makes in prescribed manner a declaration renouncing the Card registering him as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, the declaration shall be registered by the Central Government, and upon such registration, that person shall cease to be an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

(2) Where a person ceases to be an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under sub-section (1), the spouse of foreign origin of that person, who has obtained Overseas Citizen of India

Card under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 7A, and every minor child of that person registered as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall thereupon cease to be an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

7D. Cancellation of registration as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder. The Central Government may, by order, cancel the registration granted under sub-section (1) of section 7A, if it is satisfied that—

- (a) the registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; or
- (b) the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has shown disaffection towards the Constitution, as by law established; or
- (c) the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has, during any war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in, or associated with, any business or commercial activity that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war; or
- (d) the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has, within five years after registration under sub-section (1) of section 7A, been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years; or
- (e) it is necessary so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interests of the general public; or
- (f) the marriage of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder, who has obtained such Card under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 7A,—
 - (i) has been dissolved by a competent court of law or otherwise; or
 - (ii) has not been dissolved but, during the subsistence of such marriage, he has solemnised marriage with any other person.”.

5. Amendment of section 18. In the principal Act, in section 18, in sub-section (2), after clause (ee), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(*eea*) the conditions and the manner subject to which a person may be registered as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under sub-section (1) of section 7A;

(*eeb*) the manner of making declaration for renunciation of Overseas Citizen of India Card under sub-section (1) of section 7C;”.

6. Amendment of Third Schedule. In the principal Act, in the Third Schedule, in clause (c), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that if the Central Government is satisfied that special circumstances exist, it may, after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.”.

7. Repeal and savings. (1) The Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2014

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in the States of Haryana, Karnataka and Odisha and the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title. This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 2015.

2. Amendment of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. In the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—

- (a) in PART V.— *Haryana*, for entry 19, substitute,—
“19. Kabirpanthi, Julaha, Kabirpanthi Julaha”;
- (b) in PART VII.— *Karnataka*, for entry 23, substitute,—
“23. Bhovi, Od, Odde, Vaddar, Waddar, Voddar, Woddar, Bovi (Non-Besta), Kalluvaddar, Mannuvaddar”;
- (c) in PART XIII.— *Odisha*,—
 - (i) for entries 26 and 27, substitute,—
“26. Dhoba, Dhobi, Rajak, Rajaka
27. Dom, Dombo, Duria Dom, Adhuria Dom, Adhuria Domb”;

(ii) for entries 44, 45 and 46, substitute,—

“44. Katia, Khatia

“45. Kela, Sapua Kela, Nalua Kela, Sabakhia Kela, Matia Kela, Gaudia Kela

“46. Khadala, Khadal, Khodal”;

(iii) for entry 91, substitute,—

“91. Turi, Betra;

(d) in PART XXIV.—*Uttaranchal*, for “Uttaranchal”, substitute, “Uttarakhand”.

3. Amendment of Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962. In the Schedule to the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, for entry 2, substitute,—

“2. Chamar, Rohit.”.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

FOURTH SESSION

The Fourth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha was held in two parts, *i.e.*, First Part from 23 February to 20 March 2015 and Second part from 20 April to 8 May 2015. The Session was adjourned *sine die* on 13 May 2015 and subsequently prorogued by the President on 14 May 2015. Nineteen sittings were held in the First Part and sixteenth sittings were held in the Second part. In all, 35 sittings were held during this period.

A brief account of important discussions and other business transacted during the First part of the Session (from 23 February 2015 to 20 March 2015) is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Members of the Parliament: On 23 February 2015, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the Members of both the Houses in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by Shri Bhupendra Yadav (BJP). The discussion took place on 24, 25, 26 and 27 February 2015.

The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address: Moving the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on 24 February 2015, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur (BJP) said that their performance of the last 9 months is reflective of the fact that they have tried to live up to the expectation and aspiration of the people of India. He further said that beside opening 13.2 crore new bank accounts and linking approximately every family of the country to the bank accounts, the government has also fixed a target of providing housing to all the families till 2022. He said that the government has started the Clean India Mission and was also starting various programmes for the empowerment of women. With regard to the energy needs of the country, he said that the focus of the previous government was confined to meeting the targets in terms of the mega watts, the focus of this Government are in terms of giga watts

of energy, and the government has been making efforts for providing 24X7 electricity throughout the year by adopting a transparent procedure for coal allocation. He also said that the problem of inflation had been controlled by this government during the first nine months and inflation is all time low now and growth rate is constantly increasing. While elaborating on the various programmes launched by the government, he said 'Make in India' and 'Skill India' Campaigns are being promoted. He further said that schemes like *Ishan Vikas* and *Ishan Uday* have been launched with special focus on the students of North East states, and Target Olympic Podium Scheme has been launched with an objective to encourage players to bring more and more medals in sports for the country. He also said that rehabilitation of over 60 thousand Kashmiri Pandit families has already started and 'Smart Cities', a very ambitious programme of the government and would be launched very soon.

Seconding the motion, Shri Nishikant Dubey (BJP) said that while our small scale industries are facing a slowdown, our toy industry and electronic industry are completely wiped out in our country, and in such a scenario, 'Make-in-India' programme is the only choice for the development of the country. While stating that no Prime Minister of this country ever launched such cleanliness drive by taking broom in his hand, he said the big industrialists or media houses or celebrities all felt proud to associate themselves with the *Swachhata Abhiyan* and it shows the commitment of the government to such issues. He further said that the government has laid emphasis on providing education for the poor and plugging all the loopholes in setting up Central universities.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Mallikarjun (INC) said that this government was of the opinion that the previous government did not do

* Others who participated in the discussion were: *Sarvashri* Arvind Ganpat Sawant, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Abhijit Mukherjee, Devji M. Patel, Mulayam Singh Yadav, R. Dhruvanarayana, P.P. Chaudhary, H.D. Devegowda, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Thota Narasimham, Rahul Kaswan, A.P. Jithender Reddy, Mohammad Salim, Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav, Chirag Paswan, P. Kumar, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya, Prem Singh Chandumajra, P.K. Biju, Nalin Kumar Kateel, Ninong Ering, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, E. Ahamed, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Kalyan Banerjee, Purno Agitok Sangma, Ramen Deka, P. Nagarajan, D.K. Suresh, Sharad Tripathi, A.T. Nana Patil, Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, Muzaffar Hussain Baig, Dushyant Chautala, Virender Kashyap, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, C.R. Chaudhary, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, Kaushalendra Kumar, N.K. Premachandran, P. Karunakaran, S.P. Muddahanume Gowda, B.N. Chandrappa, Sushil Kumar Singh, Asaduddin Owaisi, Jose K. Mani, C.N. Jayadevan, Prem Das Rai, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Ajay Teni Misra, Ganesh Singh, Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, Jayadev Galla, B.S. Yeddyurappa, Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, P.C. Mohan, M. Chandrakasi, Harish Chandra Meena,

anything during their regime and whatever is in existence has been done during the last nine months. He further said that the previous governments and leaders have strived hard in this direction and implemented several schemes. He further said that while the government is talking about farmers and landless labourers, it is not releasing the funds to fill up the revenue deficit. He also said the government came out with six ordinances and asked if the government thought there was no need to consult the Opposition because it has majority. While stating that there is a conspiracy to slowly dilute the patriotism and scientific temper, he said emphasis should be laid on science and mathematics to inculcate scientific temper among children. Shri Kharge also said the Government has laid foundation stones of many skill development centres in various states but nowhere has work started. While urging the government not to mislead the people and the country, he said the government had stated to give 33 per cent reservation to women, but seem to have forgotten.

Joining the discussion, Prof. Saugata Roy (AITC) said that the government had been busy in dismantling old structures and repackaging old schemes. He further said that they have dismantled the Planning Commission and jettisoned the planning process without any consensus and consultation with the States, and reminded that the Government came into power with a clear majority, raising high hopes among the people, but eight months later these hopes are belied. Shri Roy said that good legislations like the Right to Information Act, Right to Education Act, the new Land Acquisition Act and the Food Security Act were enacted by the UPA Government, but now this Government has brought an Ordinance. He further said that the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' call means entry of FDI and they opposed these proposals in the interest of the country's security and quest for self-reliance. Shri Roy noted that the President's Speech denotes a shift in foreign policy and does not mention SAARC or BRICS.

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Dushyant Singh, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Vinod Kumar Boianapalli, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Ramsinh Patalyabhai Rathwa, Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Jagdambika Pal, Sunil Kumar Singh, Adv. Joice George, Dr. Dharam Vira Gandhi, Dr. Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli, Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Dr. Kulamani Samal, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Anirudhan Sampath, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. P. Venugopal, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Dr. (Smt.) Ratna (Nag) De, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Jayshreeben Patel, Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, Smt. Krishna Raj, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Anju Bala, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt and Km. Shobha Karandlaje.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD) said that people are attracted towards *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* because it has insurance cover, but glitches are there and seamless transfer of funds to these accounts relating to direct benefit transfer programme is not happening everywhere. However, he lauded the prime Minister for flagging *swachhata* as a priority, and said that his apprehension was the manner in which this Government is progressing, and instead of lessening the inequalities between regions, inequalities will multiply. He further requested to make States partner of development since competing governments of states cannot be partners.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said that the President's Address has outlined the problems the country was faced with and the efforts being made to resolve them and the direction in which efforts are being made. He further said that the schemes are new or old, but the problem was acute and chronic. The Prime Minister said that they are trying to explore solutions to these problems which they have inherited. He further said that filth causes diseases and cleanliness and sanitation are also linked to the dignity of a woman, and the campaign has been launched on that premise.

Shri Modi said that every country has its philosophy and ideologies change, but the country is run on the essence of its philosophy. He felt that the issue of corruption should not be discussed on the political lines and all should come together and decide not to allow corruption to happen in the country. He further said that the States should be policy driven. On black money, the Prime Minister said that the Supreme Court had asked to constitute an SIT on black money and the new government constituted SIT in the very first meeting of its Cabinet. He informed that they have utilised the G-20 platform and others and assured that they shall keep making all out efforts to bring this issue to its logical conclusion.

The Prime Minister also stated that they are working on several measures like 'per drop more crop' and have introduced 'Soil Health Card Scheme' for farmers. He further said that entrepreneurs should be prepared for soil testing labs in each and every village and make optimum utilization of existing infrastructure. While stating that his government's commitment to the welfare of the poor, he said he had visited Japan and met with noble laureate Mr. Yamanaka who has done a research on stem cell, and added that it came to his mind that this research could be to our benefit because he knew that people of tribal regions of our country are suffering from a disease called sickle cell.

On the Land Acquisition Act, the Prime Minister said that they had fully supported the previous government in the passage of this act when it was enacted. After the enactment of this Act, he said all the Chief Ministers of the States said in one voice to do something for the farmers of the country as well. He further said that the country cannot march forward if it continues to level allegations and finding faults with others.

Shri Modi also said that our country is full of diversities and unity in diversity is our identity and strength, and informed that they are not in favour of uniformity but rather in favour of unity. He further stated that his government has only one religion that is the Constitution of India, and his government has to follow only one scripture which is the Constitution of India. He also said that his government has only one *Bhakti* which is *Bharat Bhakti* and his government has only one worship which is centered on the welfare of 125 crore countrymen and his government has only one style of working which is *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*.

All the amendments moved were negated. The motion was adopted.

The Budget (Railways) – 2015-16: Presenting the Railway Budget for the year 2015-16 on 26 February 2015, the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu said that the railway map of India is a network of veins that pump life-giving blood into the heart of India's economy. He further stated that Indian Railways is a unique integrator of modern India, with a major role in its socio-economic development and is an organization that touches the hearts and existence of all Indians. While lamenting that Railway facilities have not improved very substantially over the past few decades, he said a fundamental reason for this is the chronic under-investment in Railways, which has led to congestion and over-utilization. While stating that this again feeds the vicious cycle of under-investment, the Minister said this cycle must be put to an end in order to augment the gains to the economy. Shri Prabhu also said that investment in the Railways will have a large multiplier effect on the rest of the economy and will create more jobs in the economy, and investment in Indian Railways is also necessary for environmental sustainability and well being of future generations.

The Minister said that Indian Railways carry a heavy burden of expectations and citizens who demand better railway services are often not aware of the constraints that the Railways operate under. Explaining the constraints, he said that there are 1219 sections on the high density network, and out of these, 492 are running at a capacity of more than 100 per cent and there are another 228 that are running at a capacity

of between 80 per cent and 100 per cent. He further stated that if a section is over-stretched, the entire line is over-stretched and there is no slack available for maintenance and train speeds slow down. He highlighted that on a single track, the Indian Railways have to run fast express trains like *Rajdhani* and *Shatabdi*, ordinary slow passenger trains as well as goods trains. The Minister said that in the next five years, their priority would be to significantly improve capacity on the existing high-density networks, and the emphasis would be on gauge conversion, doubling, tripling and electrification. The Minister expressed his confidence that the average speed of trains would increase, trains would become more punctual and goods trains could be timetabled once they achieve these priorities. However, he expressed caution saying that these cannot be achieved overnight and they would build bit by bit, incrementally.

Shri Prabhu felt that the Indian Railways have to go through transformation over the next five years, and informed that they are launching initiatives that would systematically address customer concerns about cleanliness, comfort, accessibility, service quality and speed of trains. He further said that they would increase daily passenger carrying capacity from 21 million to 30 million and increase track length by 20 per cent as well. The Minister assured that they would increase their annual freight carrying capacity from 1 billion to 1.5 billion tonnes. This would require material improvement in operating efficiency, tighter control over costs, greater discipline over project selection and execution, and a significant boost to Railways' revenue generating capacity. While explaining that transforming the Railways will require them to partner with key stakeholders, Shri Prabhu said they would work closely with the States to make the Railways the backbone of national connectivity. They would partner with PSUs to ensure that sufficient capacity is built to transport critical commodities like coal, iron ore, and cement, *etc.*, from where they are extracted or imported to where they are consumed or processed and also partner with multilateral and bi-lateral organizations and other governments to gain access to long term financing and technology from overseas. He further informed that they would partner with the private sector to improve last mile connectivity, expand their fleet of rolling stock and modernize the station infrastructure. He also said that Rail will continue to be a national asset.

The Minister said that they envisaged an investment of Rs.8.5 lakh crore over the next five years and they would tap other sources of finance. He informed that multilateral development banks and pension funds have expressed keen interest in financing new investments. He

proposed the operating ratio for 2015-16 at 88.5 per cent as against a targeted operating ratio of 91.8 per cent in 2014-15 and 93.6 per cent in 2013-14. While stating that the Railways belong to the whole nation, he said its functioning must conform to the highest standards of governance and transparency.

Dwelling on the details of eleven major thrust areas of their action plan, Shri Prabhu said that he had not increased the passenger fares. He informed that they are directing their efforts to make travel on Indian Railways a happy experience with a mix of various initiatives. He also said that ensuring higher standards of cleanliness is of utmost priority for them, and they want to make *Swachh Rail* the driving force behind the Government's flagship programme – *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*. He further said that Railways planned to set up 'waste to energy' conversion plants near major coaching terminals to dispose waste in an environment-friendly manner. They would build new toilets covering 650 additional stations and bio-toilets are being fitted in coaches and the coverage of built in dustbins will be extended to non-AC coaches as well. Additionally, the facility of online booking of disposable bedrolls at select stations is being extended to all passengers. An All India 24X7 helpline number, 138, would become functional and passengers would be able to call up for complaints while on trains. Keeping in mind the criticality of security related issues, the Minister said that they have dedicated a toll-free number 182 for receiving security related complaints and Railways would utilise resources from the 'Nirbhaya Fund' for augmenting the security of women passengers. He also informed that they are introducing 'Operation Five Minutes' to ensure that passengers travelling unreserved can purchase a ticket within five minutes. For the differently-abled travelers, a special initiative is being launched whereby they can purchase concessional e-tickets after one-time registration. For the benefit of the soldiers, the Minister said that 'Defence Travel System' has been developed for elimination of Warrants to make travel easier. He also said e-catering has been introduced in 108 trains on an experimental basis from January this year to provide freedom to passengers to select their meals, and they have intended to set up 'Base Kitchens' in specified Divisions for serving quality food besides expanding water vending machines to cover most railway stations to ensure availability of clean drinking water. The Minister also said that hand-held terminals would be provided to Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs), and this can be used for verification of passengers and downloading charts. He said that this system would help the move towards paperless ticketing apart from saving reams of paper. Wi-Fi at all A1 and A category stations is being provided and this would be extended to B category stations as

well. Folding ladder would be made available in coaches for easy climbing.

