

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XVI contains Nos. 11 to 23)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 22, 2011/Chaitra 1, 1933 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (Darbhanga): Madam Speaker, today it is Bihar Day. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : I congratulate you on Bihar Day.

11.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Madam, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4326/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2011-2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4327/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4328/15/11]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

[Kumari Selja]

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4329/15/11]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4330/15/11]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4331/15/11]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2009-2010.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4332/15/11]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2009-2010.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2009-2010, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2009-2010.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4333/15/11]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 2009-2010.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 2009-2010, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 2009-2010.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4334/15/11]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4335/15/11]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4336/15/11]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2009-2010.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4337/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):
Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4338/15/11]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

- (i) S.O. 2780(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th November, 2010, making

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

- certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 49(E) dated 8th January, 2008.
- (ii) S.O. 255(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th February, 2011, constituting the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Bihar.
 - (iii) S.O. 254(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th February, 2011, constituting the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab.
 - (iv) S.O. 2646(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th October, 2010, constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Andhra Pradesh.
 - (v) S.O. 2551(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th October, 2010, constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Uttar Pradesh.
 - (vi) S.O. 2402(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th October, 2010, constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka.
 - (vii) S.O. 1803(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2010, constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Gujarat.
 - (viii) S.O. 1333(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th June, 2010, constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, West Bengal.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4339/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 52 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009:—

- (1) The Legal Metrology (National Standards) Rules, 2011, published in Notification No. S.O. 211(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2011.
- (2) The Indian Institute of Legal Metrology Rules, 2011, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 76(E) in Gazette of India dated 9th February, 2011.
- (3) The Legal Metrology (Numeration) Amendment Rules, 2011, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 109(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2011.
- (4) The Legal Metrology (Numeration) Rules, 2011, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 13(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th January, 2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4340/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2008-2009.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4341/15/11]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the year 2009-2010 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4342/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, under sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4343/15/11]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008:—
- (i) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008, published in Notification No. 6 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2009.
- (ii) S.O. 3313(E) published in Gazette of India

dated 30th December, 2009, appointing the 31st day of December, 2009, as the date on which the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008, except Section 5, Section 6 and clause (b) of Section 21, shall come into force.

- (iii) S.O. 2687(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th December, 2009, appointing the 1st day of November, 2010, as the date on which the provisions of Section 5, Section 6 and clause (b) of Section 21 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008, shall come into force.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4344/15/11]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2216(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 9th September, 2010, empowering the Assistant Commissioner of Police, to exercise and perform, in relation to the police sub-division under his charge, the powers and duties of an Executive Magistrate under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, subject to the general control of the Commissioner of Police, Delhi under Section 71 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4345/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2011-2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4346/15/11]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2011-2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4347/15/11]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4348/15/11]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Project Exports Promotion Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Project Exports Promotion Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4349/15/11]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, Mumbai, for the year 2009-2010.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, Mumbai, for the year 2009-2010.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4350/15/11]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Defence Services) Air Force and Navy (No. 32 of 2010-11)-Performance Audit of Indigenous Construction of Indian Naval Warships for the year ended March, 2010 under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4351/15/11]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, for the year 2009-2010.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4352/15/11]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1992-1993.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar,

for the year 1992-1993, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4353/15/11]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Odisha Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Odisha Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4354/15/11]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4355/15/11]

11.03 hrs.

REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN THE
123RD ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegation in the 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 4 to 6 October, 2010.

11.03¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

12th to 14th Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Aonla): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports on requests for dropping of assurances.
- (2) Fourteenth Report on pending assurances pertaining to Ministry of Textiles.

11.03½ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 7th Report of the Standing Committee on Urban Development on Demands for Grants (2010-11) pertaining to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): Madam Speaker, I rise to lay this

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4356/15/11.

statement in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha which reads as under:—

“The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committees of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry.”

I would like to inform the hon. Members of the House that the 7th Report of the Standing Committee of the 15th Lok Sabha on Urban Development was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st April, 2010. The Report contains 10 recommendations. Latest status of Action Taken by the Government has been indicated against each recommendation in the enclosed statement. Action Taken Notes on these recommendations as prevailing in July, 2010 were sent to the Standing Committee on Urban Development on 19.07.2010.

Madam, Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. Members that further follow up action wherever necessary will be taken, in respect of these recommendations.

The Annexure to this statement is placed on the Table of the House.

11.03¾ hrs.

- (ii) (a) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2009-10) pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4357/15/11.

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Madam, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

The 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture was presented to the Parliament on 03.03.2010. The Report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2009-10.

There were 21 recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the said 5th Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain to promotion of food processing industries by way of development of Food Processing Sector, Budgetary Planning, Budgetary Allocation, Excessive Q-4 and March spending, Annual Plan 2009-10, Mid-Term Appraisal, Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Parks, Modernization of Abattoirs, Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, Technology Upgradation for Food Processing Industries. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Food Processing Policy, Strengthening Organizational Setup, Vision 2015, Manpower intensive nature of FPI sector and issue of pending Utilization Certificates.

Present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee and reported to the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement and the same is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents given in the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as having been read.

11.04 hrs.

- (ii) (b) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants**

(2010-11) pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Madam, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House:

The 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (15th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Parliament on 03.05.2010. The Report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2010-11.

There were 13 recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the said 9th Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain to promotion of food processing sector by way of Food Processing Policy. Over View of Demand, Plan Outlay and Annual Plan Allocation, Allocation to North East Region, Mid-Term Appraisal, Internal Evaluation and Perspective Planning, Mega Food Parks, Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment and Modernization of Food Processing Industries. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), food Processing Training Centres, Food Testing Laboratories, Outcome Budget and pending of Utilization Certificates.

Present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee and reported to the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement and the same is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents given in the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as having been read.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4358/15/11.

11.04¼ hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 3827, DATED 17.08.2010
REGARDING 'DECLINE IN COW POPULATION'
ALONG WITH REASONS FOR DELAY*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam, I beg to lay a Statement (i) correcting the reply given on 17.08.2010 to Unstarred Question No. 3827 by Shrimati Darshana Jardosh and Shri Harish Chaudhary, MPs regarding 'Decline in Cow Population' and (ii) the reasons for delay in making the Statement:—

- (a) Breed-wise data on livestock population is not available till 17th Livestock Census (2003). However, breed-wise information has been collected by the Government during 18th Livestock Census (2007), which has been tabulated. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the current population of indigenous breeds with their population in the earlier Censuses to draw any definite conclusion.
- (b) State-wise and breed-wise number of cattle as per 18th Livestock Census (2007) is given in the Annexure-I, which is laid on the Table.
- (c) Considering the importance of indigenous breeds in the national economy, Government has undertaken the following steps for their development and conservation:—
 - (i) Department is implementing National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding since October, 2000, which has focus on development and conservation of indig-

enous breeds. During Phase-I of the project in amount of Rs. 58 crore has been released to the States exclusively for development and conservation of indigenous breeds. An amount of Rs. 356.78 crore has been exclusively earmarked for development and conservation of indigenous breeds under Phase-II of NPCBB.

- (ii) Government is also implementing three central sector schemes, namely Central Cattle Breeding Farms, Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute and Central Herd Registration Scheme or production of genetically superior breed of bull calves, good quality frozen semen and identification of location of superior germplasm of cattle and buffaloes to meet the requirement of mils and frozen semen of some of the important indigenous breeds in the country.
- (iii) The Government is implementing the project entitled "Conservation of threatened breed of livestock" — a project dedicated to conserve livestock breeds on the verge of extinction.

11.04½ hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4359/15/11.

to the House on 18th March, 2011 excluding item (1) of paragraph 2 of the Report since disposed of by the House and also paragraph 3 of the Report.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 18th March, 2011 excluding item (1) of paragraph 2 of the Report since disposed of by the House and also paragraph 3 of the Report.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pranab Mukherjee to introduce Bills.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: It is just introduction of Bills.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I have to just introduce two Bills. I am not taking up the Finance Bill now. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, I have given notice for adjournment motion. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be silent, let this be taken up. You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Let these two Bills be introduced. After that, you can raise the issues.

11.05 hrs.

BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, and to make consequential amendments in certain other enactments.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, and to make consequential amendments in certain other enactments.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I introduce the Bill.

11.07 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 22.03.2011.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I introduce* the Bill.

11.07½ hrs.

RE: NOTICE OF QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received a notice of question of privilege under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha dated 22nd March, 2011, today at 1000 hours given against Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India for having allegedly misleading the House while giving a statement in the House on 18th March, 2011 regarding revelations made by Wikileaks. I am going through the issues raised in the notice of question of privilege. The matter is presently under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam, let me speak about the subject matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I have said it in my observation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Hazaribagh): Madam, let her speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: It is under my consideration. I have received the notice. I have said so.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: We have received a notice and

also discussed it. [English] It is under my consideration. I have just received it at 10 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Madam, please listen to the views of the leader of the opposition. ...(Interruptions) Madam, it is not good that the leader of the opposition has to struggle to convey her viewpoint. ...(Interruptions) Madam, it has never happened that the leader of the opposition has to struggle to convey his or her viewpoint. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I have to make two submissions. ...(Interruptions) Madam, I have two requests to make. ...(Interruptions) Madam, you please look towards me. ...(Interruptions) Madam Speaker, please look at me so that I can speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, my views may also be heard as I have also given a notice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We will listen to your views also. ...(Interruptions) Madam, I have two requests to make. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam Speaker, it is a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please calm down for a minute, it is a point of order.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: He is raising a point of order. Just sit down for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: What is the rule under which you are raising it? What is the rule?

...(Interruptions)

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I want to raise it under Rule 376. *[Translation]* I want to raise a point of order under Rule 376 and would like to quote Rule 334A. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please listen. *[English]* He is quoting the Rule.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Rule 334A says:

“334A. A notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the Speaker and circulated to member.”

[Translation]

Madam, until and unless you admit any notice of question of privilege, merely publishing it in the newspaper will not suffice. The members of the Bharatiya Janata Party has, day before yesterday, stated that they want to give a notice of question of privilege on the matter of wikileaks concerning the Prime Minister. The same was published in the newspapers and broadcast on television. This rule clearly mentions that the House will run as per the rules and by your order. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let me go through what is stated in that. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, it has been laid down in the Rule 334 that ‘a notice of a question shall not be given’ Madam, I would like to have your ruling on this. Please give your ruling on this. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I will look into this and give my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Your notice is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You are saying that privilege motion will be considered. However, I would like to say that I am not speaking on the subject on which hon. Members are speaking. *...(Interruptions)* You please listen to my viewpoint, I am not speaking on that. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You are speaking on which issue?

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am not speaking on that. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You are speaking on which subject? *[English]* I have not received your notice on any other issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: What issue you are referring to? *[English]* I have received your notice on privilege issue which is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I am not speaking on the privilege motion. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: On what subject you are speaking?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you ask him to sit down then only I can speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Jagdambika Palji, I will give my ruling let me go through it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: On what issue you want to speak?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Speaker Madam, I have also given a notice of adjournment motion, my views may also be heard. ...(Interruptions)

11.13 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Lal Krishna Advani wants to say something, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

11.14 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar went back to his seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Lal Krishna Advani is speaking, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing except what Advaniji says will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, I have also given a notice of adjournment motion.

MADAM SPEAKER: You will also be called to speak after him.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down, Advaniji is saying something.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam Speaker, I would like to remind you that in the history of India we have never been able to discuss threadbare in one session itself. One of the reasons for it was that on the very first day Shrimati Sushmaji was not allowed to speak. All the members of the Treasury Benches stood and prevented the leader of the opposition from speaking that too in such a way. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam Speaker, We have been repeatedly telling that we will not create any constitutional crises. We have conveyed this to Pranabji also and today morning Shrimati Sushmaji also said that we will not stall the Finance Bill, we cannot even think of it. We want that the Finance Bill be passed but if the leader of the opposition is not allowed to speak then there will be reaction to it naturally.