The Minister requested all Members of Parliament (MPs) to use part of their MPLAD funds in improving facilities at Railway stations. He said that Members of Parliament represent a vast number of people and could serve as an important link between Railways and the people. While stating that local representatives are in the best position to offer solutions to satisfy the local aspirations, he proposed to create Divisional Committees in each Railway to be chaired by Members of Parliament. He also informed about the proposal to develop Satellite Railway terminals in major cities with the twin purpose of decongesting the city as well as providing service to passengers residing in suburbs.

Shri Prabhu said that the key objective of their action plan of transforming the Railways is to significantly expand the capacity of the network and decongesting these networks with a basket of traffic generating projects is a priority. He informed that they intend to fast track the sanctioned works on 7,000 kms of double/third/fourth lines and commission 1200 km in 2015-16 at an investment of Rs.8,686 crore. He added that they have sanctioned 77 additional projects covering 9,400 km of doubling/tripling/quadrupling works along with their electrification at a total cost of Rs.96,182 crore. He further informed that Indian Railways is committed to provide rail connectivity to all the North Eastern states. On unmanned level crossings, the Minister said that their ultimate objective is to eliminate all by construction of Road over Bridges (ROBs) and Road under Bridges (RUBs), and to curb derailments, modern track structure consisting of sleepers and heavier rails are being used while carrying out primary track renewals.

Shri Prabhu said that the size of the Plan Budget has gone up by 52 per cent in 2015-16 and support from the Central Government constitutes 41.6 per cent of the total Plan Budget. In view of the fact that it would be a challenging task to initiate the mobilization of extra budgetary resources, the Minister proposed to set up a Financing Cell in the Railway Board, which would seek the benefit of advice from experts. He said that they would monetize their assets.

While stating that the actions in the eleven thrust areas cannot remain mere policy pronouncements, the Minister said the Railways cannot function in a 'Business As Usual' mode. He added that they would have to gear up to face future challenges and assured that he would ensure Indian Railways delivers quantifiable and visible improvements. He further added that their most critical initiatives would be pursued under the direct oversight of designated senior officials in the Ministry

of Railways as Mission Directors and a similar structure would be replicated in all Zonal Railways. He said that was the idea for the transformation of Indian Railways and sought the support of all in this national endeavour into *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*.

Initiating the discussion on the combined discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2015-16, General Discussion Demands For Grants On Account (Railways), 2015-2016 and Supplementary Demands For Grants (Railways), 2014-2015, Shri K.C. Venugopal (INC)* said that the increased freight charge across all classes up to 10 per cent at a time would

* Other members who participated in the discussion were: *Sarvashri* Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, P.K. Biju, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Jayadev Galla, Murali Mohan Maganti, Shrirang Appa Barne, Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil, Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, M.B. Rajesh, Parasuraman K, Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, Sankar Prasad Datta, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Rakesh Singh, Gourav Gogoi, Sanganna Amarappa Karadi, Chand Nath Yogi, Devendra Bhole Singh, Ashok Shankarrao Chavan, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, B.S. Yeddyurappa, R.K. Bharathimohan, Rahul Kaswan, Feroze Varun Gandhi, Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Jitendra Chaudhury, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Om Birla, Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav), Doddaalahalli Kempegowda Suresh, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Ranjit Singh Brahmpura, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Radheshyam Biswas, Balabhadra Majhi, Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Mullappally Ramachandran, Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav, C.R. Patil, C. Mahendran, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Vinod Kumar Boianapalli, Lalubhai Babubhai Patel, Ram Tahal Choudhary, Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar, C.R. Chaudhary, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Ramen Deka, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Prahlad Singh Patel, Hemant Tukaram Godse, Anto Antony, Chintaman Navsha Wanaga, Ramchandra Paswan, Harish Chandra Meena, Devji Mansingram Patel, Raj Kumar Saini, Nalin Kumar Kateel, P.C. Gaddigoudar, Vijay Kumar S.R., Tariq Anwar, Anandrao Adsul, P. Karunakaran, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, R. Gopalakrishnan, P.R. Sundaram, A. Arunmozhithevan, G. Hari, Ajay (Teni) Mishra, Shir Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Bahadur Singh Koli, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Nandi Yellaiah, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Sunil Kumar Singh, Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi, A.T. (Nana) Patil, Rajan Baburao Vichare, Ramesh Bidhuri, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, A. Anwhar Raajhaa, Ramsinh Patalyabhai Rathwa, Narayanbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya, M.K. Raghavan, Akshay Yadav, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, S.P. Muddahanumegowda, Arka Keshari Deo, Hariom Singh Rathore, P.C. Mohan, Sukhbir Singh Jaunpuria, Kaushalendra Kumar, Ashok Mahadeorao Nete, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Bharat Singh, B.N. Chandrappa, Dushyant Chautala, Vinod Khanna, Ramesh Chander Kaushik, Keshav Prasad Maurya, C.N. Jayadevan, Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, Rajveer (Raju Bhaiya) Singh, Chhedi Paswan, Ram Prasad Sarmah, Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan, P.R. Senthilnathan, Kanwar Singh Tanwar, R. Radhakrishnan, Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Tamradhwaj Sahu, Gopal Chinayya Shetty, P.P. Chaudhary, Arjun Lal Meena, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Shri S. Selvakumara Chinnayan, Lallu Singh, Sharad Tripathi, Kamalbhan Singh Marabi, Virender Kashyap, Dipsinh Shankarsinh Rathod, Sumedhanand Saraswati, Shailesh Kumar, Bhagwanth Khuba, Prem Das Rai, Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav, B. Sreeramulu, Pashupati Nath Singh, Alok Sanjar, Sukender Reddy Gutha, V. Elumalai, Satya Pal Singh, Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, Hari Manjhi, N.K. Premachandran, Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Ramcharan Bohara, Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav, Rahul Shewale, Raju Shetti, Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, Shri Rameshwar Teli, Ravindra Kushawaha, Rajendra Agrawal, Ram Swaroop Sharma, Anil Shirole, Hari Narayan Rajbhar, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Ajay Tamta, Daddan Mishra, Nana bhau Falgunrao Patole,

drastically have an impact on the expected rate of growth and this budget would have bad impact on the common man. While appreciating the extra budgetary resources and the 11 major areas of action plan, he wondered as to how the Minister would enhance the capacity without starting new trains since not a single train had been announced in the Budget. While stating that Railway Budget is an instrument which directly impacts millions of people, he said the Minister has killed the hopes and aspirations of the poor people by not announcing any train in the Budget. He further said that no details about how the proposed operational ratio for 2015-16, at 88.5 per cent would be achieved. While expressing his apprehension that it is a daunting task for the Railways to meet the debt servicing requirements as it would lead to debt trap, he said it would help the corporates and pave way for privatization. He also said that the Budget does not speak of any credible mechanism for a speedy and cost-effective implementation.

Praising the Budget, Shri Yogi Adityanath (BJP) said that the Indian Railways is the backbone of the India's transport and commended the firm commitment shown by the Minister to rise above the habit of keeping the Railways hostage to politics. He further said that the result of the far reaching steps taken to augment rail infrastructure without hiking passenger fares was already visible and there was no doubt that the long term effect would also be very good. He said that efforts have been made in the Budget for optimum use of information technology and

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Sanganna Amarappa Karadi, Mukesh Rajput, Rajen Gohain, Bhola Singh, Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande, Krupal Balaji Tumane, Dharmendra Kumar, Jagdambika Pal, Chinnaraj Gopalakrishnan, Adv. M. Udhaya Kumar, Adv. Joice George, Dr. Dharam Vira Gandhi, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Kulamani Samal, Dr. Boora Narasaiah Goud, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Ratna De (Nag), Dr. Bhagirath Prasad, Dr. Ravindra Babu Pandula, Dr. K. Gopal, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. Kambhampati Hari Babu, Dr. Sidhant Mohapatra, Dr. Anirudhan Sampath, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Dr. Vara Prasad Rao V., Dr. Bhola Singh, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Dr. Krishna Pratap Singh, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Dr. Tapas Mandal, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Dr. Bharati Dhirubhai Shiyal, Dr. Banshilal Mahto, Dr. (Prof.) Mamta Sanghamita, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde, Dr. Ravindra Kumar Ray, Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre, Km. Shobha Karandlaje, Ms. Arpita Ghosh, Ms. Bhavana Gawali (Patil), Km. Sushmita Dev, Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phoole, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, Smt. Jayshreeben Patel, Smt. Pratima Mondal, Smt. Riti Pathak, Smt. Kamla Devi Patle, Smt. Renuka Butta, Smt. Krishna Raj, Smt. R. Vanaroja, Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, Smt. Hemamalini, Smt. Pratyusha Rajeshwari Singh, Smt. Rita Tarai, Smt. Jyoti Dhurve, Smt. Vasanthi M, Smt. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, Smt. Anju Bala, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Smt. Priyanka Singh Rawat, Smt. Neelam Sonkar, Smt. Geetha Kothapalli and Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad.

there was emphasis on passenger amenities and safety. He also appreciated the efforts made to increase the efficiency of employees as well as the establishment of a Railway University and the setting up of a Railway Research Institute.

Shri P. Kumar (AIADMK) said that while there is no increase in passenger fare, the freight rate of urea, cement, coal, kerosene, cooking gas, iron and steel has been increased at the same time. He expressed apprehension that this would have a cascading effect and will push up other costs. He further said that the purchase of cheaper power to run railways should not be at the cost of State power utilities, which are already reeling under severe financial crunch.

Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar (AITC) felt that the Union Railway Budget does not have a clear road map for the future growth of the industry and appeared to be completely anti-people, aimless and visionless. While mentioning that the freight fare has been raised by 6.5 per cent, she asked as to why the Railway cannot improve facilities so that the market, being shared by the rail and the road, is taken up by the rail mode? She further said that if the freight rate increases, the core industry would be hit, and asked as to how infrastructure could be developed in such a scenario.

Replying to the discussion on 12 March 2015, the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu said that Railway is a national asset, and all the investment decisions that Railways make must take into account the aspirations and hopes of millions of people. He explained that it was necessary to have a type of consolidation for the Railways and that was what they tried to do in this Budget. He said that the budget should be an exercise, in which money should be put where it was needed, and for that project, which are in the interest of the Railways and the people need to be chosen. The Minister said that doubling must be undertaken and the project could be completed fast since it would mean no land acquisition and would also ensure that trains reaches their destinations on time.

Shri Prabhu said that safety was another priority and they have provided the highest amount of money as well as attention to safety. He further informed that they have already entered into a partnership with Research, Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSA) to find as to how Geo Spatial Technology could be used to enhance safety. The Minister also said that 'Customer first' had been our focus, and have accordingly provided many things for customer services. On the issue of transparency, the Minister admitted that there are lots

of corruptions in the Railways and requested all to work together to ensure its elimination. He further said that the first step he took as Railway Minister was delegating the powers which he enjoys as a Railway Minister to the General Managers. With regard to the issue of freight and fare, the Minister said that the rail network did not expand from what it was at the time of Independence, while the road network has expanded rapidly and as such, the result was obvious. He said that they wanted to bring more cargo to rail from road, and for this more investments have to be made in Railways. Increasing the railway network was a step in this direction and that was what they were trying to do. While pointing out that Railway is the single-largest consumer of electricity, he said they should get a discount and he had worked with the Ministry of Power to work on this. The Minister assured that if more investments in Railways can be made in a significant way, that would automatically result in creation of more revenues and those revenues would be able to take the Railways forward. He also said that they were already working on suggestions about new trains and creating them on a scientific basis. He expressed confidence that they would be able to certify the demands of the people keeping in mind the reality of Railway that exists today. The Minister said that they have not increased freight rate and it was more of freight rationalization which has resulted in some surplus for Railway.

All the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), 2015-2016 voted in full. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2014-2015 voted in full. Resolutions were adopted.

The Budget (General) – 2015-16 : Presenting the Budget (General)-2015-16 on 28 February 2015, the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley said that he presents the Budget for the year 2015-16 in an economic environment which is far more positive than in the recent past. He said that when other economies are facing serious challenges, India is about to take-off on a faster growth trajectory once again, and added that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has downgraded its earlier forecast of global economic growth by 0.3 per cent, and the World Trade Organization has revised its forecast of world trade growth from 5.3 per cent to 4 per cent. He said that forecasts for India, however, have either been upgraded, or remained the same, without downgrades and further stated that they have embraced the States as equal partners in the process of economic growth.

Shri Jaitley said that he would like to talk of three achievements as they demonstrate the quality and conviction of their government. One is

the success of the *Jan Dhan Yojana*. The other is coal auctions, and the third is *Swachh Bharat*. He further said that they are now embarking on two more game changing reforms, GST and what the Economic Survey has called the JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile—to implement direct transfer of benefits.

The Finance Minister further said that their commitment to farmers runs deep and they have already taken major steps to address the two major factors critical to agricultural production: soil and water. He further informed that he is allocating Rs.5,300 crore to support micro-irrigation, watershed development and the *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana*. He also proposed to allocate Rs.25,000 crore in 2015-16 to the corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) set up in NABARD; Rs.15,000 crore for Long Term Rural Credit Fund; Rs.45,000 crore for Short Term Cooperative Rural Credit Refinance Fund; and Rs.15,000 crore for Short Term RRB Refinance Fund.

Shri Jaitley further said that the soon-to-be-launched *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna* will cover accidental death risk of 2 lakh for a premium of just 12 per year. Similarly, the Atal Pension Yojana, will provide a defined pension, depending on the contribution, and its period. The third Social Security Scheme that he wished to announce was the *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* which covers both natural and accidental death risk of 2 lakhs. The Finance Minister further said that there are unclaimed deposits of about Rs.3,000 crore in the PPF, and approximately Rs.6,000 crore in the EPF corpus and he had proposed the creation of a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund, in the Finance Bill, for appropriation of these amounts to a corpus which will be used to subsidize the premiums of vulnerable groups such as old age pensioners, BPL card-holders, small and marginal farmers and others.

Turning to the Budget Estimates for Budget 2015-16, the Finance Minister said that Non-Plan expenditure estimates for the Financial Year are estimated at Rs.13,12,200 crore and Plan expenditure are estimated to be Rs.4,65,277 crore, which was very near to the R.E. of 2014-15. Total Expenditure has accordingly been estimated at Rs.17,77,477 crore. The requirements for expenditure on Defence, Internal Security and other necessary expenditures are adequately provided. Gross Tax receipts are estimated to be Rs.14,49,490 crore. Devolution to the States is estimated to be Rs.5,23,958 crore. Share of Central Government will be Rs.9,19,842 crore. Non Tax Revenues for the next fiscal are estimated to be Rs.2,21,733 crore. He said that with the above estimates, fiscal deficit will be 3.9 per cent of GDP and Revenue Deficit will be 2.8 per cent of GDP. While turning to tax proposals, he said tax

collections help the Government to provide education, healthcare, housing and other basic facilities to the people to improve their quality of life and to address the problems of poverty, unemployment and slow development.

Shri Jaitley said that a regime of exemptions has led to pressure groups, litigation and loss of revenue and gives room for avoidable discretion. He, therefore, proposed to reduce the rate of Corporate Tax from 30 per cent to 25 per cent over the next 4 years and this will lead to higher level of investment, higher growth and more jobs.

Initiating the discussion the Budget (General)–2015-16 on 16 March 2015, Shri M. Veerappa Moily (INC) said that relaxation in the fiscal consideration by target one year has not added much to the investment expenditure and one can also question the wisdom of adding to the existing subsidies and transfer for schemes which are in the State List. He further said that in the current Budget, the allocation for various schemes such as in agriculture, National Rural Drinking Water programme and in elementary education have been reduced. Shri Moily also stated that abolishing certain institutions which are time-tested like the Planning Commission was not good because the nation would fail because of the collapse of institutions. On black money, Shri Moily said that not even a single name has been added to what they have got. He further said that the only problem in India was that the cost of conducting business here in terms of spectrum, tax challenges and everything was very high and there was no respite to investors from tax tangles. While lamenting that no progress is being made to decrease the economic disparity in the country, Shri Moily said that we have a great window of opportunity and appealed to all to make united efforts in creating an India of our dreams.

Participating in the discussion[#], Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav (BJP) said that amidst all kinds of serious academic discussion of economic

Others who participated in the discussion were: *Sarvashri* B.S. Yeddyurappa, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Ajay (Teni) Misra, Anandrao Adsul, M. Udhayakumar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Ganesh Singh, Chand Nath Yogi, Jadadev Galla, P. Karunakaran, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Mekapati Raja mohan Reddy, Tariq Anwar, Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser, P. Kumar, Dharmendra Yadav, Tej Pratap Singh Yadav, Vellaigounder Elumalai, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, A. Anwhar Raajhaa, Arka Keshari Deo, Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav, Sher Singh Ghubaya, Mullappally Ramachandran, Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya, Sankar Prasad Datta, Abhishek Banerjee, Yogi Adityanath, Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, Sharad Tripathi, Arjunlal Meena, C.R. Chaudhary, Kodikunnil Suresh, Ram Tahal Chaudhary, Jagdambika Pal, Rakesh Singh, C.N. Jayadevan, Ramcharan Bohara, Sriram Malyadri, Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan, H.D. Devegowda, Satya Pal Singh, P.P. Chaudhary, Birendra Kumar Choudhary, Ram Kumar Sharma,

matters and a plethora of economic data, his attention was to try to find as to what provisions and schemes have been made for the farmers, workers and poor living in rural areas. He further said that when economic awareness improves among the poor people and whenever their economic progress takes place it will result in increased flow of money into the villages and increased employment opportunities for the poor leading to overall progress. Shri Yadav further stated that India cannot progress as long as it continues to suffer from caste system and steps like dismantling caste barriers and creating a more equitable society, are the essential steps for the all-round development of the country.

Contd. from p.171

Nalin Kumar Kateel, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, E. Ahamed, Shrirang Appa Barne, Suresh Chanabasappa Angadi, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, Brijbhushan Sharan Singh, R.K. Bharathimohan, Virendra Singh, Y.V. Subba Reddy, Rajendra Agrawal, Mohd. Asrarul Haque, Kaushalendra Kumar, D.K. Suresh, P.R. Sundaram, Neiphio Rio, Asaduddin Owaisi, Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, Prem Das Rai, Jose K. Mani, Virendra Kashyap, G. Hari, Dharambir, Anil Shirole, Abhijit Mukherjee, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Dushyant Chautala, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, B. Vinod Kumar, Ramsinh Rathwa, Akshay Yadav, R. Dhruvanarayana, Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, S.P. Muddahanum Gowda, Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Dharmendra Kumar, Rameswar Teli, C.P. Joshi, A.T. (Nana) Patil, B.N. Chandrappa, Harishchandra Chavan, S.S. Ahluwalia, Rajeshbhai N. Chudasama, Raghav Lakhanpal, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, P.C. Gaddigoudar, Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi, Parasuraman K., A. Arunmozhithevan, Ramesh Chander Kaushik, Devji M. Patel, Hariom Singh Rathore, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Lallu Singh, Rahul Kaswan, Harish Chandra Meena, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Pashupati Nath Singh, Bahadur Singh Koli, Om Birla, Rajen Gohain, Daddan Mishra, Chandu Lal Sahu, Ravindra Kushawaha, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, M.K. Raghavan, Alok Sanjar, Ajay Tamta, Anto Antony, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Sanganna Amarappa Karadi, Nana bhau Falgunrao Patole, Mukesh Rajput, Hari Manjhi, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, B. Sreeramulu, Tathagata Satpathy, Thota Narasimham, Sunil Kumar Singh, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Col. Sona Ram Choudhary, Prof. Chintamani Malviya, Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose, Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Bharti Dhirubhai Shiyal, Dr. Ravindra Kumar Ray, Dr. Ratna (Nag) De, Dr. Bhagirath Prasad, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dr. Kirit Somaiya, Dr. K. Kamaraj, Dr. Anirudhan Sampath, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Dr. Udit Raj, Dr. Kulamani Samal, Km. Shobha Karandlaje, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, Smt. Aparupa Poddar, Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt, Smt. Kavitha Kalvakuntla, Smt. Geetha Kothapalli, Smt. Anju Bala, Smt. Rekha Arun Verma, Smt. Poonam Mahajan, Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phoole, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty, Smt. R. Vanaroja, Smt. Renuka Butta, Smt. V. Sathyabama, Smt. Riti Pathak, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, Smt. Priyanka Singh Rawat, Smt. Kamla Devi Patle, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Jayshreeben Patel, Smt. Kirron Kher, Smt. Poonamben Maadam and Smt. Jyoti Dhurve

Joining the discussion, Dr. M. Thambi Durai (AIADMK) said that there are some merits in this budget and at the same time, there are some lacunae and noted that though petroleum prices have come down, it has not equally gone to the consumers. While the budget expenditure was less, the tax receipt and the common man/middle-class people have suffered. He urged that the government should try to see that the common man was benefited and not the corporates. While noting that the allocation for *panchayati-raj* was Rs.3,400 crore previously, it was Rs. 94 crore now and the Government has reduced the allocation for the agriculture sector from Rs. 19,000 crore to Rs. 17,000 crore. Similarly, allocation for water resources or to scheduled castes sub-plan and Tribal Sub-Plan has gone down. Dr. M. Thambi Durai also said that when all the taxes are taken away by the Central Government, the State Governments have no money to strengthen and modernise police force and further added that FDI should be limited only for infrastructure development.

Taking part in the discussion, Prof. Saugata Roy (AITC) said that the Finance Minister has started by talking about the successes of the Government *Jan Dhan Scheme*, Coal auction, *Swachh Bharat* and had also talked about the Government's plan up to 2022. He further said that in the last financial year the gross tax revenues have fallen by Rs.1.13 lakh crore from the Budget estimates last year. Direct and indirect tax collection has fallen on all heads. While stating that indirect taxes mean a pressure on the consumer and increase in prices, he said this was an anti-middle class step. Calling it a corporate friendly budget, he said this was the most anti-farmer budget in many years.

Replying to the discussion on 17 March 2015, the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley said that when the first budget for the year was presented by the government, the country was facing a different kind of economic environment and the world was having a different take on India. During the last 9-10 months the attitude of the world towards India has undergone a big change and therefore, he was of the opinion that it was a historical opportunity for all the political parties, political leaders and the parliamentarians to give a thought as to how the country can be taken on the path of rapid development. He said that the Fourteenth Finance Commission made a recommendation to increase allocation to States by ten per cent and the Centre had completely accepted this recommendation.

Shri Jaitley informed that they have tried to introduce a concept of social security and accordingly have created a social security mechanism and the effort was to convert a pensionless society into a pensioned

society. He further elaborated on the need for domestic investment as well as international investment as investments would lead to creation of more jobs, and the Government would have more money to fund schemes like MGNREGA and the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. On the issue of black money, he assured the House that they are bringing strict law against black money. Coming to gold monetisation, he said gold was an ideal asset and there was a need to invest in Gold Bonds rather than buying gold.

The Finance Minister also informed that an Investment Fund would be created with the Government and its PSUs putting in Rs.20,000 crore. He said that infrastructure is the sector which needed concentration and urged the people to come out of agriculture and get into manufacturing and added that the global situation today suits us. Even in the Land Acquisition Act, he said they have left the discretion to the states and if the backward states adopt a progressive policy, they would get out of backwardness.

All the Demands for Grants on Accounts (General) were voted in full. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) were voted in full. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015 was passed.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015: On 4 March 2015, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha, moved that the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 and General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and to amend the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, be taken into consideration.

Initiating the discussion*, Shri C.N. Jayadevan (CPI) said that since 1956, when the Life Insurance was nationalised by paying just Rs. 5 crore to the then private companies, LIC has proved to be a gold mine for the Union Government. He further said that it defies logic as to why in such a situation, the Central Government should welcome FDI in insurance. He felt that raising the FDI in the insurance sector will encourage privatization in the sector which might be detrimental to the interest of the consumers.

* Others who participated in the discussion were *Sarvashri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav, Balabhadra Majhi, M.B. Rajesh, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Abhijit Mukherjee, Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, Gaurav Gogoi, N.K. Premachandran, Dushyant Chautala Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dr. P. Venugopal, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde*

Joining the discussion, Prof. Saugata Roy (AITC) said that allowing of FDI in a big way in the insurance sector is something that is against the interest of the country. He further said that the private sector in the insurance business have not performed well. He recalled that in 1999, when the NDA government was there, the New Insurance Act was enacted and it opened general insurance to the private sector. He compared the performance of LIC with that of the private sector, and said that LIC is a public sector organization which performed commendably. He felt that the whole logic of the Government in pressing ahead with FDI in insurance sector is fraught with dangerous consequences because in case of FDI, they take out more money than they actually put in, and urged the Government not to allow the FDI to infiltrate into this very vital sector of the economy.

Taking part in the discussion, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (BJP) said that this Bill would facilitate expansion of the activities of the insurance companies as the country is still backward in terms of insurance. He noted that insurance sector is very limited in India in comparison to the world, and in these circumstances, the foreign investment would help enhance healthy competition in the insurance sector. He felt that further expansion of insurance companies and opening of their branches in urban and rural areas would augment employment opportunities directly and indirectly, and this would also help in bringing 80 per cent the population under insurance cover.

Replying to the discussion on 4 March 2015, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha said that several Members have given their arguments against the Bill, and explained that as our GDP grows, insurance penetration will necessarily decrease. He further said that our insurance was very inadequate, as compared to the rest of the world, and it was absolutely important to secure the capital flows and get capital flows up to 49 per cent so that they can attract this capital to grow the industry. Citing other sectors of the economy like banking, which allows for 74 per cent FDI, he said that he saw no reason as to why we cannot have 49 per cent in insurance. The Minister also said that if one looks at FDI across the world, whether it is Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, China or Malaysia, all of them allow for FDI which is higher than 49 per cent and so we are well within the global standards. He assured the House that important safeguards have been made for the way in which insurance companies are going to work, and therefore, believed that this is a responsible and wise Bill that should be brought forward and passed.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

The Fourth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 23 February 2015. It was scheduled to conclude on 8 May 2015. However, the sittings of the session were further extended upto 13 May 2015 in order to provide sufficient time for completion of essential items of Government Business. The session was adjourned *sine-die* on 13 May 2015. There was no question hour during the extended period.

A chart showing the dates of ballots and last dates of receipt of notices of questions during the Session was circulated to Members alongwith Bulletin Part-II dated 29 January 2015. The notices of Starred (SQ) and Unstarred Questions (USQ) for the Session were entertained *w.e.f.* 30 January 2015, the day following issuance of Summons. The last date of receiving notices of Questions was 22 April 2015.

The actual number of notices of Starred (SQ) and Unstarred Questions (USQ) tabled by the Members were 50533 (SQ 32026 + USQ 18507). As a result of splitting few questions, where two or more Ministries were involved, the number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions increased to 51540 (50533+1007) (SQ 32729 + USQ 18811). Three Short Notice Questions were also received. The maximum number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions included for ballot in a day, were 1255 and 752 respectively on 08 May 2015. The minimum number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions included for ballot in a day were 815 and 430 for 30 April, 2015 and 25 February, 2015 respectively. The maximum and minimum number of Members whose name included in the ballot was 299 for 24 April 2015, and 210 for 24 February 2015, respectively.

All the notices were examined in the light of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions by the Speaker, Parliamentary Conventions and past precedents, with a view to decide their admissibility or otherwise. Out of 51540 notices of questions received including split questions, 620 notices were included in the list of Starred Questions and 7118 in the lists of Unstarred Questions.

The Ministry-wise break-up of admitted Notice of Questions shows that the Minister of Human Resource Development answered the maximum number of Questions (both Starred and Unstarred) *i.e.* 543, followed by the Minister of Railways, who answered 431 questions (both Starred and Unstarred). The minimum number of questions (both Starred and Unstarred), which was one, was answered by the Prime Minister's Office.

Names of 402 Members were included in the Lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions. The maximum number of questions admitted/clubbed *i.e.*, 137, were in the name of Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, MP.

The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names were included in the Lists of Questions was 298, on 2 and 13 March 2015 and 186 on 30 April 2015, respectively.

In all, 33 notices for raising Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session and all were disallowed.

In all, three Short Notice Questions were received during the Session and all were disallowed.

A total of five correcting statements were made by the Ministers correcting the replies already given by them to questions in the Lok Sabha.

A total of 135 Starred Questions were orally replied during the Session. The average number of Starred Questions answered orally during each sitting of the House was 4.35. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a single day was eight, on 2 March and 16 March 2015.

The average number of Unstarred Questions appearing in the List came to 230 per day during the entire session.

7,603 Statements were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to Starred and Unstarred Questions during the Session and 80 copies each of the relevant Statements were sent half-an-hour before the commencement of the Question Hour to the Parliamentary Notice Office for the use of Members.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of *Sarvashri* G. Venkatswamy, Ram Sunder Das, Dadashivrao Dadoba Mandlik, Major Ranjeet Singh, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi and Dr. Ramanaidu Daggubati, all former members, and His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY FOURTH SESSION*

The Two Hundred and Thirty Fourth Session of the Rajya Sabha was scheduled to be held in two parts, *i.e.* from 3 February 2015 to 20 March 2015 and from 20 April 2015 to 8 May 2015. The sitting of the House fixed for 5 March 2015 was cancelled on the recommendation of the Business Advisory Committee. The first part of the Session, which commenced on the 23 February 2015, was adjourned on 20 March 2015 to meet for the second part of the Session on 20 April 2015. The House was, however, prorogued by the President of India on 28 March 2015 and therefore, the Two Hundred and Thirty Fourth Session concluded on 20 March 2015. The House sat for 19 days and the actual hours of sittings were 108 hours and 51 minutes.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Members of the Parliament: On 23 February 2015, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the Members of both the Houses in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by Shri Bhupendra Yadav of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The discussion took place on 25, 26 and 27 February 2015 and was further continued on 2 and 3 March 2015.

Moving the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Shri Bhupendra Yadav said that Government had worked quite swiftly during the last nine months to meet the aspirations and trust of people. To carry forward the goal of *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*, he said that the Government brought procedural simplification, clarity and transparency in earlier policies. He also said that the biggest programme launched by the Government, the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* had achieved its 100 per cent target during the period and bank accounts for more than 13 crore poor people were opened through the scheme besides issuing debit cards to them for availing the facility of overdraft and providing accidental and life insurance through these accounts. He further said

* Contributed by the General Research Unit, LARRDIS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

that the Ministry of Petroleum launched a programme named 'PAHAL' linking 11 crore consumers directly to ensure that subsidy being provided to poor people reaches them directly in their accounts. Under *Deen Dayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate* Programme, a Universal Account Number (UAN) had been provided to the labourers to ensure that they could withdraw their Provident Fund from anywhere all over the country. Shri Yadav further commended the step taken by the Government to fix minimum wages at Rs.15,000 per month and minimum pension at Rs.1,000 for EPF subscribers.

While stating that the Prime Minister is determined to work for the farmers, Shri Yadav informed that farmers were being provided 'Soil Health Card' to enhance productivity. He further stated that the Government initiated and implemented the project *Hunar Hai to Kalyan Hai* for development of food processing industries and for skill development in rural areas. He further added that in order to work on federal cooperation, the Government converted the *Yojna Ayog* into *Niti Ayog* and made all Chief Ministers a part of its Governing Council. While stating that the Government accepted the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and had been providing 10 per cent additional resources of the total allocation to the States, resulting in extra allocation of Rs.1,78,000 crore till 2015-16, he also said that the Government had been working on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Railways and Defence to give boost to manufacturing. While stating that the Government had raised the issue of bringing changes in land acquisition laws, he also said that the Government has defined the clause of 'public purpose' in the Land Acquisition Bill, in concurrence with the changing parameters of development. Stressing on the need for further discussion in the House in this regard, Shri Yadav said that for all inclusive development, the Government was committed to go ahead with its policies to make the lives of poor, backward, downtrodden and deprived people dignified.

Seconding the motion, Dr. Chandan Mitra of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lamented that even after 70 years of independence, the country was still struggling to have housing, clothing, food and education for all. He said the President's Address had expounded the entire range of programmes initiated by the Government to put the last man first in the scheme of things. He further said that the Government had announced a series of new schemes such as *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana*, *Rashtriya Gokul Mission*, *Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana* and the *Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme* to ensure better living standard for the farmers and for the benefit of tribal people living in remote forest areas.