Madam Speaker, you are requested to give protection in this matter. It is your duty to give protection to the

*Not recorded.

leader of the opposition, hon. Prime Minister and the leader of the House whenever they want to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except what Shri Bansalji is saying.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let Shri Pawan Kumar Bansalji speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, you please sit down. Hon. Minister wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You people also sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Jagdambika Palji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, you please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadavji, you please sit down. What is this happening.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except what Shri Bansalji is saying.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I wish to assure the House, you and Mr. Advani that the Government gives utmost importance and respect to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. It is never the endeavour of any Member on this side to obstruct the Leader of the Opposition when she speaks. Rather, it is quite disappointing to learn that the last Session, as Mr. Advani says, was washed out only because of some perceived feeling that it was the Members from this side who did not let her speak. It was not so. We give utmost importance to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Rather, it has been our experience that after interventions are made from that side, maybe by the Leader of the Opposition, maybe by Shri Advani or maybe by anybody else, the Members are asked to rush to the Well of the House and we cannot proceed further. Rather on many occasions our Members have been deprived of their right to speak.

Madam, the Parliament is for discussion and we want discussion on every issue. We have always said that any issue which you agree and anything which is permissible under the rules may be taken up for discussion. We

*Not recorded.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

always say that. From where do they draw this presumption? Madam, in a debate often you would find that when some Member speaks, there are some interruptions. Now to come to a finding and to come to a conclusion on your own that the Leader of the Opposition is not being permitted to speak is not fair. And only on that ego was the entire House washed of last Session? Is that reasonable to say? We have been told today and the country is being told today that there were some interruptions in the speech of Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and that led to the washing of the entire Session. Is that how we should function? We often find it and we often see that when somebody stands up, there are always interruptions. I would request everybody, of course, anything they wish to say, they would have the right and you have always accorded that right to them; but to accuse us of that would not be fair on their part. Rather I would appeal that after the Leader of the Opposition speaks the right may be given to us also to rebut what she says. That is the essence of democracy. Parliament is all about discussion. Where are they saying it from. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I accept your ruling given on my privilege motion. I am unable to understand that without listening to me someone is raising point of order and someone is speaking something else. I am not delivering my speech on the privilege motion. I have given notice regarding breach of privilege. You have said that you are examining the notice, I accept that ruling.

I have stood up to say something on a different matter, but without listening to that, members are raising point of order and there is din and noise in the entire House. I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*, now these people have stood up.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.
[Translation] Only what Sushmaji says will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Have some people got licence to stand up as and when they desire?

Madam Speaker, I am not speaking on the privilege motion, you are examining it. After examining the motion, you will inform us, I am not speaking on its admissibility. I am speaking about the other notice which has been given by Sarad Yadavji, Yashwant Sinhaji and myself under rule 193.

When Prime Minister was delivering his speech and I gave a notice and sought permission to ask a question and at that time you told me that you can not allow me to ask question right then. You said that in case I want a discussion, a proper notice should be given by me. In pursuance of that direction I gave notice in the morning and Shri Sharad Yadavji and Yashwant Sinhaji supported it. I also spoke to Pranab da in the morning. I had told him that today Finance Bill is to be laid on the Table in the House but since short-duration discussion is allotted only two and a half hours time, a debate can be started at 11 o'clock and can be concluded by 1.30 p.m. and then the Finance Bill may be taken up at 2 o'clock. As Shri Advaniji has told that we do not want to create constitutional crisis but want the Finance Bill to be passed and want to participate in the debate on the Finance Bill, but before that let the issue be concluded which is ceaselessly going on for many days. That issue will conclude only when debate on that issue is concluded, so let two and a half hours be earmarked for the debate on that issue. Let us discuss that matter for two and a half hours starting from now and after that let the Finance Bill be taken at 2.00 p.m. or 2.30 p.m.

Let us ensure smooth functioning of the House and

*Not recorded.

in that debate we shall also participate. I stood up for my submission, but you do not want to listen me. I would like your ruling in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, please listen to me also. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, Speaker, I support the proposal of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. In fact, I had also given a notice for a discussion on the statement that the hon. Prime Minister has issued. Therefore, I believe, in order to have a smooth running of the House let us accept the suggestion and have a discussion today on the statement that the hon. Prime Minister has made. I support the proposal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, I support the proposal of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Let the discussion on the statement of the hon. Prime Minister be started immediately. After that discussion, the discussion on the Finance Bill can be taken up.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Minister speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Bansalji is speaking now. You will be called later.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): He has yielded to my request. I am saying only one thing that whatever Sushmaji has said, is legitimate. Only then, the proceeding will go on smoothly. It would be better if you accept this. Better if Bansalji do not point out only rule in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition and other

hon. Leaders for assuring that they do want the Finance Bill to be passed. I remember very vividly that only the other day when we were allocating time for the business, there were insistent demands for fixing more time for discussion on the Finance Bill. Our only request is that let us first take the discussion on the Finance Bill. *...(Interruptions)* In this connection I would like to read the rule under which this notice has been given:

“193. Any member desirous of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance may give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised:

194. (1) If the Speaker is satisfied, after calling for such information from the member who has given notice and from the Minister as he may consider necessary, that the matter is urgent and is of sufficient importance to be raised in the House at an early date, he may admit the notice.”

Madam, it has never been the case that the hon. Member giving notice immediately asks the Speaker to decide and thereafter, immediately take it up. There is some discretion left to the Office of the Speaker and the hon. Speaker. The notice is given. We are not objecting to that notice. How are you presuming that we are objecting to the notice? We are expressing our concern and, for that matter, the concern of the entire nation. I know that you monopolise on that concern, whether it is patriotism or anything else, I am not getting into that. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): We can discuss the Finance Bill even at 12 o'clock in the night, but let us discuss this issue right now. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, listen to me also. *...(Interruptions)* We have also given a notice regarding adjournment motion. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, the only thing I am saying is that this is again in the interest of the country that we first pass the Finance Bill. If you do not want to discuss for eight hours, discuss for two hours and pass it today and after that, take it up immediately. We have three days with us. Today is 22nd March. Let us discuss the Finance Bill immediately and clear it in two hours if you do not want the discussion for eight hours. After that, we have to go by the rules. You will seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister, and thereafter, you will fix time. They may fix up any time after that.

My only concern is, we may take up the Finance Bill first. Am I making some unreasonable demand about it? Is that the way they have to react to that demand?...
(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, as a Member who has given this notice, I rise to draw your attention to the fact that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has suggested a practical way out in which the House will function and the Finance Bill will also be passed. There will be no need to pass the Finance Bill either in the absence of the Opposition or in din or noise. We are suggesting a way out of that. Our only case is that you give an opportunity to us to take up the issue of discussion on the Prime Minister's Statement made in the House the other day first and then everything moves. Now, for the Government, I would say not to get involved in technicalities and not to get involved in the rule book. I have suggested a practical way out.

The hon. Leader of the House is sitting here. I am appealing to him that a practical way out for us will be to take up the discussion under Rule 193 first and we are prepared to sit until midnight to discuss the Finance Bill and get it passed. This is my submission.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would like to clarify only one point. I had a discussion with the Leader of the Opposition in the morning. I requested her that the Finance Bill may be passed first and after that, we are assuring you that the Short Duration discussion which you want to raise will be taken up. Why I am asking the Finance Bill to be taken up first is because as per the constitutional requirement, after the Finance Bill being passed, it will have to be sent to President to get her certification and after that, it will go to the Rajya Sabha. And Rajya Sabha, though constitutionally this House is superior, has the right to make recommendation which is upto this House to accept it or not. So, a certain time space will have to be left between the passage of the Finance Bill in this House and thereafter to transmit it to the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, keeping that in view, I am not standing on any prestige issue or any other thing. It is simply to facilitate the time available between today, the 22nd March and 25th March. If you kindly agree, let the Finance Bill be passed and after that, you may take up the Short Duration Discussion. We will have some space and in that space, it will be possible to transmit it to Rajya Sabha. Please do not just give opinions without knowing things. It will have to be sent to the Rajya Sabha and before sending any Money Bill to the Rajya Sabha, as per the Constitutional requirement, we will have to receive the certificate of the President. If we take up the Discussion under 193 after passing the Finance Bill, I do not think the Heavens are going to fall. That is my most respectful submission to the Leader of the Opposition. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Postponing the discussion on the Finance Bill by two and half hours is not going to change anything. We will still have time to approach the hon. President, get her consent and take the Bill to Rajya Sabha tomorrow. ... (Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Attack on Libya

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, I am raising a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not a issue pertaining to particular party only. The attack on Libiya should unanimously be condemned by the House. This is the policy of Hindustan that if any country attacks any other country of the world, discriminates human rights, then Hindustan will not remain a silent spectator. This is the resolution of this very House. Therefore, this is my appeal to the entire House that the attack on Libiya by America should be condemned by the House. The innocent and unarmed civilians have been killed in Libiya and on this issue our Parliament should not remain silent. We want that the leader of the House Mr. Advani and all of us should unanimously condemn the attack on Libiya. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There has been a brutal and an unprovoked attack on Libya. When Iraq was attacked we had to stall the proceedings of this House for three days. Then a Resolution, not condemning, but deploring the brutal attack on Iraq was passed by this House. This House should condemn the brutal and unprovoked attack on Libya by the United States of America and its allied forces. A large number of civilians have been killed because of this attack. The House should condemn this and pass a Resolution.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): I had given a notice. I appreciate the stand taken by the Government of India because the Government has expressed sorrow. But that is not enough. I would request the whole House to listen to me.

The NATO powers are bombing Libya on the pretext of trying to pull up Gaddafi. This is a false pretext. In

the name of curbing Gaddafi, the NATO powers are killing thousands of common Libyan people in that country. I believe that another Iraq and another Afghanistan is being created. Who has given the right to the NATO powers to become the guardian of the world politics? There is Security Council to do that. Of course, we support the fight for democracy in Libya and we are against Gaddafi. But this is not a fight for democracy. The NATO powers have no right to work like this in devastating a country. This is a war not against Gaddafi, but for oil. They have an eye on the oil of Libya. That is the reason why it is done. I want this House to condemn the aggression being committed on Libya.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, this is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* I opine that the attack on Libya is very deplorable and the entire House should take a serious note of this. The statement which has been made by the Government of India should have been in little more tough words. There are many countries in this world who have opposed it vehemently. That is why this is my submission that this House and the Government should take a tough stand on this issue. In many parts of the world and even in India many of Civilian Rights are violated does not mean that you go and just start bombarding that country. This is not a good thing. We all should condemn this unitedly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, we also have given notice, we should also be heard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shailendra ji, you will also get an opportunity to put forth your views.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Mulayam Singh ji only leader your. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Hazaribagh): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the sentiments which have been expressed by the hon. Members. We are extremely concerned with what is happening in Libya and what is happening on the ground. We are completely with the democratic forces which are struggling against a dictatorship and against an authoritarian regime in Libya. But it is their internal matter. We are against any military intervention to enforce a regime change in any country in the world. Therefore, we do not support the NATO or US action. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We should condemn it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: First you listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, in a nutshell, I would say that I entirely support the demand that this House should unanimously pass a resolution condemning the external aggression committed on Libya and we should ask them to immediately ceasefire. We should strongly support the struggle of the democratic forces in Libya at the same time. This is what we should do. But, having said, I would like to draw your attention back to the issue which Shrimati Sushmaji has raised earlier. Please give us your ruling on that issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I will come back on that issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam please conclude. The issue which I had raised. ...*(Interruptions)* There has been a digression. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG (Anantnag): The Government of India has already taken a stand so far as Libya crisis is concerned. We appreciate the stand and we took a stand much before China which is very good so far as our foreign policy is concerned. But we have to find a middle ground. It is only one view that is being expressed in the House. You have to understand the psyche of the people. They have lived under a regime which is dictatorial. So, you cannot change them overnight. You will have to find a middle path. It is not that if Gaddafi goes suddenly democracy will flourish in that country. You will have to give them time. So, some middle path has to be found. You cannot allow him to slaughter his people and, at the same time, you cannot allow America to interfere and do the same there. So, a middle path has to be found to save the people of Libya and other people who are fighting for their democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Madam, many many thanks. It is a very serious matter. ...* of America is increasing. ...*(Interruptions)* on poor people, poor nations of this country ... of America is increasing. America is pressurizing every nation. America is pressurizing every nation to mould their policy in America's favour. Security Council has to change its ...* on America's advice. Security Council has become an unreliable organization. World does not rely on it anymore, it has become ...* of America. I congratulate our Government which has taken a good stand, but India should take further stand to take initiative to convene a meeting of UN General Assembly to discuss this issue and condemn the US intervention and America be asked to stop intervention. The people of Libya be given an opportunity to resolve their issues themselves.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Saheb): I and my party associate our selves with the issues raised here.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government should respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, it has already been declared by the Government of India. The stand taken by the Government of India is totally appreciated. The Qadhafi issue has been clarified and the Government of India has taken a very firm stand. Even against the USA, it has risen to the occasion and reacted at the very appropriate moment.