Shri Mitra further stressed on the need to ensure sustainable agricultural growth and quality produce which could command higher price in the market. He said that the President had announced the Government's decision to create a fund of Rs.2,000 crore to provide affordable credit to food processing units in 72 notified food parks and further added that a chain of cold storages and better connectivity between farms and market places would help in reducing the supply chain losses.

Shri Mitra also said that as part of the Prime Minister's visionary skill-development programme, the *Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana* had been launched, along with the *Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana*, which would facilitate the children of farmers to upgrade their skills to get employment and help the farmers' families get a higher income. He also said that under the *Hunar Hai to Kalyan Hai* theme, entrepreneurship skills would be imparted to lakhs of youths and private corporate were also being encouraged to channelize the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to skill-development programmes. While lauding the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana*, he said that financial inclusion was a crying need all these years for the neglected and to ensure equality of opportunity for all, and added that the vision expressed in the President's Address could only succeed if the people remain united and committed to collectively achieve the goal of making India an economic and spiritual superpower.

Participating in the discussion* Shri Rajeev Shukla of the Indian National Congress (INC) said that the promises made by the ruling party during the election campaign did not find proper mention in the President's Address. He lamented that though it was promised that after

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sharad Yadav, Derek O'Brien, Tiruchi Siva, Sitaram Yechury, A.U. Singh Deo, Devender Goud T., H.K. Dua, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Ravi Prakash Verma, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Khekiho Zhimomi, Shantaram Naik, Tarun Vijay, A.W. Rabi Bernard, Sanjay Raut, Ramdas Athawale, Madhusudan Mistry, Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel, Baishnab Parida, Biswajit Daimary, Lal Sinh Vadodia, A. Navaneethakrishnan, Ashwani Kumar, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Kiranmay Nanda, Bhupinder Singh, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Pramod Tiwari, Joy Abraham, Pyarimohan Mohapatra, Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Jesudasu Seelam, A.V. Swamy, P. Bhattacharya, Naresh Agrawal, K.C. Tyagi, Md. Nadimul Haque, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, P. Rajeeve, D. Raja, Anand Sharma, Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, Dr. V. Maitreyan, Shrimati Gundu Sudharani, Shrimati Rajani Patil and Km. Mayawati.

coming to power, the problem of price-rise would be controlled, the problem was still prevalent. He noted that in comparison to fall in international price of petrol and diesel, their price in the country had not been reduced proportionately and felt that since price of petrol and diesel were reduced, accordingly cost of commodities and transport fare should also have been brought down. He also felt that there had been no progress with regard to bringing back the black money to the country. He said that the Government had promised cheaper and uninterrupted power supply, but people were still facing power cuts and not getting any respite in this regard. Shri Shukla further expressed his objection on replacing Planning Commission with *Niti Aayog*. He said that the Planning Commission used to act as a monitoring agency and was instrumental in decisions about financial allocation for new schemes. He stated that after devolution of 42 per cent of the revenue to the States, it was necessary to keep a check and ensure that it was spent in a systematic and flexible way. He further stated that the Government was bringing in so many ordinances and added that such decisions should be taken after taking Opposition into confidence.

Joining in the discussion, Shri Joy Abraham of Kerala Congress(M) stated that of all the programmes mentioned in the President's Address, some were old, some were new, some were renamed in hindi and some were continued with an orientation. While speaking on MNREGA, Shri Abraham said that dairy farming should also be included under its Schedule I. He suggested that farmers who reared at least two milch animals and contributed at least 10 litres of milk for 150 days in a year may be provided wages. While speaking about Direct Benefit Transfer Programme (DBTP) launched by the UPA Government, he said that the benefit of reduction in the price of LPG cylinders should also be passed on to the consumers. While appreciating the 'Make in India' programme of the Government, he said that it should not be done at the expense of the farming community and the interests of farmers and cultivators of the country should be protected and encouraged. Shri Abraham requested the Prime Minister to bring in a slogan of 'Grow in India' at par with the 'Make in India', saying that the Government should encourage farmers to grow more food and industrial raw materials like rubber, which would bring self-sufficiency in these essential commodities and would also help in saving precious foreign exchange incurred on their imports.

Replying to the points raised by the Members, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to all the Members for their suggestions. At the same time, he suggested that Members of Council

of States (Rajya Sabha) should focus on the State they represent rather than the party they belong to. As a collective responsibility and respecting the mandate given by the people, Centre and States should work in co-operation for bringing the country forward, he added. With regard to the complaints of Members that all schemes were old and there was nothing new about it, he said that that the problems had been old and all should strive to find solutions to them rather than making allegations. He recounted the schemes which were started when the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government was in power and their names were just changed when UPA Government came to power. He said that schemes such as 'Multipurpose National Identity Card' became AADHAAR, *Sampoorna Gramin Yojana* turned into MNREGA, Freedom of Information Act became Right to Information Act.

The Prime Minister said that programmes such as *Swachhata Abhiyan* and *Jan-Dhan Yojana* were meant for poor people of the country. He also said that opening of bank accounts for poor people, making provision for toilets in schools, providing 'soil health card' and 'per drop more crop' programmes to enable farmers to enhance their produce in less land were targeted for the poor people of the country. Noting that people living in the States of eastern belt of the country had been living in abject poverty despite being rich in mineral resources, he said that money gained from coal auction would be provided to them. The Prime Minister also said that 40 per cent population of the country was directly or indirectly economically connected with river Ganga and the 'Clean Ganga project' could help in bringing changes in the economic sphere of the poor people of the region. Stressing on skill development, the Prime Minister said that it would enable the youth of the country, specially the poor, to emerge as a big force to take this country to new heights. While referring to 'Housing for All', he informed that the Government had been working with the target of building 3 crore houses in villages and 2 crore houses in cities for the poor. He further said that after devolution of 42 per cent of budgetary allocation to States, all schemes would have to be worked on with a common perspective of overall development with the combined strength of State and Central assets. He further said that if such money would be spent on infrastructure and development, the economy would get a boost.

Referring to the small self-employed people, the Prime Minister stated that there were more than 5.5 crore such units, which gave employment to 11 to 12 crore people. However, they had no source of finance. As such, the Government had brought 'MUDRA' (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) scheme under which people belonging to this class would get finance.

Speaking on the insurance sector, the Prime Minister said that in the country only 29 crore people have Life Insurance cover, just 19 crore people have Accidental Death Insurance cover and only 6 crore people had Organised Pension Scheme cover. He informed that the Government had devised a system to touch upon every section of people in this regard. He further explained that through *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana*, on submission of Rs. 1/- only per month, accidental death cover of Rs. 2 lakhs would be provided to persons in the age group of 18 to 70 years; through *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana*, the Government would provide cover of Rs. 2 lakhs to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years on death, even in normal circumstances, on contribution of Rs.330 per year; and under *Atal Pension Yojana*, a person could get a pension of Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000 after the age of 60.

On the Provident Fund money of labourers which they could not collect after change in place of job due procedural complexities, the Prime Minister stated that a Universal Account Number would be provided to labourers. While mentioning about *Aadhaar Card* based work done in respect of MNREGA, he informed that during nine months of NDA Government, 17 crore *Aadhaar* based monetary transactions took place; 8 lakhs *Aadhaar* numbers were linked with MNREGA and 5 crore *Aadhaar* numbers were linked with job cards. Stressing the need for job creation in the country, he advocated for 'Make in India' campaign and the need for improving upon infrastructure to enhance the possibilities of employment. Referring to 'Digital India' in the President's Address, the Prime Minister said that country should not face the situation of digital divide as it could become reason for economic backwardness and the Government wanted to promote mobile governance.

While expressing his concern regarding black money, the Prime Minister said that the Government was committed to bring back black money in the country and also informed that through talks in the G20 summits, dialogues with Switzerland and MoU with America and other countries, provisions were being made for exchange of information in this regard.

As regards the Land Acquisition Ordinance, the Prime Minister assured the Members that it had no anti farmers provision. He stated that Government would need land to make arrangements for irrigation of farmers' land under 'Prime Minister Agriculture Irrigation Scheme', for making roads in villages and for rural housing, and the present law had no provision for acquiring land for such purposes. Speaking on food security, the Prime Minister said that the Government had not taken any

decision to cut down the coverage of poor people under the scheme. On international relations, the Prime Minister said that though the country wants to build relations with the world and intends to have cordial relations with its neighbours, it would not bow to any pressure.

The Budget (General) 2015-2016: The Budget (General) 2015-16 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Corporate Affairs and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley, on 28 February 2015. The General discussion on the Budget (General) 2015-2016 took place on 18 and 19 March 2015.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Anand Sharma of the Indian National Congress (INC) said that the Budget lacked direction and vision. Refuting the Government's charge that it inherited a weak economy from the previous Government, he said that the Government had rather inherited a strong economy which was recovering and was on a rebound. To substantiate his point, he said that the forex reserves were over 300 billion US dollars; exports were over 317 billion US dollars and the Current Account Deficit was down to 1.8 per cent. While countering the Government's claim that the economy was now surging, he said that the economic figures and Budget contradicted it. He alleged that investments, exports and manufacturing were falling and core sectors were in poor state of health, as per Index of Industrial Production (IIP) numbers. On 'Make in India' campaign of the Government, he explained how work on most of its components had already been initiated during the UPA Government's regime *viz.* establishment of Invest India Co., National Investment Manufacturing Zones, Industrial Corridors and *eBiz* portal.

Regarding the Government's proposal to establish 100 Smart Cities, he said the Government should address basic issues such as infrastructure problem of the available cities before working on 'Smart Cities'. He criticized the Government for increasing budgetary provision for agriculture only by 1 per cent and slashing of budget allocation for *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* for Women and Child Development, for Scheduled Castes, for Tribal Sub-Plan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and education.

Shri Sharma further said that despite fall in prices of diesel and petrol, its benefit was not being transferred to poor people. Rather, the Government had imposed cess on diesel and petrol. Regarding Government's announcement to bring a new law to counter black money, he said that present laws *viz.* Income Tax Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act *etc.* were adequate enough to bring transparency and accountability, if the Government intended to take action.

While appreciating the marginal increase in the credit to farmers and allocation of funds for the Rural Credit Infrastructure Fund, Shri Sharma sought clarification on whether 3 per cent interest subvention on Rural Credit for farmers had been done away with or retained. While terming the Budget as anti-public, he concluded by saying that it lacked direction, sensitivity and future map.

Participating in the discussion* Dr. K.P. Ramalingam of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) said that the Budget had converted the nation into a corporate nation. While appreciating the Government for improving the Rupee-Dollar exchange rates and controlling inflation, he criticized the Government for doing it at the cost of agriculture. He further said that the expectations of the middle class Indians had been hurt as the income tax exemption limit had not been increased. Shri Ramalingam further wanted to know as to how the Government would finance *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* as its Budget allocation was not even 50 per cent of the first year annual target cover. While raising farmer's issue, he asserted that the Government had neglected the farmers, especially in the dry land farming regions. While stating that extreme weather events such as drought and floods were occurring due to climate change, leading to enormous loss of standing crops, he urged the Government to address the issue and fulfill the needs of the farmers. He also expressed anguish that the entire Marine Fisheries got an allocation of only Rs. 105 crore in the current Budget. While noting that the Fisheries sector contributed only 1.23 per cent to the Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), he said it could be enhanced by promoting food processing and storage facilities.

Joining the discussion, Shri Jairam Ramesh of the Indian National Congress (INC) said that though the Government has asserted that it has enhanced the resource allocation to the States, the aggregate resources to the States had actually not been increased. Though

* Others who took part in the discussion were: *Sarvashri* Prabhat Jha, Naresh Agrawal, Pavan Kumar Varma, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, S. Muthukaruppan, Satish Chandra Misra, P. Rajeeve, Bhupinder Singh, C.M. Ramesh, Praful Patel, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Digvijaya Singh, Harivansh, A.V. Swamy, K. Rahman Khan, Rangasayee Ramakrishna, T. Rathinavel, Ram Kumar Kashyap, Dilipbhai Pandya, Anil Desai, P. Bhattacharya, Shankarbai N. Vegad, D. Raja, Joy Abraham, Ram Narain Dudi, P.L. Punia, Naresh Gujral, Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Palvai Govardhan Reddy, Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda, Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Dr. Bhushan Lal Jhangde, Dr. Vijaylaxmi Sadho, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa, Shrimati Wansuk Syiem and Kumari Selja.

qualitatively the proportion of untied funds to the States had gone up from 32 per cent to 42 per cent as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission, quantitatively the States had not gained. While noting that the assumption underlying the entire Budgetary allocation had been that the shortfall in the Central Plan Assistance for key programmes would be made up by the States, he asked as to whether the Finance Minister would consider putting in place some institutional arrangement for the transition period to ensure that the key programmes viz. *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, National Rural Health Mission *etc.*, did not get short-changed because of lack of allocations by the States and suggested that in such cases, they should be protected by increasing the Central Plan Assistance. He further raised objection on the substantial reduction in the Central Plan Allocation for health sector. While stating that the Finance Minister's speech indicated that insurance would be a key driver of health provision, he said insurance could be a secondary and tertiary healthcare, but not the driver of primary healthcare in the country which needed to be expanded. While welcoming the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) by the Government, he noted that it was opposed by the same ruling party during the tenure of the UPA Government.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, the Minister Corporate Affairs and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley expressed gratitude to Members for participating in the debate. On the introduction of GST, he said that building a consensus on such issue required a great deal of negotiation with the States and the Centre. He said that the Government wanted to bring in GST only when States agreed to it. As to allegation that the Government was giving Rs. 75,000 crores as tax concessions to the diamond industry, Shri Jaitley clarified that no extra concessions were being given to diamond industry, and added that diamonds come to India for polishing, cutting and finishing only, thereby creating lakhs of jobs in this field. Shri Jaitley further said that though global economy had been facing a challenge, the country's economy was recovering and growth rates were surging up. He further informed the House that 23 Centrally-sponsored schemes would remain wholly with the Centre; 13 will be shared between Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 or 50:50; and eight schemes would go entirely to the States. Shri Jaitley said that the States would have discretion to spend on development, infrastructure or social schemes as per their requirement.

The Minister stressed on the need for the economy to grow at a

faster pace to overcome economic challenges of the country. He explained that unless the revenues were increased, the Government would not be able to spend on development, and there would be no growth. Hence, there would be no additional resources to service the poor. He further said the Government mooted the idea of 'Micro Units Development Refinance Agency' (MUDRA) Bank which would fund about 5.77 crore self-entrepreneurs who have no source of funding. While making a comparison with financial inclusion programmes mooted for weaker sections by the previous Government, he said that at that time a 'village' was made a unit; now the Government had made each 'individual' a unit by opening their personal accounts so that scholarships, pensions *etc.* being provided through earlier schemes initiated by the UPA Government could go directly into these accounts. While stating about other incentives in the Budget, Shri Jaitley informed that deduction limit under 80C had been raised by Rs. 10,000/- with regard to payment toward health insurance premium; last year deductions from house loan interest repayment was increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh and basic exemption limit was increased from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh; this year conveyance (Transport Allowance) exemption was doubled and Rs.50,000/- increased as deductions in respect to contributions made to the National Pension Scheme (NPS). He said that the whole idea of social security is to convert India from a pension-less society into a pensioned society. While explaining the disbursement of money to States, Shri Jaitley said that money gained from coal and mineral auctions would be allocated to States mostly located in the eastern part of the country. While speaking on the steps taken to curb black money, Shri Jaitley mentioned about the new law to be introduced by the Government which would be deterrence for those who stash money abroad and assured that there would be no scope for its misuse.

On queries regarding need for new laws for coal auction, Shri Jaitley said that the incomplete law of 2010 needed to be updated so that whoever bids for the mineral would *ipso facto* get the rights of the land and the infrastructure, and the old owner would be compensated under the law. Similarly, in case of mines and minerals the previous law was contrary to the Supreme Court judgement, because it provided for either auction or first come-first served basis which was a discretionary procedure, he added.

The Budget (Railways) 2015-2016: The Budget (Railways) 2015-16 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha, on 26 February 2015. General discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2015-2016 took place on 11, 13, 16 and 17 March, 2015.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra of the Indian National Congress (INC) said that the Budget (Railways) 2015-16 had been quite disappointing and said that the sensex fell by 261 points the day Railway Budget was presented. It was evident that the Budget was not conducive to the economy and social set up as the record increase in passengers fare and freight rates would have direct impact on poor population, he added. He further said that the Railway Minister did not mention anything about operational capacity, recovery of fare and financial liabilities of Railways. On the Government's decision to bring Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Railways, he said that in the age of globalization, it was necessary to bring in FDI in various fields and UPA Government had also acknowledged the fact.

Participating in the discussion* Shri K.C. Tyagi of the Janata Dal (United) said that the process of globalization and liberalization started in the country from 1991. Since then, a number of Railway employees had reduced from 17 lakh to 13 lakh, while number of trains had increased manifold. Shri Tyagi said that the budget was basically for privatization of the Railways. With regard to the Government's proposal to seek investments from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), he requested that the Railway Minister share the details of such proposals and the map of such projects. Shri Tyagi further said that since 90 per cent of the country's population travel by train, the Government should make such provisions so as to enable more people to travel by trains at more economical rates instead of bringing in expensive trains in the country,

Appreciating the Railway Budget, Shri Ramdas Athawale of the Republican Party of India (A) called it a revolutionary Budget and said that instead of making announcements for starting new trains to make people happy, the Government promised to complete the delayed projects at the earliest. Shri Athawale requested the Railways Minister

* Other participants of the discussion were: *Sarvashri* Vijay Goel, Gulam Rasool Balyawi, Narendra Kumar Kashyap, T.K. Rangarajan, A.U. Singh Deo, Sanjay Raut, Praful Patel, M.P. Achuthan, Husain Dalwai, Avinash Rai Khanna, Neeraj Shekhar, Rajpal Singh Saini, A.V. Swamy, Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel, Derek O'Brien, K.N. Balagopal, Parimal Nathwani, D. Raja, V. Hanumantha Rao, Meghraj Jain, Joy Abraham, Md. Nadimul Haque, Narayan Lal Panchariya, Lal Sinh Vadodia, Shri Sanjiv Kumar, Bhupinder Singh, Rajeev Shukla, Baishnab Parida, Jairam Ramesh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Haji Abdul Salam, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Shrimati Kanak Lata Singh, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth, Shrimati Gundu Sudharani and Shrimati Viplove Thakur.

that class IV employees, who generally get promoted after 8-10 years or just before retirement should get promotion within 3 years. While appreciating that allocations were made keeping in view the needs of all States, he requested for increasing general coaches in trains.

Replying to the points raised by the Members, the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu thanked the Members for giving constructive suggestions and offering ideas to improve the performance of Railways. While acknowledging that there had been problems like over-crowding, delays, bad food, deteriorating service, corruption, less connectivity *etc*, the Minister said that the real cause of these problems had been less investment and bad management. He advocated for a strategy that would bring in more transparency and better financial management in order to improve the performance of the railways.

The Minister further explained how an amount of Rs. 8.5 lakh crore would be needed to address different sectors of Railways *viz.* for network expansion, electrification, safety measures, application of information technology, rolling stock, passenger amenities, station redevelopment and logistics. While explaining about the means to arrange the money, he informed that LIC had decided to provide Rs.1,50,000 crore for Railways for five years through long term maturity funds; the Finance Ministry would provide Rs.60,000 crore a year, which would mean Rs.3,00,000 crore as gross budgetary support, and the World Bank, IFC, ADB, would lend the necessary money as long-term soft loan. While replying to the objection of some Members in this regard, he said that if States like Kerala, West Bengal and Bihar could take loan from World Bank and ADB, the Centre should not be criticised for the same. Further, he informed that a MoU was being signed with the India Infrastructure Ltd., a Government of India company, to establish a fund which would finance the operations in Railways. He also said that Railways would draw substantial amount from tax-free bonds and infra-fund to be created by the Ministry of Finance.

On the issue raised by some Members regarding Railway Board and delegation of work, the Railway Minister informed that he had delegated all powers of issuing tenders to the General Managers and it would further be delegated to DRM and Station Masters also. Regarding transparency, he said that for the first time, appointments of Chairman, Members of Railway Board and also of General Managers had been done in the most transparent manner. Shri Prabhu further informed that all the commercial transaction, including catering, would be done through e-tendering, and to check corruption in recruitments, online procedure would be followed. For better financial management, he said

that the Government was trying to put in place an accounting system which, apart from book-keeping, would serve the purpose of complete tracking of expenditure.

Dismissing the charge that the Budget did not have a plan for customers, Shri Prabhu said that most of the Budget was in fact devoted only for customer service. On the issue of drinking water, he said the Government had decided to install water filters which would make available water at cheaper rates than the bottled water. Regarding safety, he informed that the Government was trying to avoid unmanned level crossings and to construct highest ever 9,000 Road Under Bridges (RUBs) and Road Over Bridges (ROBs). He also informed that the use of geospatial technology was also being tried to find out how a moving train could be properly tracked and signal could be given on time. As for bio-toilets, he informed that all new trains were fitted with bio-toilets and toilets were being replaced as and when a train came for repair and maintenance. While appreciating the suggestion regarding logistic park and integrated transport solution, the Minister said that the Government was already working on it. He also informed that the Government had decided to appoint a Regulator which would look into issues like tracking ticket-less travel, monetization of assets and recovery of cost *etc.*

Shri Prabhu also informed about the decision to make a special joint venture company with all major States to work with Railways. While stating that he refused any increase in freight rates, he said that it had been decreased in many cases and increased in some cases. Regarding reservation for Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes in the Railways, he informed that the overall position of representation for the year ending 31 March 2014 was 17.06 per cent and 7.81 per cent, respectively. He concluded by requesting all Members to join in the long journey of making Railways more comfortable.

Short Duration Discussion Losses Suffered by Farmers due to Recent Rains in Various Parts of Country:

A Short Duration Discussion on losses suffered by farmers due to recent rains in various parts of country took place on 3 and 4 March 2015. Initiating the discussion, Shri Ram Gopal Yadav of Samajwadi Party (SP) said that situation of farmers had always been dependant on nature and the harmful effect of climate change had worsened their situation. He said that the untimely heavy rains had destroyed their crops like wheat, potato, gram and pulses and inflicted heavy losses to them. He urged the Government to announce a special package to compensate their losses and to waive off or defer the payment of their

loans and not to take any interest on that. He also said that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture had always talked about crop insurance, but 'Crop Insurance Scheme' was not implemented effectively and only farmers having 'Kisan Credit Card' were covered under the scheme, and due to high premium even eligible farmers could not take its benefit.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said that whenever produce of farmer are destroyed, labourers, transporters, businessmen and ultimately consumers are affected along with the farmers. He further said that the untimely rains had affected not only wheat crops but other horticulture crops as well. He pointed out that the rains had affected at least 35 lakh hectares of land in Punjab, 25 lakh hectare in Haryana and around 50 hectares in Maharashtra. He requested the Government to instruct the States to assess the actual loss and formulate a plan for compensating the loss immediately. He appreciated the 'Soil Health Card' scheme of the Government and welcomed the Government's announcement regarding Agricultural Development Plan. He said that the Ministry of Agriculture should take steps for speedy implementation of schemes for organic farming. While welcoming the provision of 53 thousand crore made by the Government for minor irrigation, he requested that the ambitious *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana* be implemented at the earliest for the benefit of farmers.

Joining the discussion, Shri Bhupinder Singh of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) said that the untimely rains and hailstorm had affected not only farmers, but the whole poor section of the society. He urged the Ministry of Finance to work on insurance facility for farmers. He further said that the compensation of Rs.4,500 per hectare and Rs.9,000 per hectare for irrigated land was very less and added that compensation amount given to farmers should also be increased since cost of inputs like urea, fertilizer *etc.* used in the farming had increased.

Replying to the points raised by the Members, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that the heavy and unseasonal rains and hailstorm of the last 2-3 days has affected the crops in many states *viz.* Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,

* Others who took part in the discussion: *Sarvashri* Pramod Tiwari, Balwinder Singh Bhunder, D. Bandyopadhyay, Rajpal Singh Saini, K.N. Balagopal, Anil Desai, Husain Dalwai, Shri Ram Narain Dudi, Meghraj Jain, Ranjib Biswal, Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Sharad Yadav, Bhupender Yadav, Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly, Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Dr. Vijaylaxmi Sadho and Dr. Sanjay Sinh.

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh etc. He informed that the Government had received initial evaluation of the calamity and he was in touch with the representatives of the States and most of them have already started taking steps to counter the problem.

While speaking on the insurance schemes, Shri Singh said that since many States were against the 'Modified Agriculture Insurance Scheme', the Government announced to bring a new scheme in the new financial year *i.e.* 2015-16 with the name 'Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme'. He also informed that some States want to follow 'Modified Agriculture Insurance Scheme' and some have their 'Weather based Insurance Scheme'. He said that it was the discretion of States as to which scheme they want to follow, however, they would have to take approval from the Centre. The States have to decide, which insurance agencies should be involved and what norms are to be followed by them. He also informed that States had been allocated sufficient funds under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and they have enough funds with them.

Calling Attention to the Plight of Rubber Farmers Due to Fall in Prices of Rubber: On 12 March 2015, Shri P. Rajeeve of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) called the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the plight of rubber farmers due to fall in prices of rubber.

Replying to the points raised by the Members, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that soon after the Government took charge, the Government held a meeting with the Finance Minister of Kerala on the issue. Since then, the Government had been monitoring, addressing and engaging with people and Members of Parliament concerned about the matter on a monthly basis.

Smt. Sitharaman further said that the first point noticed by the Government was that the import of rubber was quite high, and there was suspicion that the Advanced Licensing mechanism was being misused for bringing imported rubber, meant for production of export products, into the domestic market. She said that the Government was seized of the matter and refuted the allegation that the Government was trying to help the corporate tyre manufacturers alive at the cost of rubber producers. The Minister said that the Government understood, that, unless rubber growers get cost effective and remunerative rubber, the industry depending on them for raw material could not survive.

While explaining as to why rubber import could not be stopped

altogether, the Minister said that rubber grown in the country was not adequate enough to sustain the industry's demand in the country and assured the Members that it had nothing to do with the World Trade Organisation (WTO). She added that the Government would raise the import duty to 25 per cent. On a suggestion that it should be made compulsory for Indian manufacturers to buy rubber firstly from Indian growers, Smt Sitharaman stated that such decision was possible only if Indian prices were far lower than the international price or if, there had been a glut in the market or in prevalence of both the situations. In India the local price had been higher than the international price and despite that it was not enough to meet their cost of production.

Smt Sitharaman further informed that an Expert Committee was looking into the matter from all aspects and with all the constraints, the Government was looking at various short-term, medium-term and long-term ways to solve the problem. Welcoming the suggestion that there should be locally established units where rubber growers could supply the produce for processing, purification and prepare it for industry use, she said that the Government would consider it.

Speaking on Insurance-linked Income Support Scheme, Smt Sitharaman said that the Government was constrained due to inadequate real time data about the Above Poverty Line (APL) or Below Poverty Line (BPL) farmers to whom some kind of immediate assistance could be given. The reason for this had been that the rubber growers were not required, mandatorily, to register with the Rubber Board. She assured that the Government would be doing it on a pilot basis once its concerns are addressed by the Expert Committee and by the Finance Ministry.

Statement regarding Outbreak of H1N1 Seasonal Influenza and Steps Taken by Government of India in this Regard: On 24 February 2015, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, made a statement regarding outbreak of H1N1 seasonal influenza and steps taken by Government of India in this regard. He said that even though Influenza had been of seasonal nature, with maximum impact during this time of the year, the morbidity and mortality associated with it were matter of great concern. He informed that in 2009, the number of deaths was 981 and in 2010, the deaths increased to 1,763. He further stated that Influenza was caused by virus of three types – A, B and C. Type A virus had caused major Pandemics and Epidemics across the globe as it had the tendency to undergo mutation against which the affected population might not have sufficient immunity.

Elaborating on current situation, Shri Nadda informed that from 1 January till 22 February 2015, the number of cases reported by the

Sates was 14,673 and number of deaths was 841. He said that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had been closely monitoring the situation and centre had been in regular contact with the Government of the affected States. He further said that for containment of the impact of influenza, the States had been provided guidelines on screening, risk categorization of patients, clinical case management and ventilator management. He also informed that the Government had already supplied 58,000 capsules of Oseltamivir, required for treatment of Influenza A H1N1, and 3000 N-95 masks and 9,500 Personal Protective Equipment. He further informed that the Centre had been in regular touch with the States to ascertain their stock position, and an emergency stock of Oseltamivir drug was also being maintained to meet any sudden requirement. Further, to guide and assist the State Governments, teams from the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry were sent to Telangana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, he added.

Clarifying some media reports regarding shortages of Oseltamivir, the Minister said that the drug, recommended by WHO, was being manufactured in India and its manufacturers had confirmed that they have sufficient capacity and stock of active pharmaceutical ingredients to meet the requirements. Oseltamivir, however, could not be sold over the counter and would be made available only against prescription by a qualified doctor. The drug would be sold through a chemist with licence under Schedule X of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. In addition, the drug was available through the public health system. Shri Nadda said that the Government could not afford a situation where due to irrational use of the drug, resistance develops, rendering the drug incapable of fighting the virus. The laboratory network of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and the Indian Council of Medical Research, comprising 21 laboratories across different parts of India, had been providing free testing facilities for Influenza A H1N1. The affected States had further supplemented these efforts by authorising private diagnostic laboratories for conducting tests. Concerned State Governments had been advised by the Director General of Health Services to ensure that the private laboratories did not charge high rates and the rates should be fixed by the State Government.

The Minister said that after due consultations with experts, vaccination had been recommended only for the healthcare workers and had not been advocated for general public at this juncture since vaccination becomes effective after about three to four weeks of the injection and the immunity last for about a year. He further informed that as per

information gathered from the State Governments, it appeared that many of the deaths may be attributed to the co-morbid conditions of the Influenza A H1N1 affected patients. Such persons were immuno-compromised and hence, more vulnerable. He also said that the in many cases, the affected persons sought medical intervention very late, thus deteriorating the health of patients. Shri Nadda also informed that the States had been undertaking massive Information-Education-Communication (IEC) campaign using different media like advertisements through print media, radio and television. This also included advertisements in vernacular languages. He further said that the campaign's focus was on how to prevent the transmission of disease as also on the action to be taken with the onset of symptoms such as cough, fever *etc.* He assured the Members that the situation was being monitored closely and no efforts would be spared for effectively dealing with the situation.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015*: On 4 March 2015, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, moved that the Bill to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken up for consideration. The Bill sought to replace the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2015). The Citizenship Act, 1955 provided for the acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship, after the commencement of the Constitution, by birth, descent, registration, naturalization and citizenship under certain circumstances. The Act had been amended, from time to time, *inter alia*, making enabling provisions for registration of Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholder, conferment of certain rights on such citizens and renunciation of overseas citizenship and cancellation of registration as OCI cardholder. Due to certain lacunae that were being noticed during the implementation and review of provisions of the Citizenship Act, some amendments were proposed through the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2015. The Bill proposed to amend section 5 of the Act so as to (i) substitute the words 'has been residing in India for one year' with the words 'is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months' in clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1); (ii) substitute the words "overseas citizen of India" with the words "Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder"; and (iii) insert new sub-section (1A) to enable the Central Government to relax the period of twelve months specified in clauses (f) and (g) and clause

* The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha on 2 March 2015 was laid on the table of the House on 3 March 2015.

(i) of *Explanation 1* of sub-section (1), up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks. Further, the Bill proposed to substitute sections 7A, 7B, 7C and & 7D of the Citizenship Act to provide for (i) registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholder and also that the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Cardholders shall be deemed to be Overseas Citizen of India Cardholders; (ii) conferment of rights on Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder; (iii) renunciation of Overseas Citizen of India Card; and (iv) cancellation of registration as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder. The Bill also provided for insertion of a proviso to clause (c) of the Third Schedule to the Citizenship Act to empower the Central Government to relax the period of twelve months as resident of India or in the service of a Government in India specified as one of the qualifications for grant of certificate of naturalisation by a period up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks*.

Replying to the queries of the Members**, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju expressed gratitude to the Members for participating in the discussion and supporting the provisions in the Bill. Shri Rijiju said that 9 January 2015 marked the completion of 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India. He reminded that the Prime Minister had made an announcement in US and Australia to merge Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) cards before January 9 and said that the ordinance was brought to honour this commitment. While clarifying on the need to merge PIO with OCI, the Minister explained that the benefit of both the schemes was applicable till grandchildren of such cardholders, and now the Bill has extended the provision till their great-grandchildren, and the Amendment has also extended the facility to the foreigner spouse of an Indian OCI cardholder which was not allowed earlier. While noting that till now, a foreigner visiting India was supposed to approach Foreigner Registration Officer (FRO)/ Foreigner Regional Registration Offices (FRRO) within 30 days after completion of his 180 days stay in the country, he said explained that with a new provision of the Bill, this clause has been done away with. Responding to the concern of some Members regarding discrimination or harassment in the registration process, the Minister assured the House that it would be ensured that entire process of

* Extract from the 'Statement of Objects & Reasons' of the Bill.