We are very eager to discuss about the Finance Bill also because the surcharge has been extended to hospitals; excise duties have been imposed on garments/hosiery. So, all these very important issues can be taken up for discussion without further delay. I fully agree with the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and also with Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister in this regard. Let the Finance Bill be debated. If necessary, it can be discussed and completed within the time limit of two hours. Then, the other issue raised by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj can be taken up for discussion. But the Finance Bill is to be allowed for the first-hand discussion. This is our demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government should respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)* Let the Government respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam, whenever a weak nation is attacked, Government of India definitely stands alongside it. Statement given by the Government of India on attacks on Libya by America and nations supported by it is definitely welcome but some strict measure should also be needs to consider the attack on innocent people living in Libya. My party wants to demand this only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam, an agitation is taking place against the dictatorship in Libya and it is also being suppressed there but according to Security Council and UNO three or four powerful nations are attacking Libya. 80 civilians have been killed in those attacks and bombs and being hit from outside, and more persons are in danger of being killed. In such a situation it is not proper for the House to remain silent on this issue. Such type of injustice, forceful submission and bomb attacks on civilians anywhere in the world should be opposed and House should express its view on it.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam, I would thank you for calling me to speak on this subject.

We all know that Libya is a Non-Aligned country. What has been happening within the last two or three months is a cause of concern for every world citizen. There have been democratic movements in the Arab World and also in Libya but we all know that Libya is not Egypt. There have been fightings between two communities within Libya. There has been a divide between the East and the West; there has been a divide between the democratic forces and also the autocratic forces in Libya. The world community has expressed its opinion. So also our Government expressed its opinion. I appreciate the decision which the Government has taken in the Security Council by abstaining from the voting that was taken in the Security Council. Not only India but also Germany, China and many other countries had abstained themselves from the voting. But the interference in the internal matters of Libya is a cause of concern for many countries, including China, India, Germany and many other countries. The way the Western Powers reacted, especially the coalition led by the United States of America, the manner in which they have attacked Libya is a cause of concern. I appreciate that the leaders of this House have expressed themselves in this matter. We should also make a unanimous Resolution moved so that we can condemn the attack on Libya.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Madam, there need not be any dispute over this. The Government of India has already taken a stand condemning the attitude of America in its interference in the internal affairs of Libya. This is quite natural. America is now trying to make capital out of the situation. It is trying to create confusion in the Arab countries. It is having its own capitalist interest in this. Of course, India has always been maintaining a very firm attitude against these kinds of actions. So I am of the considered opinion that this august House should pass a Resolution unanimously condemning the American attitude on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): The issue raised by Mulayam Singhji on Libya is very important. I also associate myself with it. Government has stated that India has abstained on this issue in UN Security Council. China and other countries have also abstained. But America is still not changing its policy and is attacking Libya along with its friendly nations. Due to this common public is also being affected there. Therefore, we should strongly criticize this attack. A strong message should come from the Government also and it should be criticized by moving a resolution in the House.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, hon. Members have expressed their concern on what is happening in Libya. The Government of India has already expressed its unhappiness over the armed intervention by certain forces. What is happening in a country is its internal affairs and no external power should interfere with it. For external intervention, there is an effective mechanism in the international order and that should be followed. A couple of countries or three or four countries cannot take a decision that we do not like a particular regime in that country and therefore we want to change that regime; whether a regime will continue or not will depend on the

people of that particular country, not by any external forces.

Therefore, the Government of India has already expressed its view. If the hon. Members are interested in having a larger discussion, we can find out some appropriate mechanism and also time for this House to discuss this issue. I share their concern and reiterate the view which the Government of India has already expressed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now why have you stood up. Your leader has already spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): My notice is regarding adjournment on second subject.

MADAM SPEAKER: Your notice is regarding that subject only.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: My subject is different from that. You may see the subject of the notice which I have given. I will conclude after speaking for one minute on my notice of adjournment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You all sit down. You must not worry we will discuss it.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let me take up few 'Zero Hour' matters now, not all. Let me take them up now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I have said that I would allow a discussion under Rule 193. That I will do.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Please give me one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the notice given me on adjournment. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.48 hrs.

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

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: As on date, there are 20 crore people belonging to the minority community in the country. Various Commission and Committees have been constituted to raise the living standard on the basis of their economic, social and educational level, whether it is Rangnath Mishra Commission or Sachchar Committee. But Government has not taken any action on their reports and recommendations. Mulayam Singhji had raised this matter in the previous session. At that time we should have discussed that subject. We want that discussion should be conducted on recommendations made on the basis of economic, social and educational level of minority in the reports of Rangnath Mishra Commission and Sachchar Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.30 p.m.

11.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Mr. Chairman, first we want to have Short-Duration Discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am coming to that.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members, who have been permitted to raise the Matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over the slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

- (i) **Need to provide funds under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for repair of Canals of Chambal Command Area and Kota Barrage in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI IYARAJ SINGH (Kota): In my parliamentary constituency Kota Irrigation System is fifty years old under which two canals originate from Chambal Command Area and Kota Barrage. The right main gate canal flows over 324 kilometers and irrigates thousands of kilometers of land in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Out of this area, the land measuring about 1 lakh 27 thousand hectares is being irrigated with 6656 cusec water supplied through 124 km. long route of canal in Rajasthan and the left main gate canal is giving benefits to 1 lakh 2 thousand hectares of agricultural land of Kota, Bundi and Barana with its 1500 cusec water. This irrigation project is very

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Ijyaraj Singh]

old in the country and as such a number of straps of these canals have broken and a number of accidents are taking place on the roads along these canals. If necessary attention is not paid towards the repair work of these canals in the time to come, the condition of these canals would become more pathetic and dangerous. The canals under Chambal Command Area Irrigation are also in the same pathetic State. The Central Government should provide financial assistance for the repair work of these canals under special circumstance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

I request the Government through the House that financial assistance should be provided for the repair work of the above canals originating from Chambal Command Area and Kota Barrage under special circumstances under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme at the Centre level.

(ii) Need to expedite the construction of National Highway No. 233 in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): The National Highways Authority of India has declared a new National Highway No. 233 between Siddharth Nagar, District Kakarhwa in Uttar Pradesh and Varanasi via Mohana, Navagarh, Siddharth Nagar, Bansi, Basti, Atrolia, Azamgarh in public interest and in view of its international importance. A sum of Rs. 548.22 crore has been sanctioned for the two-laning of the said National Highway from its originating point to 121.80 km. length. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 1790.68 crore has been sanctioned for four-laning of its total length of 176.65 kms ranging from 121.800 km. to 298.900 km. Tenders have been invited for construction of these roads. However, the work has not been started as yet although these roads are highly important for transport. So, my demand is that the construction of National Highway No. 233 may be started immediately and completed in the time bound manner by National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) Need to speed up the construction of third phase breakwater at Androth in Lakshadweep

[English]

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (Lakshadweep): I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the third phase breakwater at Androth Island is yet to be completed. There has been an inordinate delay in the construction work of third phase breakwater. The reasons for the delay is stated to be lack of labour, materials and other logistical issues for the discontinuation of construction of third phase breakwater. Shipping is the life-line of the Lakshadweep. The construction of third phase breakwater is indispensable for the smooth and efficient movement of passengers and materials because Androth Island is centrally located and strategically crucial.

I, therefore, request and urge the Government to direct the concerned authorities to complete the construction of third phase breakwater at Androth in a time bound manner enabling it to be the Central Port of Lakshadweep. Accountability may be fixed for the delay in construction and suitable action may be taken whereas required.

(iv) Need to protect the Sambhar Lake in Jaipur, Rajasthan from Encroachments

[Translation]

SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA (Jaipur Rural): Sambhar Lake situated in Jaipur district is a world famous salt water lake surrounding an area measuring 190 square kilometers. This lake has been a major source of regional environmental balance in Jaipur district for past so many years. This is a natural lake and it has historical importance. Whenever this lake was full of water, thousands of migratory birds from all over the world used to come here. However, the natural beauty of this lake is getting destroyed due to illegal encroachment in the area situated at Nawan and for the last 15-20 years, illegal use of water is also being noticed. It is pertinent to mention here that this lake is already included in the category of

Ramsar sites and financial assistance has been granted by the Government of India from time to time to protect its existence. In this regard, a Committee was also constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Vinod Kapoor and directions were issued to various departments for initiating urgent action to make this lake free from encroachments on the basis of the recommendations of this Committee. However, it is regretted that no encroachment has been removed from this Sambhar lake so far.

I, through this House, urge the Government of India to remove the encroachments from the catchment areas of Sambhar lake and to keep beauty of this lake intact.

(v) Need to start Artificial Insemination Programme under National Rural Livelihood Mission

[English]

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Artificial insemination is one of the surest ways to produce improved breed of animals with lowest investment. Most of the animals (Cows and Buffaloes) in my Constituency in Andhra Pradesh are indigenous and low productive. Since they are available in large numbers, the best way to upgrade the breed is to artificially inseminate these animals. I am very sure that there are many more districts with similar situation. I request the Hon'ble Minister, through you Madam, to consider this as a priority item and to provide required infrastructural support viz. training to rural youth in all Panchayats and providing them with artificial insemination kits including dry ice cylinders (liquid nitrogen cylinders) to preserve semen and to support constant supply of quality semen through semen banks. Support to States like mine for training to these Para vets and supporting them with kits which may cost approximately Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 80,000/- per candidate will be one time investment for years of returns.

I request the Government to give permission to start artificial insemination units under National Rural Livelihood

Mission which may provide livelihood to specially skilled youth in Animal Husbandry.

(vi) Need to take steps for release of Indian Citizens languishing in Jail in Saudi Arabia

[Translation]

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): I, while drawing the attention of the House towards a very important issue, would like to mention that three Indian Citizens are languishing in the Dammam Jail of Saudi Arab since 22 September, 2009 and they have not yet been stated about the charges leveled on them. These three India Citizens are residents of Barabanki Lok Sabha Constituency and one of them belongs to a very reputed family which holds respect in society. The other two Indian Citizens are also very reputed and respectable persons who have no criminal records. These three respected Indian Citizens have gone to Saudi Arab on 6 September, 2009 on one month's business visa for business purposes and were apprehended by the Saudi Arab police from Madina on 22 September. It is learnt that these three Indians are imprisoned in the Dammam prison of Saudi Arab and they have not yet been stated about the charge leveled on them. It seems that they have been apprehended there owing to some misunderstanding. This matter requires urgent intervention by the Ministry of External Affairs. I have sent a number of letters to hon'ble Minister of External Affairs during the last six years. The suggestions to write a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs were received from the Ministry of External Affairs in this regard. He was apprised of the facts of the case with the request to the Government of India to intervene in the matter. I requested the Minister of External Affairs in this regard by submitting a copy of the letter during discussion on demands for grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. No action has been taken in this regard even after a lapse of one and a half years.

I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene in the matter and take initiative to get these three Indian citizens released for which I would be grateful to him.