** Those who participated in the discussion were Sarvashri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Bhupender Yadav, Derek O'Brien, K.C. Tyagi, P. Rajeeve, D. Raja, Shantaram Naik, Pyarimohan Mohapatra, Kalpataru Das, Tiruchi Siva, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Dr. V. Maitreyan and Km. Mayawati.

acquisition of OCI cardholders would be smooth and nobody would be made to pass through unnecessary hassles.

The Statutory Resolution* disapproving the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2015), promulgated by the President of India on 6 January 2015, was discussed along with the Bill and, by leave, was withdrawn.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and clauses, *etc.* was adopted and the Bill was passed with amendments.

The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015**: On 12 March 2015, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha, moved that the Bill to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and to amend the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken up for consideration. The Insurance Act, 1938 provides for and regulates the insurance business in the country. However, with the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (the IRDA Act), the insurance business was opened up to the private sector. The IRDA Act paved the way for establishment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to protect the interest of holders of insurance policies. The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 (GIBNA Act) nationalized the general insurance business of India***.

Moving the motion, the Minister said that 'The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015' which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 4 March 2015 sought to replace 'The Insurance Law (Amendment) Ordinance of 2014'. He explained that the Bill aimed at removing archaic and redundant provisions in the legislations and incorporating certain provisions, to provide the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) of India flexibility to discharge its functions more effectively and enabling greater foreign investment in the sector. Elaborating the provisions of the Bill, the Minister informed that the Bill provided for enhancing the cap for foreign equity investment in an Indian insurance company from 26 per cent to 49 per cent with a safeguard of Indian ownership and control; to insert a definition of 'health insurance business' inclusive of travel and personal accident cover; to empower IRDAI to

* The Statutory Resolution was moved by Shri Derek O'Brien of All India Trinamool Congress.

** The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha on 4 March 2015 was laid on the table of the House on 9 March 2015.

*** Extract from the 'Statement of Objects & Reasons' of the Bill.

regulate amalgamation and transfer of insurance business; to make provisions for absolute and conditional assignment of life insurance policies; making insurer responsible for all acts and omissions of his agents, including violation of code of conduct and be liable for a penalty which may extend to Rs. 1 crore; to make a provision for prohibition of insurance business through multi-level marketing; to make a provision relating to appointment of surveyors or loss assessors and make them subject to a code of conduct; to enable mandatory underwriting of third party motor vehicle insurance by insurance companies; to incorporate provisions to enable insurance companies to raise capital through new and innovative instruments; to enhance the provision relating to penalty and punishment for contravention of certain provisions of the Act and to make provisions for an appeal to the Securities Appellate Tribunal against orders issued by IRDA. The Minister said that the amendments were expected to enable the sector to achieve its full growth potential to increase insurance penetration from its level of about 3.8 per cent in the country to 6 per cent or higher.

Replying to the points raised by the Members* Shri Sinha said that Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) had been working very well and its insurance penetration of 3.1 per cent in the life insurance sector, while below world average, was not unsatisfactory. He further said that insurance market comprised many different products, such as health insurance and crop insurance. Regarding capital, the Minister said that different types of insurance products, like crop insurance, earthquake insurance or fire insurance, often, come in clusters and it had to be ensured that there was enough capital in hand for the payment of claims on time. In the absence of capital, the insurance industry could not grow. Explaining as to why insurance penetration had not gone up even though FDI had increased, the Minister suggested not to draw conclusions just on the basis of a small time-series of data. He assured the Members that investments would definitely come in. Further, speaking on how premiums would be invested in infrastructure and other long term investments, he mentioned about the MoU signed between the Railways and the LIC, which could be vital for the growth of infrastructure. He also mentioned about regulations which would ensure that 15 per cent of the investments made by insurance companies would go into infrastructure. With regard to the concern that premium money could go out of country through offshore investments, the Minister assured that

* Other Members who participated in the discussion were: *Sarvashri* Derek O'Brien, Vayalar Ravi, Meghraj Jain, Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, Bhupinder Singh, A.W. Rabi Bernard, Veer Singh, M.P. Achuthan, Tarun Vijay and Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya.

as per Clause 27E of the Bill, no insurer would directly or indirectly invest the policy holders' money outside India.

The Statutory Resolution* disapproving the Insurance Law (Amendment) Ordinance of 2014 (Ordinance No.8 of 2014), promulgated by the President of India on 26 December 2014, was discussed along with the Bill, and it was negatived.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and clauses, *etc.* was adopted and the Bill was passed with amendments.

C. QUESTIONS

During the Session, 8258 notices of Questions (6,006 Starred and 2,252 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 255 Questions were admitted as Starred and 2719 Questions were admitted as Unstarred. The total number of Starred Questions orally answered was 93. The total number of Questions received in Hindi was 1,735.

Daily average of Questions: All the lists of Starred Questions contained 15 Questions each. On an average, 5.5 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum of Questions orally answered was 7 on 25th February 2015 and 17th March 2015.

All the lists of Unstarred Questions contained 160 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussions: 11 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussions were received; however none of them was discussed.

Short Notice Questions: 11 notices of Short Notice Questions were received, out of which only 1 were admitted and answered.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran, Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Shri Era Sambasivam, all former Members of Rajya Sabha, Shrimati Manorama D. Sharma, sitting Member of Rajya Sabha, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Shri R.K. Laxman, eminent Cartoonist.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

* The Statutory Resolution was moved by Shri D. Raja of Communist Party of India.

STATE LEGISLATURES

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Ninth Session of the Sixth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 23 March 2015 and was adjourned *sine die* on 27 March 2015. There were 5 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor, Smt. Mridula Sinha addressed the members of the State Legislative Assembly on 23 March 2015.

The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for her Address was moved by Dr. Pramod Sawant and seconded by Shri Ganesh Gaonkar. The Motion of Thanks along with 23 amendments was moved and discussion was held from 24 to 26 March 2015. The Chief Minister, Shri Laxmikant Parsekar replied to the debate. Thereafter, the amendments moved to the Motion of Thanks were put to vote of the House and were negatived. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Governor was adopted after discussion and voting in the House on 26 March 2015.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 6 Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2015 (Relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2014-15) (Second Batch); (ii) The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015; (iii) The Indian Stamp (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2015; (iv) The Goa State Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2015; (v) The Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2015; and (vi) The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Financial business: On 24 March 2015, the Chief Minister, Shri Laxmikant Parsekar presented the Supplementary Demands for the Grants for the year 2014-15 (Second Batch) which were discussed, voted and passed by the House. The connected-The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2015 (Relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2014-15) (Second Batch) was introduced, considered and passed by the House.

* Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

On 25 March 2015, the Chief Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2015-16.

On 26 March 2015, the 'Vote on Account' for the year 2015-16 was presented, discussed, voted and passed. The connected-The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015 was introduced, considered and passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Abdul Rehman Antulay, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, former Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Minority Affairs and Ex-Parliamentarian; Shri Murlu Deora, former Union Minister for Petroleum and Corporate Affairs and veteran Parliamentarian; Shri R.R. Patil, former Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, legendary jurist and former Supreme Court Judge; Justice Gurudas Dutta Kamat, eminent jurist and former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court; *Sarvashri* Shridhar Anant Painguinkar, C.P. Da Costa, Narayan Vargaonkar, Nilkant Chodankar, Sadanand Naik Gaonkar, Vishwambar Lolayekar and Gurudas Teli, all veteran freedom fighters; Antonio Gaonkar, former member of the State Legislative Assembly; Narsinh Fadte, noted theatre artiste; Raghuvir Nevrekar, veteran actor, director, producer and playwright in the field of theatre/dramas/films of Goan origin; Smt. Sitara Devi, Kathak legend; *Sarvashri* Balwant Shirgaonkar, noted theatre artiste; Deven Varma, veteran actor of the Indian cinema; Dr. Madhavi Sardesai, renowned Konkani litterateur; Shri J.B. Moraes, eminent Konkani litterateur; Dr. Ramamurthy Raut Desai, a distinguished doctor; Dr. Vasant Gowariker, a renowned space research scientist; Shri Ladu Krishna Naik Gaunekar, noted theatre artiste; Smt. Mandatai Bandekar, a noted social worker and industrialist; Prof. Madhukar D. Hathkangalekar, eminent Marathi litterateur; Shri R.K. Laxman, legendary cartoonist; Dr. Jose Pereira, an eminent ideologist, historian and litterateur; *Sarvashri* Sadashiv Amrapurkar, versatile actor of Indian cinema; Anil Chandrakant Devulkar *alias* Anil Kumar, a noted tiatrist; Caetano Fernandes, a Goan football legend; Dr. Meera Kosambi, noted sociologist and litterateur; Shri Vinod Mehta, eminent journalist, editor and author; Smt. Krishna Kalley, a versatile singer; and Shri Krishnarao Ganpatrao Sabale *alias* Sahir Sable, famous Marathi folk 'Powada' singer.

Tributes were also paid to late Shri Bhagat Singh, Shri Sukhdev and Shri Rajguru, veteran freedom fighters, on the occasion of Martyrs' day on 23 March 2015.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Session of the Tenth Manipur Legislative Assembly commenced on 25 February 2015 and was adjourned *sine die* on 16 March 2015. There were 7 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, 9 Bills were considered and passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Thokchom Chourajit Singh, former Secretary of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

One day Seventh Session of the Twelfth Nagaland Legislative Assembly was held on 5 February 2015 and was adjourned *sine die* on the same day.

The House was also prorogued by the Governor on the same day.

Address by the Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Governor, Shri P.B. Acharya addressed the members of the House on 5 February 2015. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Yitachu and seconded by Shri Y. Vikheho Swu.

Motion of Confidence: The Chief Minister, Shri T.R. Zeliang moved the Motion of Confidence in the House. Two members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister replied to the Motion of Confidence. The Motion was put to vote and adopted unanimously.

II

The Eighth Session of the Twelfth Nagaland Legislative Assembly commenced on 17 March 2015 and was adjourned *sine die* on 19 March 2015. The House was prorogued by the Governor on the same day. There were 2 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 8 Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House. (i) The ICFAI University Amendment Bill, 2014; (ii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2015; (iii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2015; (iv) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2015; (v) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 4)

* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Bill, 2015; (vi) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2015; (vii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 2015; and (viii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 7) Bill, 2015.

Financial business: During the Session, the Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented:-

- (i) Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2000-01;
- (ii) Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2005-06;
- (iii) Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2008-09;
- (iv) Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2009-10;
and
- (v) Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2010-11.

The Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2013-14; and the Statement of Vote on Account for the year 2014-15.

The Chief Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement (Vote on Account) for the year 2015-16

The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2000-2001 was taken up.

Demands Nos. 13, 33, 35, 37, 38, 41, 47, 49, 50, 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 64 and 74 was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2005-06 was taken up.

Demand Nos. 7, 11, 16, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 58, 60, 64, 68 and 76 was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2008-09 was taken up.

Demand Nos. 7, 11, 13, 26, 36, 38, 39, 46, 53, 58, 60, 65, 66, 67 and 70 was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2009-10 was taken up.

Demand Nos. 11, 14, 16, 22, 25, 26, 28, 32, 34, 35, 36, 41, 48, 50,

53, 56, 58, 60, 64, 67, 68, 69, 70 and 78 was put to vote and passed by the voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for the year 2010-11 was taken up.

Demand Nos. 4, 9, 22, 40, 43, 48, 50, 52, 58, 62, 63, 68, 70, 72, 78 and 79 was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2014-15 was taken up.

Demand Nos. 1 to 81 was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Vote on Account for the year 2015-16 was taken up. Demand Nos. 1 to 82 was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri A.E. Lotha, former Special Secretary of Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fifteenth West Bengal Legislative Assembly which commenced its Fifteenth Session on 19 February 2015 was adjourned *sine die* on 14 March 2015. There were 11 sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Sunil Kumar Majumdar, former Minister of State of the Government of West Bengal; Shri Ashoke Mukherjee and Dr. Qamre Elahi, Shri Benode Das, both former members of the State Legislative Assembly; *Sarvashri* Subhash Ghisingh, former Chairman of erstwhile Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council; Makhan Lal Natta, a legendary *Jatra* exponent; and Jaswant Rajput, former Olympic hockey player.

* Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

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APPENDIX I

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED
DURING THE FOURTH SESSION (PART-I) OF THE
SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23.2.2015 to 20.3.2015
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	19
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	131 Hours and 30 Minutes
4.	TIME LOST DUE TO INTERRUPTIONS/ FORCED ADJOURNMENTS	1 Hour and 48 Minutes
5.	HOUSE SITTING LATE TO COMPLETE LISTED BUSINESS	32 Hours and 51 Minutes
6.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	9
	(ii) Introduced	14
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	1
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ Recommendation and laid on the Table	2
	(v) Discussed	14
	(vi) Passed	14
	(vii) Withdrawn	1
	(viii) Negatived	Nil
	(ix) Part-discussed	Nil
	(x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	Nil
	(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	9
7.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	119
	(ii) Introduced	77
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	1
	(vi) Negatived	Nil
	(vii) Part-discussed	1
	(viii) Pending at the end of the Session	195
8.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notice received	3
	(ii) Admitted	Nil

(iii) Discussed	Nil
9. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	246
10. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	528
11. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193	
(i) Notice received	194
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Discussion held	1
(iv) Part-discussed	1
12. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197	2
13. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	28
14. ADJOURNMENT MOTION	
(i) Notice received	42
(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
(iii) Admitted	Nil
15. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED BY WAY OF CALLING ATTENTION	2
16. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	3
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Moved	2
(iv) Adopted	2
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Part-discussed	Nil
17. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	6
(ii) Admitted	6
(iii) Moved	2
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Part-discussed	1
18. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notice received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved & Discussed	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil

(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
19. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PARLIAMENT MUSEUM DURING THE SESSION	7,815
20. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	360
(ii) Un-starred	4,140
(iii) Short Notice Questions	Nil
(iv) Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

21. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	5	5
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of Women	5	—
iv)	Committee on Estimates	10	—
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	2	—
vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	—	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	3	3
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	4	4
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	6+5*	—
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	2	1
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	3+1^	2
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	3	—
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes	3	1
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—

* Sitting of sub-Committee

^ No business could be transacted.

xx) Rules Committee	1	1
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JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

i) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	3	—
ii) Joint Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	—

DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i) Committee on Agriculture	9	2
ii) Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	—	—
iii) Committee on Coal & Steel	—	—
iv) Committee on Defence	6	—
v) Committee on Energy	8	—
vi) Committee on External Affairs	7	—
vii) Committee on Finance	7	—
viii) Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	3	—
ix) Committee on Information Technology	3	—
x) Committee on Labour	5	1
xi) Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas	4	—
xii) Committee on Railways	3	—
xiii) Committee on Rural Development	6	—
xiv) Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	8	4
xv) Committee on Urban Development	5	—
xvi) Committee on Water Resources	3	—

CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period	No. of lectures held
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	Nil	Nil
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	Nil	Nil
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	Nil	Nil
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health	Nil	Nil
5.	Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change	Nil	Nil
6.	Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management	Nil	Nil
7.	Parliamentary Forum on Artisans & Crafts people	Nil	Nil
8.	Parliamentary Forum on Millennium Development Goals	Nil	Nil

APPENDIX II

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED
DURING THE 234TH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23.2.2015 to 20.3.2015
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	19
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	108 Hours and 51 Minutes
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	12
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	57
(ii) Introduced	NIL
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	13
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	NIL
(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	2
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	NIL
(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	NIL
(viii) Reported by Select Committee	2
(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	NIL
(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	3
(xi) Discussed	12
(xii) Passed	12
(xiii) Withdrawn	3
(xiv) Negatived	NIL
(xv) Part-discussed	NIL
(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	4
(xvii) Discussion postponed	NIL
(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	55
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	83
(ii) Introduced	12
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	NIL
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	NIL
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	NIL
(vi) Discussed	2 ¹
(vii) Withdrawn	2
(viii) Passed	NIL
(ix) Negatived	NIL
(x) Circulated for Eliciting Opinion	NIL

¹ Bills were discussed and thereafter withdrawn by leave of the House.