(vii) Need to review the diamond mining project in district Chhattarpur, Madhya Pradesh posing serious threat to environment in the region

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH BUNDELA (Khajuraho): A foreign company is engaged in the work of diamond mining in the Baxwaha Tehsil of Chhattarpur district of Madhya Pradesh in the name of Wonder Project as a result of which this area is not getting any benefit of development under this project, mining work is going on at a depth of thousands of feet. It has further depleted the level of ground water in a number of villages of this area and a famine-like situation taking shape in the area. Besides, thousands of trees of this area are getting dried up continuously. The people of this area are unaware of the fact as to what area (forest revenue) has been approved by the Government for mining under this project.

On the other hand, the first diamond mining project which comes under the Central Government is not being granted permission in spite of orders of hon'ble Supreme Court and the Department of Forest has raised objection on 21 points. This project is the only source of employment for the rural people of Panna district and a number of social and development works have been carried out under this project.

The Government should review the Wonder project with all seriousness and constitute an inquiry committee for the same to save the rural people from famine and forest area from being destroyed.

(viii) Need to accord approval to the Snow Leopard Project of Government of Himachal Pradesh for conservation of snow leopard in the State

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of Honorable Minister of Environment and Forests that Himachal Pradesh is pregnant with open

ended potentialities for the development of snow leopard. Last year a proposal was put forward by the Himachal Pradesh Government under wild life conservation and development scheme of the Ministry. Himachal Pradesh is very enthusiastic to implement snow leopard Project on priority basis as high snowy chains of Himachal Pradesh are the natural habitat for snow leopards. There is the least opportunity to work in Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spity and in Pangi-Bharmaur division of Chamba districts located in upper areas of Himachal Pradesh due to severe cold and heavy snowfall. It is only in the months from April to October that one is able to engage in performing work. Under this scheme the establishment of a research centre etc. is likely to be undertaken in Kibbar in Collaboration with GPS Collaring, Telemetry and Nature Conservation foundation for snow leopards.

Therefore, I request you to accord approval to the snow leopard project launched by Ministry of environment and forests, Himachal Pradesh Government at the earliest possible.

(ix) Need to shift the Veerawada Railway Station to Gambhoi in Sabarkantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): My Parliamentary Constituency Sabarkantha (Gujarat) is a very backward area. The Gauge conversion work in North Western Railway line passing through Ahmedabad, Udaipur has been approved and a survey thereof has been initiated. There are many such stations in this Railway Section are not used by people for boarding and de-boarding due to many reasons. Which is why Railway is not being bent fitted. The earnings on Ahmedabad-Udaipur Railway is very low. It is incurring loss.

I would like to suggest that Virwada Station is a bit far away from Himmatnagar where passengers don't board or deboard. Now when the gauge conversion work is being undertaken a station should come up near Gambhoi at the distance of just 2 kilometer by

abandoning and declaring Veerawada Station dysfunctional. This will generate more revenue for the Railways. Gambhoi is the Centre of more than 50 villages and houses a trade centre, a Government Hospital, police station, Bank and Court. Therefore, if Gambhoi is converted into a Railway Station, this will be beneficial for all as it has developed into a big town.

I would like to request the Government through the House to shift Veerawada station based on Ahmedabad-Udaipur (Northwestern Railway) somewhere near Gambhoi. This will add to the revenue of the Railways and will promote journey by train. This is located between Ahmedabad and Udaipur.

(x) Need to increase the number of hospitals in Gujarat recognized for surgical treatment of patients under Prime Minister's National Relief Fund

SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH (Surat): Relief fund is provided to the poor for Heart Surgery or Kidney transplantation under Prime Ministers Relief Fund. The number of recognized hospitals for the beneficiaries of Prime Minister's Relief Fund is different in all the States and they are varying in nature. In some of the States there is a fair number of hospitals whereas in the many States like Gujarat there is just one recognized hospital.

Across Gujarat only one hospital has been included in the approved list of hospitals. My constituency Surat is counted among the most developed areas of South Gujarat. In the largest forest dwellers area and in the tribal dominated district Dang-Umargam-Navsari the poor are unable to visit Surat for their surgery. In this situation, if the number of approved hospitals is increased under Prime Minister's Relief Fund, these hospitals will be of huge support to the poor belonging to South Gujarat. I would like to appeal to the Honourable Prime Minister through you to take an immediate action in this regard and to approve at least three hospitals in Gujarat.

(xi) Need to take measures for the welfare of farmers in the country

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR (Balia): In the last 10-12 years more than two lakh farmers have committed suicide. As many as 65 to 70 per cent of the country are earning their livelihood from agriculture but the farmers economic condition is in the sables. Just ten per cent of the land the world over is suitable for agriculture whereas in our country as much as 57 per cent of land is available for agricultural purposes. It simply doesn't stand to reason why farmers are committing suicide even after accounting for more acres of land vis-a-vis other countries of the world.

In the last twenty years the price of manure, seeds, electricity and diesel has increased manifold but the Government has not kept pace with the rising price in terms of minimum support price. Sometimes, 10 paise and at some point in time 20 paise and in the electoral climate this has been increased upto one rupees. As a result, sometime dignified occupation of agriculture progressively became the cause of poverty and debt.

Today, mainly 80 per cent of the farmers account for less than 2 hectare of land and are unable to meet the expenditure of a family of 4 people. The reason behind is agriculture being disadvantageous and expensive.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Government to raise the minimum support price of wheat and paddy by 20 to 25 rupees in kilo and to provide the poor (BPL) 2 to 3 rupees a kilo by passing food security bill and to waive off farmers' loan. Please provide for loan at 3 per cent rate of interest and immediately announce a special economic package to make agriculture a beneficial enterprise.

(xii) Need to construct a railway line from Deoria to Mau via Barhaj, Badahalganj and provide a stoppage of Bihar Sampark Kranti Express at Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL (Deoria): There is no roadway from my Parliamentary Constituency

[Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal]

Deoria to Mau via Barhaj, Badhalganj and this is a very backward area. It is very essential to connect the said route through Railway line for socio-economic development of this region. With this development of this region. With this, Deoria can directly be linked with the other parts. Owing to lack of development people of this region are migrating to the other parts of this region are migrating to the other parts in search of employment.

Therefore, laying of Railway lines be considered and a survey be conducted to this end in mind. Bihar bound Bihar Sampark Kranti has no stoppage at Deoria station due to which people journeying from Delhi are not able to travel by this train. Therefore, an announcement for the stoppage of this train also be made in this very budget.

I would like to urge upon the Government through this House to lay Railway lines from Deoria to Mau via Barhaj and Badhalganj and to provide stoppage of Bihar Sampark Kranti at Deoria.

(xiii) Need to provide adequate supply of fertilizers to farmers in Bihar

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Shortage of fertilizers is felt during the sowing season of Rabi and Kharif in Bihar State and the farmers are forced to procure it from other sources at high rates as a result their financial status ends upon a very pitiable condition and they become debtors of the money-lenders. After harvesting, the crops do not get price to recover the loss incurred by them. Consequently they are trapped into the vicious cycle of debts of money-lenders and once again they engage themselves whole heartedly in the preparation of the next crops. Farmers are the most tolerant being in this world and they are the food givers of this world.

Through the House, I would like to make a demand from the Central Government to make fertilizers available at economical rates to farmers of Bihar State during Rabi

and Kharif crops so that foodgrain production of the country could increase and there is improvement in the financial condition of the farmers and they could set themselves free from the debts.

(xiv) Need to set up a bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (Jalpaiguri): My constituency Jalpaiguri is situated in Northern part of West Bengal and it's a Divisional Town of North Bengal. There is a need of a Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court there. There has been a long demand for setting up of a Calcutta High Court Bench in Jalpaiguri and it has taken the shape of a movement for the 10 years. Demand was placed in Calcutta High Court through State Government of West Bengal and Government of India.

In this regard the State Government of West Bengal and the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court has made several visits to Jalpaiguri. The latter has given instructions to the district administration to make necessary infrastructure for the Circuit Bench.

According to the instructions of Calcutta High Court, the District Administration has made necessary infrastructure for the said Circuit Bench. Now, everything is ready for the inauguration. But there is no response from the Hon'ble Court of Calcutta to open the Circuit Bench. The people of my constituency are very unhappy due to the circumstance.

So, I earnestly request the Government of India, through you Madam, to make necessary arrangement to open the Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court in Jalpaiguri District as early as possible.

(xv) Need to create a new Railway Division at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road in Odisha

SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government towards my district

headquarters railway station i.e. Jajpur-Keonjhar Road. The very name itself speaks many things about this railway station. It represents the mineral rich but socially and economically backward districts i.e. Jajpur and Keonjhar of Odisha. Both the Lok Sabha constituencies are reserved for SCs and STs respectively due to their sizeable population. So, as per the envisaged goal of the Indian Railway, this area is socially desirable area to get the attention of the railway. So, as an elected representative, I would like to ventilate the genuine and just demand of Jajpur and Keonjhar on the floor of this House, that is to create a new Railway Division at J.K. Road by reorganizing both East Coast Railway and South Eastern Railway Zones.

The East Coast Railway is the smallest Railway Zones of the country consisting of only three railway divisions i.e. Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltiar. Several mineral rich areas, important cities and industrial centers remain outside the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway. Hence, the revenue generated from the entire area is going to South Eastern Railway depriving Odisha and East Coast Railway Zone. That is why the reorganization of Railway Zones and creation of another new Division at J.K. Road is of paramount importance.

Another pertinent argument is that this J.K. Road is situated within the area of Kalinga Nagar Steel hub. The Dhamarand Paradip Port is near to this place via Jajpur town. It also serves as gateway to Buddhist sites located in Jajpur district.

So, I demand for creation of a new Railway Division at J.K. Road with immediate effect.

(xvi) Need to establish seed banks in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate easy availability of seeds to the farmers

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (Narasaraopet): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House towards the need to establish seed banks not only in Andhra Pradesh but all over the country in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12).

As the House is aware that the farmers in Andhra Pradesh are facing hardships in getting quality seeds at the sowing time. During the last 4 years, the farmers are unable to get the quality seeds in time. Last year, the farmers could not get the seeds during sowing season and for this they had to wait in line from dawn to dusk. Many old-aged people and women died in the long standing queues due to heavy summer and a number of farmers could not start the sowing due to lack of seeds.

It seems the concerned authorities are not taking proper precautions before time i.e. to have sufficient production and distribution of quality seeds. It is observed that the same seeds are available with middlemen in open market at huge rates and poor farmers cannot afford such high rates during the sowing season.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, through the Chair, to kindly take steps in establishing seeds banks, better production, transport and distribution of quality seeds through Seed Village Schemes so that we can fulfil the demands of farmers at least in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan to help them in getting better income and to keep the agricultural profession live for our future generation also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Item No. 20, the Finance Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. We will take up after this.

12.32 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2011

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I told them that debate will take place after the Finance Bill is passed...(Interruptions) We have agreed that Short Duration Discussion will take

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place after the Finance Bill is passed. In the morning, I assured the House that we have no problem of accepting the Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193. But I would request the hon. Members to allow the Finance Bill to be passed and after the Finance Bill is passed, that will be the first time for discussion.

The Finance Bill has its own sanctity. So, I would request the Leader of the Opposition and all Members belonging to the Opposition Parties to cooperate. We have agreed in the morning and we have discussed this. We have agreed to that. So, let the Finance Bill be passed and after that they may take up the Short Duration Discussion where both sides will participate and the House will function normally. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter already going on should be completed at first and then we should pass Finance Bill. We are ready to sit till 10 p.m., 12 p.m. at night, let this matter be finished at first. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Now, there is only a minor difference exists as we also would like to pass the Finance Bill, you want to have a debate. Both these things are over. We would like to pass the Finance Bill. We do not want to create any constitutional crisis and you want to have a debate, the question is only about its timing. Our opinion is that it will get over in two and a half hours, after that you can take up the Finance Bill. We are ready to sit till 12 p.m. at night, you may pass the Finance Bill after the debate, ...*(Interruptions)* You are saying no at

first you may pass the Finance Bill. When we say so they start saying no, no. I would like to say that the question is only about two and a half hours, if we initiate the discussion it will get over in two and a half hours and after that you can take up the Finance Bill, do you have any objections in it?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would request them not to create a precedent like this. When a Short Duration Discussion notice comes, the Government gives the time. They have given the notice this morning and they are demanding that discussion should take place right now. I would request them not to create that type of a precedent. I would like to submit most respectfully that they have given the notice for Short Duration Discussion, allow 24 hours, they can discuss tomorrow, and I have no problem. I am told though there should not be any reference of the Business of the other House, if the other House also so desires, they can have discussion tomorrow and simultaneous discussion can take place.