(xi) Part-discussed	1
(xii) Discussion Postponed	NIL
(xiii) Motion for Circulation of Bill negated	NIL
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	NIL
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	NIL
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	93
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notice received	18
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Discussions held	1
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
9. STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTERS	1
10. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	NIL
11. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	6
(ii) Admitted	6
(iii) Moved	5
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Negatived	4
(vi) Withdrawn	1
12. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	NIL
(ii) Admitted	NIL
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
13. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION	
(i) Received	9
(ii) Admitted	9
(iii) Discussed	NIL
(iv) Withdrawn	NIL
(v) Negatived	NIL
(vi) Adopted	NIL
(vii) Part-discussed	NIL
(viii) Discussion Postponed	NIL
14. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notice received	NIL
(ii) Admitted	NIL
(iii) Moved & discussed	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Part-discussed	NIL
15. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	24

(ii) Admitted	10
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Part-discussed	NIL
(vi) Negatived	NIL
(vii) Withdrawn	NIL
16. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	NIL
(ii) Admitted	NIL
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Negatived	NIL
(vi) Withdrawn	NIL
(vii) Part-discussed	NIL
(viii) Lapsed	NIL
17. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY.	Two Select Committees named 'The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015' and 'The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015' were constituted on 11.3.2015.
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1,477
19. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	2,728
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	192 passes issued on 17.3.2015
21. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	352 visitors visited on 17.3.2015
22. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	255
(ii) Unstarred	2,719
(iii) Short-Notice Questions	1
23. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	NIL
24. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES	

Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 st January to 31 st March, 2015	No. of Reports presented during the 234 th Session
(i) Business Advisory Committee	5	NIL
(ii) Committee on Subordinate Legislation	NIL	NIL
(iii) Committee on Petitions	1	NIL
(iv) Committee of Privileges	1	NIL
(v) Committee on Rules	NIL	NIL
(vi) Committee on Government Assurances	2	NIL
(vii) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	NIL

(viii) General Purposes Committee	NIL	NIL
(ix) House Committee	2	NIL
Department-related standing committees:		
(x) Commerce	3	NIL
(xi) Home Affairs	5	1
(xii) Human Resource Development	6	1
(xiii) Industry	7	NIL
(xiv) Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	4	NIL
(xv) Transport, Tourism and Culture	7	1
(xvi) Health and Family Welfare	8	NIL
(xvii) Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	8	1
Other Committees:		
(xviii) Committee on Ethics	1	NIL
(xix) Committee on Provision of Computer Equipment to Members of Rajya Sabha	NIL	NIL
(xx) Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	NIL	NIL

25. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
26. PETITIONS PRESENTED	NIL
27. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES	

Sl.No.	Name of Members sworn	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn
1.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	INC	23.2.2015
2.	Mir Mohammad Fayaz	J&K PDP	-do-
3.	Shri Nazir Ahmed Laway	J&K PDP	-do-
4.	Shri Shamsher Singh Manhas	BJP	-do-
5.	Shri Amar Shankar Sable	BJP	17.3.2015
6.	Shri Raj Babbar	INC	-do-
7.	Ms. Dola Sen	AITC	-do-

28. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud	King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2.	Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran	Ex-Member
3.	Shrimati Kamla Sinha	-do-
4.	Shri Rameshwar Thakur	-do-
5.	Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal	-do-
6.	Dr. Sarojini Mahishi	-do-
7.	Shri R.K. Laxman	Eminent Cartoonist
8.	Shrimati Manorama D. Sharma	Sitting Member
9.	Shri Era Sambasivam	Ex-Member

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced Passed]	Private Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES															
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	28.1.2015 to 30.1.2015 and 5.3.2015 to 10.3.2015	6	6(6)	Nil	27(27)	14(13)	4(3)								
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	20.2.2015 to 22.4.2015	28	(10)	NA	978(912)	(1)	243(282)								
Chhattisgarh L.A.	2.3.2015 to 26.3.2015	17	19(19)	—	1,749(1,036)	1,281(843)	Nil								
Goa L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	23.2.2015 to 31.3.2015	29	20(20)	1	6,205(4,642)	464(347)	3								
Haryana L.A.	9.3.2015 to 25.3.2015	13	7(7)	Nil	745(558)	153(103)	Nil								
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	27.2.2015 to 30.3.2015	19	7(7)	Nil	623(835)	(209)	835(281)								
Karnataka L.A.	2.2.2015 to 13.2.2015 and 13.3.2015 to 1.4.2015	23	19(18)	—	315(315)	4,665(4,665)	Nil								

Karnataka L.C.	2.2.2015 to 13.2.2015 and 13.3.2015 to 1.4.2015	23	18(18)	—	2,464(315)	629(2,778)	1(1)
Kerala L.A.	6.3.2015 to 23.3.2015	8	4(2)	Nil	3,824(2,960)	2,490(3,276)	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	18.2.2015 to 26.2.2015 and 24.3.2015	8	4(4)	Nil	3,561(2,513)	2,485(1,989)	Nil
Maharashtra L.A.	9.3.2015 to 10.4.2015	23	17(15)	3	11,085(1,015)	6(4)	5(2)
Maharashtra L.C.	9.3.2015 to 10.4.2015	23	1(1)	3	3,955(3,319)	23(13)	2
Manipur L.A.	25.2.2015 to 16.3.2015	7	8(9)	Nil	43(43)	28(28)	2(2)
Meghalaya L.A.	9.3.2015 to 25.3.2015	13	5(5)	—	204(192)	11(11)	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	5.2.2015 to 5.2.2015 and 17.3.2015 to 19.3.2015	3	7(8)	Nil	8(8)	Nil	Nil
Odisha L.A.	6.2.2015 to 31.3.2015	28	3(1)	Nil	2,990(2,427)	3,929(4,936)	8
Punjab L.A.	12.3.2015 to 25.3.2015	8	16(16)	Nil	767(263)	34(51)*	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	16.3.2015 to 17.3.2015	3	2(2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu L.A.	17.2.2015 to 23.2.2015 and 25.3.2015 to 1.4.2015	9	5(5)	Nil	(561)	(2,091)	Nil
Telangana L.A.	7.3.2015 to 26.3.2015	15	8(7)	Nil	493(233)	(69)	39(12)
Telangana L.C.	9.3.2015 to 27.3.2015	10	(7)	—	425(279)	30(30)	6(5)
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	18.2.2015 to 26.3.2015	19	14(14)	Nil	1,110(712)	2,540(1,688)	485(320)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	18.2.2015 to 26.3.2015	11	(14)	Nil	962(839)	336(324)	234(217)
West Bengal L.A.	19.2.2015 to 4.3.2015	11	6(6)	Nil	574(222)	84(40)	Nil
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puduchery L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* 23 Starred Questions were admitted as Unstarred Questions by Hon'ble Speaker

** Information not received from the State/Union Territory Legislature.

APPENDIX III (Contd.)
COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS
PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Business Advisory Committee																
Committee on Government Assurances																
Committee on Petitions																
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions																
Committee of Privileges																
Committee on Public Undertakings																
Committee on Subordinate Legislation																
Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs																
Committee on Estimates																
General Purposes Committee																
House/Accommodation Committee																
Library Committee																
Public Accounts Committee																
Rules Committee																
Joint/Select Committee																
Other Committees																
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sikkim L.A.	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	3	1	—	NA
Tamil Nadu L.A.	2	3(15)	Nil	—	—	2	Nil	Nil	2(25)	Nil	—	1(1) ^(o)
Telangana L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(1)	—	—
Telangana L.C.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(1)	—	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	7(7)	4(2)	1(1)	—	2(12)	Nil	4	1(2)	—	Nil	1	2
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	5	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44 ⁽ⁿ⁾
West Bengal L.A.	3(3)	10(1)	10	—	9	10(1)	11	—	11	11	9	269 ^(o)
UNION TERRITORIES												
Delhi L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puduchery L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

** Information not received from the State/Union Territory Legislature.

- (a) Paper Laid on the Table-8, *Nivedan* Committee-9(1), *Zila Parishad Panchayat Raj*-12, Question and Call Attention-10, Zero Hour Committee-10, Minorities Welfare Committee-8, Ethics Committee-6, Human Rights Committee-9, *Kalazar Niyanttran Janch* Committee-9
- (b) Committee relating to the Examination of the Papers Laid on the Table-1
- (c) Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-1 and Absence of Members Committee-1(1)
- (d) Committee on Local Bodies and *Panchayati Raj*-9(3), Committee on Public Health, Irrigation and Power-13(1) and Press Gallery Committee-1
- (e) Committee on Welfare of Minority Backward Classes and Feeble Section-1
- (f) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-6, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-7, Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-5(1), Committee on Local Bodies and *Panchayati Raj*-5, House Committee (Energy)-1, House Committee (NICE)-4, House Committee-4 and Club Committee-4
- (g) Committee on the Welfare of Senior Citizens-5, Committee on Environment-6(2), Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6, Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-6, Committee on the Welfare of Women, Children and Physically Handicapped-6, Committee on the Welfare of Fishermen and allied workers-4, Committee on the Welfare of Youth and Youth Affairs-6, Committee on Official Language-5, Committee on Local Fund Accounts-8(2), Committee on the Welfare of Non-Resident Keralites-2, Subject Committees-29(2)

- (h) Committee on Welfare Woman/Children-1
- (i) Hill Areas Committee-5
- (j) Standing Committee-I-5(4), Standing Committee-II-3(3), Standing Committee-III-3(4), Standing Committee-IV-5(5), Standing Committee-V-4(2), Standing Committee-VI-5(3), Standing Committee-VII-4(7), Standing Committee-VIII-5(4), Standing Committee-IX-4(2), Standing Committee-X-3(3), House Committee on Environment-5, House Committee on Railway-1, House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-3, House Committee on Boundary Dispute-1 and Submission Committee-5
- (k) Committee on Papers Laid / to be Laid on the Table of the House-8, Committee on Questions and References-7(1) and Committee on Local Bodies and *Panchayati Raj* Institutions-6(3)
- (l) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-1(1)
- (m) Committee Relating to Examination of Audit Reports of the Local Bodies of the State-2(2), Inquiry Committee on Sting Operation-5, *Panchayati Raj* Committee-2, Inquiry Committee on Dues Payment of the Employ of Modinagar Spinning Mill-1
- (n) Committee on Reference and Question-3, Committee on Financial and Administrative Delayed-3, Committee on Rules Revision-3, Committee on Parliamentary Study-8, Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-4, Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-1, Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, *Jila Panchayats* and Municipal Corporation-11, Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-2, Committee on Regulation Review-3, *Daivee Apada Prabandhan Janch Samiti*-1, Committee on Commercialization of Education-1 and *Vidhai Samadhikar Samiti*-1
- (o) Committee on *Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa*-11, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-10, Committee on the Entitlements of the Members-1, Committee on Affairs of Women and Children-10(1), Standing Committee on Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing and Fisheries-10, Standing Committee on Commerce and Industries, Industrial Reconstruction and Public Enterprises-9, Standing Committee on Micro and Small Scale Enterprises and Textiles and Animal Resources Development-9, Standing Committee on Higher Education-9, Standing Committee on School Education-10, Standing Committee on Environment, Forests and Tourism-8, Standing Committee on Finance, Excise and Development and Planning-12, Standing Committee on Food and Supplies, Food Processing and Horticulture and Co-operation and Consumer Affairs-10, Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare-11, Standing Committee on Home, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Jails, Law, Judicial and Civil Defence-9, Standing Committee on Housing, Hill Affairs and Fire Services-11, Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Services-9, Standing Committee on Irrigation and Waterways and Water Investigation and Development-10, Standing Committee on Labour-9, Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs and Urban Development-12, Standing Committee on *Panchayats* and Rural Development, Land and Land Reforms and Sundarban Development-10, Standing Committee on Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources-10, Standing Committee on Public Works and Public Health Engineering-10, Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Information Technology and Bio-Technology-10, Standing Committee on Self-Help Group and Self-Employment-10, Standing Committee on Social Welfare, Disaster Management and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation-10, Standing Committee on Transport-11, Standing Committee on Backward Classes Welfare-9 and Standing Committee on Minority Affairs-9

APPENDIX IV

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD**

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
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Nil

APPENDIX V**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES
OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD****1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015****ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Societies Registration (Extension to Arunachal Pradesh) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Global University Arunachal Pradesh Bill, 2015
3. The Arunachal Pradesh District Based Entrepreneurs and Professionals (Incentive, Development and Promotional Bill, 2015
4. The Arunachal Pradesh *Panchayati Raj* (Amendment) Bill, 2015
5. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015
6. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) (No.2) Bill, 2015

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2015
2. Bihar Viniyog (Lekhanudan) Vidheyak, 2015

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. Bihar Aakasmikta Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
2. Bihar Viniyog (Adhkai Vyay-2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08 evam 2008-09) Vidheyak, 2015
3. Bihar Krishi Viswavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
4. Shrimati Radhika Sinha Institute evam Sachidanand Sinha Library (Adhigrahan evam Prabandan) Vidheyak, 2015
5. Bihar Viniyog (Lekhanudan Sahit) Nirsan Vidheyak, 2015
6. Bihar Adhivakta Kalyan Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
7. Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2015
8. Bihar Vitta Vidheyak, 2015
9. Bihar Viniyog (Lekhanudan) Vidheyak, 2015

CHHATTISGARH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Chhattisgarh Viniyog (No.1) Vidheyak, 2015
2. Chhattisgarh Shashkiya Sevak (Adhivarshiki-Aayu) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
3. Chhattisgarh Matsya Chetra (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
4. Chhattisgarh Sahkari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
5. Chhattisgarh Yuvavon Ke Kaushal Vikas Ka Adhikar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
6. Audhyogik Vivad (Chhattisgarh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015

7. Chhattisgarh Bhu-Rajsva Sanhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
8. Bhartiya Stamp (Chhattisgarh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
9. Chhattisgarh Vishesh Nyayalaya Vidheyak, 2015
10. Chhattisgarh Aakasmikta Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
11. Chhattisgarh Viswavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
12. Chhattisgarh Niji Viswavidyalaya (Sthapana Evam Sanchalan) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
13. Chhattisgarh Viniyog (No.2) Vidheyak, 2015
14. Chhattisgarh Panchayati Raj (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
15. Chhattisgarh Krishi Upaj mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
16. Chhattisgarh manoranjan Shulk Tatha Vigyapan kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
17. Chhattisgarh Jila Yojna Samiti (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
18. Maharishi Management Evam Technology Viswavidyalaya (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2015
19. Chhattisgarh Mulya Sanvardhit Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Gujarat Public Works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Provincial Small Cause Courts (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Presidency Small Cause Courts (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2015
4. The Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar Bill, 2015
5. The Labour Laws (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2015
7. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2015
8. The Gujarat Private Universities (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015
9. The Gujarat Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015
10. The Gujarat University of Transplantation Sciences Bill, 2015
11. The Gujarat Court-fees (Amendment) Bill, 2015
12. The Gujarat Money-Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 2015
13. The Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2015
14. The Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015
15. The Gujarat Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2015
16. The Gujarat Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2015
17. The Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime Bill, 2015
18. The Gujarat District Planning Committees (Amendment) Bill, 2015
19. The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (Amendment) Bill, 2015
20. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2015

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Haryana State Board of Technical Education (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2015*
2. The Haryana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015*

3. The Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Bill, 2015
4. The Haryana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015
5. The Haryana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2015
6. The Indian Stamp (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2015*
7. The Haryana School Teachers Selection Board (Repealing) Bill, 2015*

JHARKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankya-1) Vidheyak, 2015
2. Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankya-2) Vidheyak, 2015
3. Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankya-3) Vidheyak, 2015
4. Jharkhand Aakasmikta Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
5. Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2015
6. Jharkhand Viniyog (Adikai Vyay 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11) Vidheyak, 2015

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2014
2. The Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority Bill, 2014
3. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2015
4. The Karnataka Legislatures Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2015
5. The University of Horticultural Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2015
7. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015
8. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015
9. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015
10. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2015
11. The Kannada Language Learning Bill, 2015
12. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
13. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2015
14. The Karnataka Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Bill, 2015
15. The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015
16. The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2015
17. The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2015
18. The Karnataka *Panchayati Raj* (Amendment) Bill, 2015

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2014
2. The Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority Bill, 2014
3. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2015
4. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 2015
5. The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment)

- Bill, 2014
6. The Karnataka Legislatures Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 7. The University of Horticultural Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 8. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2015
 9. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015
 10. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 11. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 12. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 13. The Kannada Language Learning Bill, 2015
 14. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 15. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2015
 16. The Karnataka Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Bill, 2015
 17. The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015
 18. The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2015
 19. The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 20. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2015
 21. The Karnataka *Panchayati Raj* (Amendment) Bill, 2015

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 2014
2. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account), Bill, 2014

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Madhya Pradesh Sahkari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
2. Madhya Pradesh Nagar Palika Vidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
3. Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2015
4. Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank-2) Vidheyak, 2015

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Maharashtra Police (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Maharashtra Village *Panchayats* (Amendment) Bill, 2015
4. The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2015
5. The Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib (Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The Maharashtra Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2015
7. The Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2015
8. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2015
9. The Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures (Amendment) Bill, 2015

10. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015
11. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2015
12. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2015
13. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2015
14. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2015
15. The Maharashtra Stamp Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015
16. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Maharashtra Police (Amendment) Bill, 2015
4. The Maharashtra Village *Panchayats* (Amendment) Bill, 2015
5. The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib (Amendment) Bill, 2015
7. The Maharashtra Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2015
8. The Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2015
9. The Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures (Amendment) Bill, 2015
10. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2015
11. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2015
12. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2015
13. The Maharashtra Stamp Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015
14. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2015
15. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015
16. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2015

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015*
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2015*
3. The Manipur Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2015*
4. The Manipur Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2015*
5. The Manipur Ropeways Bill, 2015*
6. The Manipur University of Culture Bill, 2015*
7. The Dhanamanjuri University Bill, 2015*
8. The Sangai International University Manipur Bill, 2015*
9. The Manipur Regulation of Visitors, Tenants and Migrant Workers Bill, 2015*

* Bills awaiting for assent.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Meghalaya Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015
2. The Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The North East Adventist University Bill, 2015
4. Meghalaya Clinker Cess Bill, 2015
5. Meghalaya Appropriation (II) Bill, 2015

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015
2. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2015
3. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2015
4. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2015
5. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2015
6. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 2015
7. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.7) Bill, 2015
8. The ICFAI University Amendment Bill, 2014*

ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Odisha Appropriation Bill, 2015

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
2. The Minimum Wages (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2015*
3. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
4. The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 2015*
5. The Punjab Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2015*
6. The Punjab Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2015*
7. The I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
8. The Akal University Bill, 2015*
9. The Surya World University Bill, 2015*
10. The Punjab Ancient, Historical Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage maintenance Board (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
11. The Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
12. The Punjab State Board of Technical Education and Industrial Training (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
13. The East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
14. The Punjab Legislative Assembly Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
15. The Punjab Legislative Assembly (Salaries and Allowances of Members) Amendment Bill, 2015*
16. The Punjab State Legislature Members (Pension and Medical Facilities Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015*

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Sikkim Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015
2. The Sikkim Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2015

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 2015
4. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015
5. The Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2015

TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Warangal (Metropolitan Area) Police Bill, 2015*
2. The Telangana Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2015*
3. The Telangana (Agricultural Produce and Livestock) Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
4. The Telangana Domestic and Industrial Water Grid Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Bill, 2015*
5. The Telangana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The Telangana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015
7. The Telangana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2015

TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Telangana Domestic and Industrial Water Grid Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Bill, 2015
2. The Telangana (Agricultural Produce and Livestock) Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Warangal (Metropolitan Area) Police Bill, 2015
4. The Telangana Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2015
5. The Telangana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The Telangana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2015
7. The Telangana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2015

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-social Activities (Prevention) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Uttar Pradesh Control of *Goondas* (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Uttar Pradesh Public Service (Tribunal) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
4. The Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah Bill, 2015
5. The J.S. University Shikohabad, Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh Bill, 2015
6. The Uttar Pradesh *Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak*, 2015
7. The Uttar Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015
8. The Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2015

9. The Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities (Amendment) Bill, 2015
10. The Uttar Pradesh Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Bill, 2015
11. The Uttar Pradesh Braj Planning and Development Board Bill, 2015
12. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2015
13. The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Reservation for Physically Handicapped, Dependents of Freedom Fighters and Ex-servicemen) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
14. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Members' Emoluments and Pension) (Amendment) Bill, 2015

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Uttar Pradesh Public Service (Tribunal) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
2. The Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah Bill, 2015
3. The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2015
4. The Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-social Activities (Prevention) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
5. The Uttar Pradesh Control of *Goondas* (Amendment) Bill, 2015
6. The J.S. University Shikohabad, Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh Bill, 2015
7. The Uttar Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015
8. The Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2015
9. The Uttar Pradesh Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Bill, 2015
10. The Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities (Amendment) Bill, 2015
11. The Uttar Pradesh Braj Planning and Development Board Bill, 2015
12. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2015
13. The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Reservation for Physically Handicapped, Dependents of Freedom Fighters and Ex-servicemen) (Amendment) Bill, 2015
14. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Members' Emoluments and Pension) (Amendment) Bill, 2015

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
2. The West Bengal Town and Country (Planning and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
3. The West Bengal University of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2015*
4. The West Bengal Finance Bill, 2015*
5. The West Bengal Appropriation Bill, 2015*
6. The West Bengal Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015*

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING
THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	6.1.2015	23.2.2015	—	Replaced by an Act of Parliament
2.	The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	7.1.2015	23.2.2015	—	Replaced by an Act of Parliament
3.	The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2015	12.1.2015	23.2.2015	—	Replaced by an Act of Parliament
HARYANA					
1.	The Haryana Value Added Tax (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2014	26.11.2014	9.3.2015	25.3.2015	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Haryana School Teachers Selection Board (Repealing) Ordinance, 2014	1.12.2014	9.3.2015	25.3.2015	Replaced by Legislation
KERALA					
1.	The Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Board Ordinance, 2015	9.1.2015	—	16.4.2015	—
2.	The Kerala Technological University Ordinance, 2015	9.1.2015	—	16.4.2015	—
3.	The Kerala Town and Country Planning Ordinance, 2015	9.1.2015	—	16.4.2015	—

		MAHARASHTRA			
1.	The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	31.12.2014	10.3.2015	10.3.2015	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Maharashtra Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	16.2.2015	10.3.2015	10.3.2015	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	18.2.2015	10.3.2015	10.3.2015	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	30.1.2015	10.3.2015	10.3.2015	—
5.	The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2015	4.2.2015	10.3.2015	10.3.2015	Replaced by Legislation
TELANGANA					
1.	The Telangana Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 2014	19.12.2014	9.3.2015	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Telangana (Agricultural Produce and Livestock) Markets (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	13.2.2015	9.3.2015	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Warangal (Metropolitan Area) Police Ordinance, 2015	13.2.2015	9.3.2015	—	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Telangana Domestic and Industrial Water Grid Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land), Ordinance, 2015	21.2.2015	9.3.2015	—	Replaced by Legislation
UTTAR PRADESH					
1.	The Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-social Activities (Prevention) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	20.1.2015	18.2.2015	—	—
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Control of Goondas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	4.2.2015	18.2.2015	—	—

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN 16TH LOK SABHA (STATE-WISE), (AS ON 31.3.2015)

States	No. of Seats	BJP	INC	AIA DMK	AITC	BJD	SS	TDP	TRS	CPI (M)	YSR CP	LJSP	NCP	SP	AAP	RJD	SAD	AIU DF	JKP DP	RLSP	AD
Andhra Pradesh	25	2	1	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	14	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Bihar	40	22	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
Chhattisgarh	11	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goa	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	26	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	10	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Jharkhand	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	28	17	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kerala	20	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	29	26*	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra	48	23	2	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Odisha	21	1	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	13	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	39	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana	17	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttarakhand	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	80	71	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
West Bengal	42	2	4	-	-	34	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daman & Diu	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NCT of Delhi	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puducherry	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	543	281*	44	37	34	20	18	16	11	9	9	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	2

* Excluding Speaker, LS

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

States	INLD	IUML	JD(S)	JD(U)	JMM	CPI	AINRC	KC (M)	NPF	NPP	PMK	RSP	SDF	AIM EIM	SWP	IND	Total	Vacancies
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-
Bihar	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-
Haryana	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Karnataka	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	28	-
Kerala	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28*	-
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	48	-
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Odisha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	39	-
Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	17	-
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-
UNION TERRITORIES																		
A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	542*	-

* Excluding Speaker, LS

Abbreviations used for Parties:

AAP–Aam Aadmi Party; AIADMK–All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; AIMEIM–All India Majlis–E–Ittehadul Muslimeen; AINRC–All India N.R. Congress; AITC–All India Trinamool Congress; AIUDF–All India United Democratic Front; AD–Apna Dal; BJD–Biju Janata Dal; BJP–Bharatiya Janata Party; CPI(M)–Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI–Communist Party of India; INC–Indian National Congress; IND–Independents; INLD–Indian National Lok Dal; IUML–Indian Union Muslim League; JKDP–Jammu & Kashmir People’s Democratic Party; JD(S)–Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)–Janata Dal (United); JMM–Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC(M)–Kerala Congress (M); LJSP–Lok Jan Shakti Party; NCP–Nationalist Congress Party; NPF–Nagaland Peoples Front; NPP–Nationalist People’s Party; PMK–Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD–Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLSP–Rashtriya Lok Samta Party; RSP–Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD–Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF–Sikkim Democratic Front; SP–Samajwadi Party; SWP–Swabhimani Paksha; SS–Shiv Sena; TDP–Telugu Desam Party; TRS–Telangana Rashtra Samithi; YSRCP–Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 27 MAY 2015)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	JD (U)	AIA-DMK	BSP	CPI	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
STATES														
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 ^(e)	-	11	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3.	Assam	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(b)	-	7	-
4.	Bihar	16	-	4	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
6.	Goa	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
8.	Haryana	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(c)	-	5	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ^(d)	-	4	-
11.	Jharkhand	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ^(e)	1	5	1
12.	Karnataka	12	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(f)	2	12	-
13.	Kerala	9	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	2 ^(g)	-	9	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
15.	Maharashtra	19	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 ^(h)	1	19	-
16.	Manipur	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
18.	Mizoram	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19.	Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ⁽ⁱ⁾	-	1	-
20.	Odisha	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 ^(j)	2	10	-
21.	Punjab	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 ^(k)	-	7	-
22.	Rajasthan	10	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-
23.	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(l)	-	1	-

24. Tamil Nadu	18	1	-	-	-	1	-	11	-	-	1	4 ^(m)	-	18	-	
25. Telangana	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 ⁽ⁿ⁾	-	7	-	
26. Tripura	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
27. Uttarakhand	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	
28. Uttar Pradesh	31	3	3	15	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	
29. West Bengal	16	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 ^(o)	-	16	-	
Union Territories																
30. The NCT of Delhi	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	
31. Puducherry	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
32. Nominated	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 ^(p)	-	12	-	
TOTAL	245	67	48	15	9	12	11	11	10	1	64	7	244	1	1	

Others**(Break-up of Parties/Groups)**

- (a) TDP-3, TRS-1
- (b) BPF-1
- (c) INLD-1
- (d) J&K PDP-2
- (e) RJD-1, JMM-1
- (f) JD(S)-1
- (g) KC(M)-1, IUMI-1
- (h) NCP-6, SS-3, RPI (A)-1
- (i) NPF-1
- (j) BJD-7
- (k) SAD-3
- (l) SDF-1
- (m) DMK-4
- (n) TDP-3
- (o) AITC-12
- (p) Nominated-10

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATIVES

States/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	60	47	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	60	—
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.	233	5	87	—	1	—	—	111	—	24 ^(a)	5	243	10
Bihar L.C.	75	4	16	—	2	—	—	41	—	7 ^(b)	5	75	—
Chhattisgarh L.A.	91	39	49	—	—	—	1	—	—	1 ^(c)	1	91	—
Goa L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	182	58	120	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	182	—
Haryana L.A.	90	15	46	—	—	—	1	—	—	23 ^(d)	5	90	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	82	6	43	—	1	—	1	—	—	31 ^(e)	—	82	—
Karnataka L.A.	225	123	44	—	—	—	—	—	40	9 ^(f)	9	225	—
Karnataka L.C.	75	28	30	—	—	—	—	—	12	1 ^(g)	4	75	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	230	58	163	—	—	—	4	—	—	2 ^(h)	3	231	1
Maharashtra L.A.	287	42	122	1	—	40	—	—	—	75 ⁽ⁱ⁾	7	289	2
Maharashtra L.C.	78	21	12	—	—	28	—	—	—	10 ^(j)	7	78	—
Manipur L.A.	60	43	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	16 ^(k)	—	60	—
Meghalaya L.A.	59	29	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	15 ^(l)	13	59	—

Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	60	8	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	38 ^(m)	8	—	—	60	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	147	16	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	118 ⁽ⁿ⁾	2	—	—	147	—	—	—
Punjab L.A.	116	43	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58 ^(o)	3	—	—	117	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31 ^(p)	1	—	—	32	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	235	5	—	—	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	212 ^(q)	—	—	—	235	—	—	—
Telangana L.A.	120	21	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	91 ^(r)	1	—	—	120	—	—	—
Telangana L.C.	28	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 ^(s)	—	—	—	40	—	—	12
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	404	28	40	—	—	—	1	79	—	—	—	—	247 ^(t)	6	—	—	404	—	—	3
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	99	2	7	—	—	—	—	54	—	—	—	—	32 ^(u)	4	—	—	100	—	—	1
West Bengal L.A.	295	38	1	38	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	214 ^(v)	2	—	—	295	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																				
Delhi L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union Territory Legislators contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union Territory Legislatures

- a) Rastriya Janata Dal-24
b) Rastriya Janata Dal-5, Chairman-1 and Deputy Chairman-1
c) Nominated-1
d) Indian National Lok Dal-19, Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)-2, Shiromani Akali Dal-1, Hon'ble Speaker-1
e) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-19, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (P)-2, All India Jharkhand Student's Union-5, Marxist Co-ordination-1, Jai Bharat Samanata Party-1, Jharkhand Party-1, Nav Jawan Sanghash Morcha-1
f) Badavara Shramikara Raihara Congress Paksha-3, Karnataka Janta Paksha-1, Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha-1, Karnataka Makkala Paksha-1 and Nominated-1
g) Chairman-1

- h) Speaker-1 and Nominated-1
- i) Shivsena-62, Peasant's and Workers Party-3, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi-3, All India Majlis-a-Ittehadual Muslimin-2, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena-1, Samajwadi party-1, Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh-1, Rashtriya Samaj Party-1 and Nominated-1
- j) Shivsena-7, Lokbharti-1, Peasants and Workers Party of India-1, People Republican Party-1
- k) All India Trinamool Congress-6, Manipur State Congress Party-5, Naga People Front-4, Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
- l) North East Social Democratic Party-1, United Democratic Party-8, National People's Party-2, Hill State People's Democratic Party-4
- m) Naga Peoples Front-38
- n) Biju Janata Dal-117 and Samatakranti Dal-1
- o) Shiromani Akali Dal-58
- p) Sikkim Democratic Front Party-21 and Sikkim Karantikari Morcha-10
- q) All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-151, Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam-28, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-23, Pattali Makkal Katchi-3, Puthiya Thamizhagam-2, All India Forward Bloc-1, Nominated Member-1 and Hon'ble Speaker-1
- r) Telangan Rashtra Samithi-65, Telugu Desam Party-15, All India Majlis Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen-7, Y.S.R. Congress Party-3 and Nominated-1
- s) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-7, Telugu Desam Party-2, All India Majlis Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen-2, Progressive Recognised Teachers Union-2 and Nominated-5
- t) Samajwadi Party-229, Rashtriya Lok Dal-8, Peace Party-4, Quami Ekta Dal-2, Apna Dal-1, Ittehad-E-Millat Council-1, All India Trinamool Congress-1 and Nominated-1
- u) Samajwadi Party-26, Rastriya Lok Dal-1 and Shikashak Dal-5
- v) All India Trinamool Congress-191, All India Forward Bloc-11, Revolutionary Socialist Party-6, Democratic Socialist Party-1, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha-3, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)-1 and Nominated-1

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BOOKS		
<i>Office of the Speaker</i>	10.00	15.00
<i>The Parliamentarian</i>	8.00	12.00
<i>A Guide for Election Observers</i>	7.50	12.00
<i>Strengthening Democracy</i>	15.00	25.00
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