The Finance Bill has been scheduled, it has been decided long ago that this scheduled was fixed. I would request them to stick to the schedule and allow the Finance Bill to be taken up first, after that the discussion should take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion under Rule 193 will be taken up immediately after the Finance Bill. Now, the hon. Minister may move the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Pranabji, notice was given yesterday, not today, 24 hours have passed since the notice was given.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point, please. Hon. Minister may move the Finance Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you are adopting a stubborn attitude that now you want to take up Finance Bill at first, then we are forced to stage the walk out. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.35 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and some other hon. Members left the House.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to move:*

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2011-2012, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I presented my Budget on 28th February, after that there has been many major developments outside the country, in the world. There has been unprecedented natural calamity in Japan causing serious problems not only in that country but Japan being one of the largest economies of the world, has its own impact on our economy and on the economy of the world as such. There is trouble going on in the Middle East, in Africa and in certain other countries which is going to affect availability and price of the petroleum crude which will have its impact on the energy prices. These major developments have taken place.

In the morning we discussed the attack on Libya. As the Government of India has already expressed its concerns that if there is a democratic movement in a country, it is for the people of that country to decide in what way and in what manner they will sort it out; there should not be any external intervention. We have made that point quite clear; our Foreign Office has made this position known to all over the world.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

But the adverse impact on the economy cannot be anticipated right now which can be presumed that there is going to be an adverse impact on the world output, energy prices, commodity prices, and it may have some impact on us. I can assure the House that we will keep watch and take appropriate steps as and when called for.

As we share the grief of our Japanese brothers and sisters in this hour of crisis, we also hope to see an early and peaceful resolution of the disturbing developments in the Middle-East and in Libya.

Even as we plan and prepare for the uncertainties in a globalised world, I want to emphasise that there will always be events that one cannot anticipate or plan for. On such occasions, it helps to have the required policy headroom to address the issues. We need to do more when the going is good. It is this thought that has guided me in the proposals that I have presented for the Union Budget 2011-12.

I have opted for a significant fiscal consolidation when I can afford to do so, without dislocating the growth momentum. It would also help in strengthening the domestic medium term macro-economic environment. At the same time, we have outlined a significant legislative agenda for reforms in the financial sector. The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2011 has already been introduced in this Session. The Constitution Amendment Bill to facilitate the GST has also been introduced in the morning. Three more Bills, namely, the revised Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, the Bill on Factoring and Assignment of Receivables, and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks Laws) Amendment Bill will be introduced in the coming days. To complete this legislative work, I seek the cooperation of the Members belonging to both the Houses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the course of the General Discussion on the Budget 2011-12, I have received a number of suggestions from my colleagues in this House and also from outside. I have responded to some of them

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and I intend to address some others related to tax proposals while we are discussing the Finance Bill. However, I would like to take up a few issues which have been repeatedly raised in the past few weeks.

I have been informed that the 10 per cent levy proposed on the branded ready-made garments and made-ups of textiles can pose hardship for the SSI garment manufacturers. To address this concern, I propose to enhance the abatement from 40 per cent to 55 per cent of the Retail Sale Price. With this relief, a unit would continue to be eligible for SSI exemption in 2011-12, even if it had a turnover based on the Retail Sale Price of Rs. 8.9 crore in the current year. The necessary notification in this regard will be issued in due course.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to suggest that the basic customs duty on raw silk (not thrown) has been reduced from 30 per cent to five per cent *ad valorem*. This was done to augment domestic availability for weavers, both in the handloom and the power loom segments. A number of representations supporting and opposing this move have been received. In fact, there is a conflict of interest between two regions — producing region and consuming region. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the hon. Minister has said now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please talk later. *[English]* Shri Jai Prakash ji, please sit down.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would like to assure the House that the Government would keep a close watch on import volumes and domestic prices and respond, if required, to mitigate any adverse impact on the domestic sericulture sector.

Finally, the proposed levy on healthcare has raised considerable anxiety in the House and outside. The

purpose of the new levy was not merely to mobilize revenue. It was to pave the way for the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax. However, I have decided to exempt the new levy in its entirety both in respect of services provided by hospitals as well as by way of diagnostic tests until GST comes into force, and I hope that nobody will describe it as 'misery tax'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to emphasize the importance of staying our course on the tax reforms, the enactment of the DTC and the Constitutional amendment to facilitate the implementation of GST from the next fiscal year. Half-measures in these reforms, by insisting on concessions and exemptions will only add to the complexity and distortions of the tax regime, which will compromise the intended benefits from these measures.

With these words, I would request the House to take up the Finance Bill for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2011-2012, be taken into consideration."

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me, at the outset, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

In fact, I would have been happy had the Opposition been here. Anyway they have their own agenda and then they left the House. It is not that I just only want to praise the Government. I am extremely impressed that over the last six years, by realising that the money is getting accumulated in the urban areas, in the industries, But the rural areas, the farming community, the farm labour are to be taken care of more. So, my fight, right at the beginning, in the Parliament has been that there must be diversion of money from the urban areas to the rural areas.

Our Budgets in the last six years presented by both Mr. Chidambaram as well as Mr. Pranab Mukherjee clearly

demonstrate that they have realised that the money has to go into the hands of the rural people, as a result of which the purchasing power of the rural people would go up, and it would, once again, accelerate the pace of industries. Without purchasing power of the 70 per cent of our people, who are living in villages, no industry in the country can flourish. Starting from Rs. 73,000 crore in 2004 given as farm loan, today the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, has increased it to Rs. 4,75,000 to be given to the rural folk.

Sir, both the former Finance Minister and the present Finance Minister are present here. It is my humble request to them — how they would convince the Governor, Reserve Bank and bankers, I do not know — to think in terms of reducing the interest rates. The interest rates are killing the economy in this country. If the interest rates are reduced, at least, to the rural folk, to the rural farmers, artisans, women, Self-Help-Groups and all the poor and farm labour, then it would be excellent; there would be tremendous growth; and a real change in the economy would take place. By this, we would not only achieve 8.6 per cent growth in comparison with the NDA Government of five per cent, I am very confident that we would achieve a double digit growth.

In this context, another thing which I have been fighting all the time is this. Now, we have realised that the most important thing to be taken care of for the poor in this country is to make the foodgrains available to them at affordable prices. Then we have to make the healthcare available to them and to see that the money on housing is taken care of properly. Instead of giving them Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 for housing, I want the Government itself to take up construction of permanent houses, which may cost Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 1.5 lakh. My point here is that by doing this, a house with longevity of, at least, 60 years will be in the hands of the poor sections, where in any case, the land would be given free. Now, we are giving Rs. 40,000 to a poor man in the village to construct his house but he has no capacity, no knowledge, no resources to construct his house. Also

keeping in view the present cost, he would not be able to raise it. He would be raising a house, which would take, at least, six to seven years to be completed; and after completion, it would have the longevity of only 15 years.

So, my point here is that we should give them permanent houses of a minimum value of Rs. 1 lakh each, which may be constructed in mass scale. Then, the cost of that house and the land would also go up, to at least, Rs. 10 lakh in about 10 years' time keeping in view the inflation. That means, a poor man would be the owner of a property worth Rs. 10 lakh. My point is that we can have a reverse hypothecation; and, in case, he does not pay the instalment in time by virtue of his poverty, the bankers will pay the instalment say in 10 years, 15 years or 20 years. This way, the man would realise that in case he did not pay his instalment, he would lose the property worth Rs. 10 lakh. Therefore, naturally, by hook or crook, by saving in any manner, he would pay back his installments and retain that property worth Rs. 10 lakh. Otherwise, that property would not be in his hand.

But now, what is happening? After, say five years or six years — whether all those poor fellows have paid their installments or not — we, the politicians, be it from this side or that side say: "We are writing off." Let us write off, does not matter. But he would not have a permanent house, with its longevity of 50 years 100 years. So, this is my humble request.

While I am happy that the hon. Finance Minister has reduced the Customs Duty, particularly, in the rural sector on the machinery, which is being imported for agro processing and he has also reduced the costs, particularly on the cold chain, giving incentives to them. That is one of the major reasons to help them.

My point is, as there is an apprehension, if the prices of the agricultural commodities were to increase that means if you pay more price to the farmers immediately the prices of the essential commodities would go up, as

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a result, the Opposition Parties would make hue and cry, as they did in the last Session itself, not allowing this House to function at all. But the other day, including Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, the BJP leader along with other leaders of Opposition Parties, had approached Shri Pranab Mukherjee to increase the Minimum Support Price and permit the export of rice from this country to outside market. That is a genuine demand. I am also of that opinion. The reason is that today the buffer norms are about 230 lakh tonnes while the availability is doubled in FCI, CWC godowns and other private godowns. That means they are doubling the quantities which is normally required for keeping as a norm. Now, by July the quantity of rice, keeping in view of the rest crops, would also go up to 1,615 lakh of tonnes. It is five times more than the norms that are to be kept.

The Supreme Court had commented that some of the foodgrains lying in godowns have become unusable and they should be auctioned or disposed of at nominal price. In this context the Supreme Court said "You give it freely". Why should that opportunity come? Why should we keep so much stock with us if there is no capacity to stock? Why have we kept the extra stock under the open sky, open to the rain which may get spoiled? That is the reason why all of us have demanded, keeping in view the production of good crop in a year, to increase the quantity of stocks that are at present available with us. Let the farmers get reasonable price not only by increasing MSP but also by allowing them to export in outside markets of the world. By that process they will get more money. They will be very happy by using that process. The money they get would not go to London and U.S. It would be in the hands of our farmers. Their purchasing power would go up and they would also purchase more things for themselves.

The Opposition Parties are making havoc in the name of food inflation. When the prices of food commodities are increased by the Government they have also increased the MSP from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 in a span

of five years. But when the NDA Government was in power they did not have the courage to do so. Our Government has got the courage to double the prices of MSP.

My next point is this. Who is going to be affected by inflation? Is 70 per cent of our people are living in rural area? When the farm product price has gone up, the farm labour cost would automatically go up. The farm labour, who is getting Rs. 100 would get Rs. 200. The farm grabber, who is getting Rs. 200 would get Rs. 400.

Similarly, the people who are living in the villages would not get greatly affected. Then who is going to be affected? It is the urban people with fixed income who are going to be affected. It is true. What is the percentage of these affected people? That is hardly six to seven per cent. The budget of an above average family is about lakhs of rupees and their expenses on foodgrains are about 2 per cent. But because they are the people who come to the media; they are the people who easily access newspapers; they are the people who got the ability to criticise the Government, their voices are being heard. The Opposition take advantage of all that and say that the ruling party which is in power is incapable. But when the persons sitting in the Opposition right now come to this side they do not have the courage to increase. How long should this continue?

I do not know whether Shri Pranab Mukherjee or Shri Chidambaram would agree with me but we need not panic when the question of inflation is discussed. If, by increasing the prices of essential commodities our farmers and poor people are not affected then there is no inflation. If some people are affected then we should deal with them through Public Distribution System.

We are giving to them at a specified price. They are not going to be affected but the only thing, which is being affected, is the discussion due to uproar by the Opposition Members. We must have the ability to say, "So what, if it were to be that the inflation of foodgrains has gone up?". It is because of the hoarding by the black-marketers.

We will take up action mercilessly. It is they who had diluted the Essential Commodities Act during those days. If a trader were to hoard the foodgrains or sell the foodgrains in black market, then under the Act, it will be a non-bailable case. He will not be released. No matter, even if Madam Sonia Gandhi were to say to release him, they will not release him. That was the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

You will not say. But my point is that was the situation and that was the Act but those people have diluted it to an extent because their mind is with business men. They are with traders. It is a common knowledge in the entire country. What is BJP? BJP is a Party of traders. BJP is a Party of exporters. They will always think in terms of what are the incentives to be given to exporters. They all think of today's share and tomorrow's share. If the share value of Rs. 10 were to go up to Rs. 1000 in two years, they do not mind. They will be very happy but let one Member of Parliament say here that the property of a farmer has gone up in any village. If a farmer, who is having 20 acres of land, wants to educate his child either medicine or engineering, he has to sell one acre or two acres of land and send him to study medicine. He cannot send his children even if he is having 20 acres of land by the income that he earns out of the crops, or, he has to depend on the dowry which he expects or anticipates for his son. So, he takes loan and sends his child to the college. That is the pathetic condition.

Today statistics reveals that if anybody were to purchase in a village 10 acres of land, it is not the farmer but it is a business man or his son or his son-in-law who is living in an urban area, who has done business and made money. He comes and purchases the land in the village and not the farmer. If this were to be the pathetic condition of the farmer in this country, then how long should it continue? I wish and pray that our leaders to be bold enough to say, 'yes, we have increased the price; our Government has increased the price; and the prices have gone up but still we will see that our poor

people will not be affected by this and the income of the poorer sections in the rural areas will be doubled or trebled.

I felt so happy when Rs. 73,000 crore of money was written off to the farmers. My feeling is that the money in the hands of the urban area and the money in the hands of the business community or industrial community should be shifted to the village. ...*(Interruptions)*

Yes, if you were to send Rs. 4,75,000 crore to the farmers in the name of loan, that means money has gone to the rural area. If you are giving today Rs. 60,000 crore to education, it is going to the rural area but in this case, once again this is my humble request to all the important leaders who are sitting here, including Madam Sonia Gandhi. We are spending Rs. 60,000 crore to Rs. 70,000 crore on education. What kind of education is this? We are insisting that there should not be drop-out. Every child from the poor family must go to the school and get himself educated at least up to 12th standard. That is all right. It is a happy situation. Now, after 12th standard, what will he do? He does not have productive skill. His education is only 12th class or BA or MA. Then, the unemployment problem will be much more.

So, my humble request is, as you brought in MNREGA with your personal interest and allocated Rs. 41,000 crore, please ask the Government to provide Rs. 40,000 crore for skill development. Every poor man in the village will acquire some skills. By the time he comes to the 12th class, he may become a good carpenter; he may become a good auto driver; and he may become a good cook. Madam, today, it is difficult even to get a good domestic cook in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, that time will come soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rao, you please address the Chair.

13.00 hrs.

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, my point is while we have realized the importance of improving the

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living standards of the poorer sections in society in rural areas, we have been diverting lakhs of crores of rupees to the rural people, which is a good direction. I want to add that all the people who are getting educated among the poorer sections must have some productive skills. If the productive skills were to be there, a person's self-confidence will go up. He will then think that he does not need to depend upon his MP or MLA and seek a job from them. He will think that he is competent and he can get a job. If he does not get a job, he will produce things and live.

I would like to quote an example here. I suppose that I must have said this earlier also. I was running a charitable trust in my constituency. For the last 25 years I have been giving skills. Six or seven years back our people approached some of the Muslim families to send their women to learn some productive skills. But they said, *izzat ki baat*, we cannot send our women outside our house. On persuasion they said that if we keep a separate hall for their training, then they will send their women. We took the pains and separately trained them. At the time of giving certificates to them, we called the lady Collector of the district. We told her to choose anybody from the trainees at her discretion and question her. She selected a woman trainee and asked her as to what was the course that she learnt. That woman replied that she had learnt making of phenyl. The Collector then asked her whether she could make phenyl now and whether she was confident enough to make phenyl herself. She answered boldly and proudly that she can make it. The Collector again asked her as to why she was not making it for which the woman said that she did not have money. The Collector then asked her as to how much she could earn. She answered that she can earn Rs.150 per day out of making phenyl. The Collector then said that if the woman wanted investment, she can give it and asked how much investment she wants. If it were to be a politician following me, a worker or even somebody else, he would have immediately said that he requires a lakh of rupees.

But what this lady told the Collector was that the investment that she required was Rs. 150! That was the condition in the rural areas.

My point here is, if all the people belonging to poorer sections who are in large numbers were to be trained in some profession or the other, by the time we impart education up to the 12th class, they will come very confidently out of that institute and will live on their own. Then, let the Finance Minister link up all the banks to provide loans to them, so that they can utilize every rupee given to them in a proper manner and increase their income.

We have made a Budget. It can be Rs.10 lakh crore or Rs. 20 lakh crore. But, the kind of change that banks can bring about in society is much more than what is provided by us in the Budget. Lakhs of crores of rupees are lying in banks. What is the duty of a banker? It is to finance somebody, encourage him to produce and then repay that money. If they can recycle that fund in a proper and productive manner taking care that the person who has borrowed the money has got the skills to utilize it properly, generate wealth and then generate income for himself, it is not only income for him, it is not only wealth for him, it is wealth to the nation. The GDP, where we are struggling between 5 and 8, will go up to 13 or 14. We will exceed China in no time. How did China come up today? It is because of their skills. For that matter, how did Malaysia or Korea or Germany come up today? It is because of the skills of they have developed.

As a member of the Congress Party, I wrote a letter to Shri Pranab Mukherjee about healthcare, which is an important thing. If you levy service tax on healthcare, it will be affecting the common man. Now we do not have enough doctors, we do not have facilities in the rural areas and we do not even have hospitals worth mentioning though we have made it in a big way today.

If we were to put this Service Tax, it might be discouraging the health sector whereby the poor sections of the society will be affected. So, let us not impose the

Service Tax on health sector. He immediately responded. I felt very happy about it. Similarly, we were to take care of the people in the villages and make them competent, educated and skilled in one profession or the other. It is not difficult. It is in this context that I said all this.

Regarding foodgrains, I would submit that Basmati rice is allowed to be exported outside the country. We have a similar variety which is produced in Andhra Pradesh, 25 lakh tonnes of which is lying idle with either the millers or the farmers in their godowns. I would like to make a humble request to Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri P. Chidambaram and Madam. If they permit export of this fine variety of rice, at least 20 lakh tonnes, heavens are not going to fall and the prices are not going to sky-rocket in this country. If necessary, let them collect a Price Stabilisation Fund. They may take out two rupees, three rupees or five rupees per kilogram and keep the amount as Price Stabilisation Fund. In case of need, let them utilise that Fund for importing, if necessary, if there is a shortage after three years or four years. If they allow this, the farmer will have the impetus.

Last time, in their presence, I had quoted that this country is importing 19 lakh tonnes of edible oils, costing Rs. 39 crore equivalent of foreign exchange, while our own farmers are in a position to produce all that, if only we see to it that they get a remunerative price. We are importing, we are reducing customs duty and we are also giving subsidy of Rs. 15 per kilogram on oil supplied to TPDS. Instead of doing that, if you were to give a remunerative price to oil-producing farmers, they are ready to produce anything you want. How long can we go on importing? Whenever there is shortage, you will import. If you import, then there will not be any impetus for the farmer to produce that item. He will shift his farming from that item.

We have seen the case of sugar. When we were not able to pay the right price for sugarcane, the sugarcane production had come down. When it had come down here, the international prices had gone up. Then, we had to purchase it at double the price. Why do you pay so much?

Let us encourage our farmers. Even if there were to be surplus of it, it will be with us only and we will get the money from outside.

Today, I am happy that the country has reached the stage of having foreign exchange reserves of US \$ 300 billion. It is excellent. I am very happy about it, but when we go into the details, it is not because of trade surplus. We can also get it out of trade surplus, if we allow these farmers to export. Take the example of fish. Our farmers can produce fish worth thousands of crores of rupees. The only thing is that we must be able to encourage them. There are several avenues where they can do so.

I would like to cite this example. All of them were very upset when the inflation reached double digit. Why did it go up? It is because of the fruits and vegetables. What is the secrecy in it? The fact is that fruits and vegetables do not last more than two days or three days and after that, they become rotten. So, they have to be put to use immediately. A farmer does not get one rupee per unit of his produce in the field while the consumer has to pay Rs. 30. The reason is lack of transport facilities and storage facilities. So, I am happy that once again, in the Budget, he has provided incentives to all the people who are ready to come to establish cold storages, cold storage chains and cold storage transport facilities. What happens by doing this? If the rates of their items were to fall, the farmer can keep his perishables, either fruits or vegetables, in the cold storage facility at that time and sell it at a time when the price is good. Though the Government is going on the right path, I want it to be speeded up further. I want the Government to be bold. I know that they, the Opposition, cannot be bold.

I have told in my speeches on some of the last Budgets that the BJP and others never thought about the farmers. I am happy that after this Government is doing all these things for the last six years, now they are discussing about the farmers. Now they make a demand on the road, saying that the farmer is the backbone of the country and injustice is being done to them. What were they doing earlier? Had they ever thought about

[Dr. K.S. Rao]

it? Did they have the courage to increase the prices of essential prices to be paid to the farmers? No. The records show this, and it is not my lecture or it is not my making a complaint against them.

We are also happy that the hon. Finance Minister has not increased the taxes even in this Finance Bill, and he has not neglected even the industry. There must be a balance and there must be an equilibrium. It is because there will be no distribution unless there is production. So, inclusive growth is to be taken care of while producing, and even in inclusive growth the skill development makes a lot of changes in the country. I wish and pray to Madam Sonia ji to concentrate once again in providing ample money for skill development, which really brings a change in this country.

We feel sorry and insulted when we see China, which was far behind us 15 years back, has now become a big country with \$ 6 trillion income whereas our own GDP is \$ 2 trillion, but our people are more intelligent; our people are more competent; and our people can deliver the goods. We only have to motivate them. We must make laws in such a manner that there will be incentives for them to produce more and more, and every citizen must feel that he is a capable citizen of this country by virtue of the skills that he has acquired.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. K.S. Rao.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at nineteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

FINANCE BILL, 2011 — *Contd.*

[*English*]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on the day when the General Discussion on the Budget for 2011-12 took place, I raised the issue of reduction of import duty on silk. The hon. Finance Minister, on that day, due to time constraints had not replied to it. I also did not disturb him in an atmosphere where the House was not functioning properly.

India is also producing one of the most precious silks. Karnataka silk is especially the world famous silk. I do not want to repeat about the quality of silk that is going to be produced in Karnataka. China produces more than 1,26,995 metric tonnes of silk whereas India produces about 19,690 metric tonnes. This is our contribution. Out of this, Karnataka is producing 7,260 metric tonnes of silk, which is one of the best quality silks. After this decision by the Union Government, nearly 11 lakh persons are engaged in different sericulture activities like mulberry cultivation, silk worm rearing, silk reeling, twisting, dying, weaving etc. On account of this, the silk growing farmers have now reached a stage of committing suicide. The hon. Finance Minister has given several concessions to other sectors in agriculture. I do not want to quote all those things. My primary concern is that this sericulture is one of the cash crops and it is also a labour-oriented crop. I have discussed this issue several times on the floor of this House. On account of this decision, what is the adverse effect? The adverse effect is that the average cocoon price has come down from Rs. 300 to Rs. 170 per kilogram. The price of the high breed silk is slashed from Rs. 380 to Rs. 180. Much more than that, there has been drastic decline in raw silk production. Now the farmers are in such a pathetic condition due to this adverse effect. I cannot convince the hon. Finance Minister by merely making speeches. He must get a report on this. More than 10,000 farmers blocked the road for

one full day. There was no police, no revenue officer in the Mysore to Bangalore National Highway for one full day. They did not yield to any type of convincing answer by the officers. But they did not stoop to violent methods. We must appreciate the patience of the farmer. They did not ever yield to the false promises made by the local officers.

May I humbly request your good self to see to this aspect? After all, what are you going to gain from this reduction? How much are you going to save from this? You are giving so many concessions in the industrial sector. I do not want to quote all those things. My previous speaker has raised several thought-provoking points. I can also touch on almost all those points.

I had an opportunity to work with the Finance Minister. I can give a number of instances what we had done in those 10 months. I do not want to go back to the past history.

Sir, what is the adverse effect? A large quantity of silk is imported over the above, then, the quantity required would be misused by over and above. And the quantity required would be misused by some vested interests by trading this imported silk in local markets, affected cocoon and raw silk prices. This is the first point.

Secondly, China, which is the major producer, may again attempt to dump more silk into the country which may affect the Indian sericulture adversely and dictate the internal silk trade. Thirdly, the policy of reduced imported duty is against the clause in world trade regulations, which State, "Import or allowing dumping of any raw material into the country at a cheaper rate, which would result in affecting the livelihood of the poor and the marginal farmers, shall not be promoted."

Fourthly, there is a drastic reduction in the raw silk price from Rs. 2,800 to Rs. 2,000 per kilogram. The average cocoon price has also come down from Rs. 300 to Rs. 175 per kilogram. This would not only affect the livelihood of the farmers and weavers severely, it

would also affect the process India would continue to face critical shortage of raw silk. In the interest of the sericulture farmer, it is strongly felt that the Government of India to reconsider the reduction of the customs duty on the import of Chinese raw silk and should restore back the customs duty to 30 per cent, which existed earlier, from 35 per cent. This would save the sericulture farmers. If the Government takes that decision, I would congratulate the Government, especially the Finance Minister, for the gesture he is going to show in this regard.

In the opening remarks today, while moving the Finance Bill, he had taken into consideration some of the points raised in the Budget discussion or some representatives given by various organisations, for or against, he made this point. It gives me an opportunity to quote that opening remarks to persuade the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India to restore back the original customs duty, which was imposed at 30 per cent. That is my humble request I am making.

With these words, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, the hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Finance Bill, 2011. Hon. Finance Minister is a very learned Minister. Just now we listened to him and also listened to our friend Rao Saheb. On 28th February, budget was presented in the House, many things were in it which we discussed here elaborately. Recently incidents like Tsunami or earthquakes that took place in Japan. People are battling to restore democracy in various countries like Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Africa, etc. to get rid of military rule. Recently, our hon. leader Shri Mulayam Singh expressed his concern and views about Libya and all hon. Members associated themselves with his views. It is time and Finance Minister has also expressed concern that the incidents taking place in many other countries will adversely affect our

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

economy. He also expressed concern that there could be hike in prices of essential commodities in the time to come. Particularly, when the prices of petrol or petro products rise automatically the prices of essential commodities go up and consequently this rise in inflation lead to increase in dearness allowances. Several announcements have been made in the budget. It will not go into details of that. Prior to this I have said during the budget discussions that while preparing the budget effort should be made to make it village oriented. There should be special focus on villages in the budget. Even today seventy per cent people of this country are dependent on agriculture and they live in villages and only thirty to thirty five per cent people live in cities.

Many things have been discussed here in the budget about Bharat Nirman and I do not want to go into the details of thereof. Roa Saheb has given a suggestion that in the components of Bharat Nirman, there is a mention of housing and it has been stated there that our poor people shall be given land had housing facility. In this budget, there is a provision of rupees forty five thousand and Rs. 48 thousand for housing in the plains and in the hilly areas respectively. He has said that land be made available for one lakh or one lakh twenty five thousand so that a good house can be built and housing facility to the BPL people residing in rural areas may be provided. A number of times we have expressed our concern and this raises the question about number of poor people and people belonging to BPL category in the country and we have not been able to determine their numbers. Out budget focuses on villages, but the money that reaches them is very less. This house has expressed concern a number of times. On this issue, I would not like to go into details but the components like rural housing agriculture, roads under PMGSY, telephone connectivity have not been provided and Panchayat Bhawan in 73 thousand villages have not yet been constructed and these things are a matter of concern.

We have talked about clean water, but we have not been able to provide safe drinking water to villages either under Swajaldhara scheme or Rajiv Gandhi Safe Drinking Water Mission.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Members of Parliament whether they belong to Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, I would particularly refer to the Lok Sabha Members here, they are the elected representatives of the people and whenever we go among them they make various demands like hand pumps and roads and raise the issue of BPL and PDS so in view of this, I would like to give a suggestion through you, as the Minister is also present here that at least ten to fifteen per cent centrally sponsored schemes should be introduced at the behest of Members of Parliament. I think this will help in resolving many problems. We know that in the federal structure the State Governments have been given cent per cent facility in implementation of schemes but in my view if, 5, 10 or 15 per cent schemes are taken from the State and accorded to the Members of Parliament, it could help in resolving many issues.

We have discussed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in detail, if we evaluate this scheme even today in this budget, and as revealed by the survey conducted by us every unemployed person could get employment hardly for 50-60 days and what has been provided in this budget and what you are going to do, it is very difficult to provide employment of hundred days. Therefore, I would like to say that it require some changes.

On the other hand, we have made detailed discussions about taxes. Many people engaged in the business of readymade garment came to me and they put forth everything relating to service tax. You have reduced only 4.5 per cent on ready made garments. I think Jai Prakash Agarwal ji also want to say something but his views could not came. Let's talk about it seriously. We should talk to ready made garments manufacturers to understand their problems and accordingly concession tax should be given. I would like to say that tax should

be reduced on essential commodities whether it is cereals or anything else which we import or produce. Only then we can consume and export those things to foreign countries. What happens is that when we export or import something, taxes are imposed on it, and a number of essential items which are produced by us are imported at higher prices consequently capital of our country is sent to foreign countries. We should try to export our produce by reducing taxes on them and earn foreign exchange. This should be our effort. As you have provided in this budget that rebate has been given on silk but nothing has been done in this budget for cotton and Khadi, despite the fact that even today women in rural areas wear cotton cloth. Our hon. Former Prime Minister Shri Devegowdaji expressed his concern over South silk. In Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi is a place, Banarasi Saree is very famous. The Member of Parliament sitting besides me belong to a place where weaver community are living and carpet are made by them. We should provide special subsidy and rebate on taxes on all items which we produce for export. I think some hon. Members will put forth their views on carpet industry. Almost all the members talked about service tax. Tomorrow is the birth centenary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He said that food, clothing be cheap and medicine, education be free in the country. Rao Saheb also expressed his concern over it. He discussed things elaborately. I do not want to go into the details. But service tax imposed on hotel or on tourism should be reduced. You can evaluate it. It would be better if we discuss with people engaged in it, it will help in increasing production and also earn foreign exchange which will strengthen the economy of the country.

So far as the matter of rebate on service tax on hospital is concerned, some rebate has been given for tests and investigations. In my view, this has been provided in Constitution of India that one should get education, employment and also medical facilities and affordable treatment in hospitals. These issues are enshrined in our Constitution. But we are not able to follow that time and again, we are levying taxes but from time to time hon. Minister has announced some

concessions. But we have to examine it in details. As I came to know that in this budget and in previous budgets some concessions have been given to women. Our is a male dominated country, time and again we talk about women's empowerment and reservation, we are in favour of it.

Women should also get rebate in tax. You have provided relaxation in age of old persons and provided rebate in tax but there is no declaration in this budget on women. You have to give some consideration to this.

Our budget should be prepared in such a manner that special attention is given to rural areas. 70 per cent population still live in rural areas. We are unable to provide employment in rural areas, therefore, there is migration to cities from rural areas. Due to this there is burden on big cities and towns. Take Delhi for instance. Poor people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh come here for employment. Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and various such big metropolitan cities are the place where people go. Different comments are made on them such as their being unhygienic and that they spread anarchy here and make the place unclean. We should prepare a village-oriented budget to avoid such a situation. Rebate should be given on their taxes.

I want to talk about farmers. Farmers do not get adequate cost for their products whether in silk industry, coconut industry or for the cereals grown by them. It is for this reason that today in southern India people commit suicide due to debt. But the situation of North India is not clear. Information from North India is not coming but we have got more information from Southern India regarding suicide by farmers. We have to give special attention to it, especially to the provision of power, water to the farmers. Farmer should get free electricity. Water should be given for irrigation. Seeds should be given at low cost. Subsidy, rebate should be given on agricultural implements. Then we would be self-reliant in terms of foodgrains and to be able to export foodgrains abroad. It is true that we have become self-reliant in foodgrain production. We do not export foodgrain but sometimes we

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

import wheat from foreign countries. We import wheat from foreign countries at much higher cost than the wheat sold here. If we give subsidy to farmers and provide loan at cheaper rate then we would become self-reliant. India is an agriculture based country and the economy of India is dependent on agricultural products.

Unemployment has also increased. How we would be able to provide employment. How we would be able to provide employment to educated unemployed persons. It is not that unemployment has decreased in the country because you have implemented National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Unemployment has increased, especially, the number of educated persons, technically educated persons have increased and I want to say that education should be connected directly with employment. Interest of the students getting education should be analyzed. Students should be connected to that employment towards which his interest lies. If we make this arrangement then the problem of unemployment can be solved.

Now, Minister of Finance has declared that six per cent DA has been given to Central Government Employees. I want to say that there are discrepancies in the pay scales also. There are various departments in the State Governments and different demands keep on coming from them that we should get pay scale at par with the Centre. We have to assess this also so that the Government or State Government Employees can get a minimum such pay scale to meet the daily expenditure of the house and raise their standard of living, make their children educated and self-reliant and their problem of unemployment can be solved in the future. We have to give special attention to it.

There is talk of PDS system here. It has been seen from time to time that Central Government declares to provide wheat, rice at such and such rate. State Governments also declare rates from time to time. Today, when we go to rural areas the poor people of villages complains of non-availability of Kerosene oil, rice and what

and even to the extent that the amount of sugar to be consumed during festivals is also not available in the festive season.

There is a lot of irregularity in the PDS system and therefore it also needs to be improved. I want to suggest to the Government to assess my proposals and implement them. These proposals include increase in our production, ability to export and send products abroad, bringing foreign exchange in the country so that the economy of our country and financial condition can strengthen and we can become self-reliant. And so that we can move forward fighting the insecurity in the country and at borders and stand on our feet to face the danger in future. We have to give special attention to make the country self-reliant.

With this, I conclude by strongly supporting this Finance Bill.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Finance Bill, 2011. I was listening with great attention to the things mentioned by Minister of Finance Shri Pranab Mukherjee in his presentation of budget and the various points, today and thereafter the things mentioned by our senior leaders.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Finance through you towards two-three points. First of all, I want to congratulate him because he stated our national policy intimating the problem of Libya, Japan to the House in his presentation of budget. Alongwith it, he spoke about weavers, service tax, rebate in the tax for tests in hospitals. But, I want to draw the attention of Minister towards the most important fact that this country lives in villages and farmers live in villages. 70 per cent population of this country live in villages. Special attention has been given to cities, capitals and big traders in this budget but the Minister of Finance has given lesser attention towards farmers, labourers, weavers and persons making this general livelihood from small, medium, micro and cottage industry who play an important role in financial progress of the country.

Sir, I want to say through you that this country would develop only when the purchasing power of people in villages will increase and they will have money. For this, there is a need to give attention to facilities of those farmers. Special attention needs to be given to easy loan to farmers, loan for agricultural implements at low interest rate and other things which are necessary for farmers in the budget.

Sir, products are produced in villages but intermediaries take advantage of it. Producers and farmers in villages do not get benefit of their produce whether it is foodgrain, oilseed, pulses, vegetables eggs, milk etc. storage is needed for it. Now-a-days, when products are produced in villages they are brought at cheaper rates through intermediaries. Intermediaries take direct benefit from it. I want to suggest hon. Minister that through this budget facility for storing their product by providing storage facility at rural level and block level should be provided so that they can get fair price and the economic situation in villages can strengthen.

Sir, there is helplessness, poverty and unemployment in villages. As our senior colleague was saying, though in order to remove the above malaise people are getting education in villages but they are not getting technical education. Today, there is a need to promote technical education in villages so that when the youth seek jobs after completing their education, they may get jobs. Today in villages there is a need to carry out such developments.

Sir, today inflation is on the rise. Government have not spelt out any effective measures in its budget to put a check on it. Today, common consumers are reeling under the burden of direct taxes, indirect taxes etc. but where his income should have increased, the Minister of Finance has not paid sufficient attention towards that direction. Price rise can be halted only when blackmarketing and hoarding are reined in, for this purpose strict laws should be formulated so that hoardings and blackmarketers can be reined in and there should be a sense of fear for punishment if someone happens to

commit such crimes. System should be evolved so that no one could be able to affect the economy of our country.

Sir, ordinary people live in villages, do their farming in traditional ways, approach the banks for loans to have their own means of earning livelihood and employment. Sadly, I have to say that on one hand the Government is formulating policies to provide the villagers loans at lower rate of interest or even free of interest, but people are not getting these facilities from the banks. Today, when farmers-labourers approach the banks for availing even a small amount of loan, they get loan through middlemen only after shelling out money. Their files are kept pending till the time payments were made and thereafter the files are cleared. There is a need to pay attention to this as the Government wants that people should earn their livelihood through micro, small and medium industries so that income of the country may increase and the people may live happily. Therefore, there is a need to put a check on banks so that these people may get loans as per the policy and intentions of the Government.

Sir, farmers need encouragement in cultivation of Basmati rice, sugarcane, jute, cotton or silk which our former Prime Minister has been talking about them now. I got elected from Bhadohi in Poorvanchal of Uttar Pradesh which is famous for carpet industry. There are many such districts in the said region like Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Sonbhadra, Varanasi, Allahabad etc. where weavers are engaged in carpet weaving as part of cottage industry. Export to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees is done from there. Earlier, also this much volume of export was being done from this place. The weavers had to face difficulty on the issue of child labour and global slow-down, but carpet industry of this country in particular was maligned in the name of child labour which affected this industry. Earlier, incentives used to be given to encourage carpet industry, that also has been done away with now. Carpet industry was slandered to such an extent in foreign countries that

[Shri Gorakhnath Pandey]

weavers gradually became unemployed. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that a scheme should be formulated to give impetus to the carpet industry. They should be provided loan at lower rate of interest on the lines of loans given to Khadi Industries Commission. Attention should also be drawn towards the poor farmers and village labourers who in their small cottages engage themselves in this industry along with their family members as part of the collage industry and is earning thousands of crores of rupees for the country.

Sir, my area Bhadohi is adjoining Banaras zari work, silk industry and Banarasi sarees of this place have been world famous but today cheaper China made sarees are being imported, people are buying Chinese sarees more as compared to the Banarasi sarees. People are not buying Banarasi sarees. Banarasi sarees used to be world famous for its art and aesthetics. The ancestral occupation of all the labourers engaged in this industry was making Banarasi sarees, today all of them have been rendered homeless, they are dying of starvation, your attention should also be drawn towards this situation. Import duty on raw material for silk industry has been reduced to some extent. It should be done away with and the hon. Minister should pay attention towards it to ensure that its production increases in our country. Rural people migrate to cities in search of livelihood, if they are provided with these facilities in the villages itself if attention of the Minister is drawn towards it, only then India will prosper. This country will prosper only when villages will be developed and rural people will not migrate to cities in search of livelihood. For this purpose, there is a need to pay attention towards the facilities for farmers, labourers, adequate supply of electricity of made available to villages, farmers should be provided with seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipments at lower rates at appropriate time, the attention of the Minister should also be drawn towards this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like

to State that the development of the country will take place only when the development of poor people residing in villages takes place as the real picture of the country lies in villages and the development of the villages is the real development. That's why attention should be paid towards it. The economy of this country should be strengthened by developing the farmers, weavers, workers and labourers residing in the villages. Alongwith this the country should be developed by increasing the per capita income.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the Budget was placed, we discussed it in detail. The discussion on the Finance Bill is not actually a discussion on the Budget. In this, we can only discuss the proposals and ideas which the hon. Minister has placed in his taxation proposals. So, the discussion should be restricted to those issues only.

We as such very positively oppose some of the tax proposals, which have been somehow corrected by the hon. Finance Minister, while initiating the discussion. We thought that the proposal to levy Service Tax in medical hospitals for treatments, was an improper decision. The hon. Finance Minister, in his initial remarks, has dealt with this issue.

One of the vital issues is the ten per cent excise duty that was imposed on the ready-made garments and hosieries which is affecting this sector very badly. The minority communities and the weavers will suffer throughout the country. It has a huge number of employees. I will go into the details later.

I would like to refer to one of the speeches delivered by Shri P. Chidambaram, who is present here. The Chamber of Textile Trade and Industry in a Memorandum has intimated that in 2004 the then hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram has cleared stated, "the fragmented nature of the industry as one of the main reasons for removal of the mandatory excise. Even today, nothing

much has changed since then and the industry is still fragmented and unorganised.”

In addition, the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, when she was the Leader of Opposition, wrote a letter in 2003, saying that the Government should not impose excise duty on garment industry. So, what we believe is that the Chamber of Textile Trade and Industry and the Confederation of West Bengal Hosiery and Readymade Garments' Association, have jointly made this appeal to the Government. I hope most of the Members and most of the political parties are of the same opinion that this sector has to be saved from the imposition of ten per cent excise duty.

While making his submissions, Shri K.S. Rao was saying that the BJP is a traders' party. I do not think that any sector should be branded as belonging to a particular party. In the constituency which I represent, there are so many traders. They are the firm believers of the principles of the UPA-II Government. They support our policies and principles. So, we should not categorise any such sector and say that the traders are always with the BJP.

15.00 hrs.

So, I make an appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance, who also represents West Bengal that the situation is really grave over there. A few days back, they mobilized a gathering in the city of Kolkata where the turnout was more than one lakh of people, who gathered there and opposed the imposition of ten per cent excise duty, which according to us, is to be withdrawn without any hesitation.

Sir, at present in the Budget, the rate of income tax for every individual has been proposed upto Rs. 1,80,000 — nil. We propose that it may be increased upto Rs. 2,00,000. That is also to be taken seriously.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Finance on the imposition of excise duty on Railway rolling stock, that is, goods falling under heading 8601 to 8606.

Sir, Railways were exempted from payment of this duty since 1995 continuously. The reason for this exemption is known to all. Railway is the lifeline of the nation and caters to the needs of the poorest of the poor sections of the society. Any additional burden imposed on the Railways would have a direct impact on the services provided by it.

For the first time, since 1995, this exemption has been withdrawn in the Union Budget 2011-12. This will result in a higher expenditure on rolling stock by about Rs. 130 crore annually. This will have a cascading effect on inflationary pressures on essential commodities carried by the Railways.

Sir, you are aware that the Railways have not increased their fare to spare the common man of any additional burden. I would, therefore, request through you, to the hon. Minister of Finance to kindly restore the exemption of excise duty on rolling stock immediately.

So, these are the proposals which we very strongly place before the Government to take a firm decision. As the Second largest Party of the UPA Government, Trinamool Congress feels that we should not adopt any such decision or make taxation on any such issues which may cause tremendous anger in the particular few sections who can feel isolated for their approach to the mainstream and they may face very many difficulties in their livelihood.

So, Sir, these are some of the concrete proposals which we table and we want specific answers on them and complete withdrawal from these tax proposals today when the hon. Minister of Finance will respond to the Finance Bill.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir before coming to my speech on the Finance Bill, I express my thanks to Dr. K.S. Rao who has initiated the discussion on the Finance Bill on behalf of the Congress Party. Although his speech was not, according to me, related to the Finance Bill, he has been shedding

[Shri Khagen Das]

tears for the farmers and the rural poor in his long speech. I do not know whether the UPA Government-II would be shedding tears or they would shed crocodile tears which they have been shedding since Independence. Due to their policies, more than two lakh seventeen thousand farmers committed suicide during the last 15 years.

15.05 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

Sir, coming to my speech, while participating in the discussion on the Finance Bill, 2011, at the outset, I would like to express my huge disappointment with this Bill.

The Union Budget, 2011-12, from a beleaguered Government, tainted by a series of mega-scams, has utterly failed to address the core challenges of rolling back inflation and reducing mass deprivation and unemployment. Some of the major concerns on the Budget are these.

In terms of revenue proposal, it provides significant concessions to the well-to-do persons, especially the corporate sector. It seeks to neutralize the resulting revenue loss by raising regressive indirect taxes. It seeks to reduce the fiscal deficit primarily through expenditure reduction achieved by slashing pro-poor subsidies on food, fertilizers and fuel.

The Central Plan outlays for the key areas of agriculture, irrigation and rural development that affect the lives of more than two-thirds of the Indian population have been reduced in real terms in the Budget for 2011-12 as compared to 2010-11. The Government has not been able to find enough resources for primary education, rural employment, food security, rural housing, public health, water, sanitation and so on which are subjects of prime importance for the common people.

The Budget offers precious little in terms of UPA's promises to ensure "inclusive growth." The Budgetary allocations for the social sectors and the disadvantaged sections of population like women, children, *dalits* and minorities are far from adequate from the Government's promises pertaining to the *aam aadmi*. Thus, the Budget 2011-12 is unjust, inequitable and morally wrong.

Sir, I am surprised to see that the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has compared almost all figures pertaining to the Budget Estimates for 2011-12 with only the Budget Estimates for the last year — 2010-11. This defies economic reasoning. Why should he compare the Budget Estimates of next year with the Budget Estimates of the current year while he has Revised Estimate figures for 2010-11 which are more realistic? It does not want to allocate more resources for the next year based on additional releases made during the current fiscal over and above the original Budget Estimate.

What the UPA Government has followed all along is the IMF and World Bank-dictated neo-liberal path of Fiscal Consolidation legalized by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003. The FRBM Act is forcing the Government to cut down its intervention and public spending in order to reduce the fiscal and revenue deficits.

This year's Budget reflects the same intentions. Targets for deficit reduction prescribed by the FRBM Act have been criticised by many economists as totally arbitrary that are not being based on sound economic logic.

The Union Budget for 2011-12 reveals the inability of the Central Government to increase its gross tax revenue at a higher rate even after the economy has recovered from the impact of global economic recession of 2008-09 and 2009-10. The slow revival of the tax-GDP ratio for the Centre would affect the total tax-GDP ratio for the country which, in turn, would limit the overall budgetary expenditure by the Centre as well as States.

In the total tax revenue collected by the Centre and the States, Direct Taxes accounted for around 37 per cent of the revenue while the Indirect Taxes accounted for a much larger 63 per cent of the revenue. Not many will disagree that there is a need for progressivity of the overall tax regime in India by further increasing the reliance on Direct Taxes.

There is a proposal to increase the income tax exemption limit to Rs. 1,80,000 from Rs. 1,60,000, but the exemption limit for women remains at Rs. 1,90,000. So, women have been given a raw deal in this matter.

The proposed move towards the Goods and Services Tax which has not yet witnessed a common consensus among the State Governments deserves a lot more public debate. Here, I would like to refer to a letter written by the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding the withdrawal of the proposed excise duty on readymade garments and hosieries. The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the hon. Finance Minister of the Government of India against the imposition of the mandatory levy of 10 per cent excise duty on readymade garments. He has requested the hon. Finance Minister to review this decision. So, I strongly demand that it should be withdrawn. He has also pointed out to the reduction of customs duty on raw silk from 30 per cent to 5 per cent which will result in the death knell of sericulture in India in general and in vast areas of West Bengal in particular. So, I strongly demand that this decision should be reviewed as has been requested by the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal and also by the people from all over the country.

Sir, the Centre frequently claims that it does not have resources to address the concerns pertaining to the social sectors and more importantly for agriculture and allied sectors. But there is a huge revenue forgone on account of numerous tax concessions offered to the wealthy, much of it in the name of 'fiscal stimulus' and all of it in the name of 'incentives' amounting to a whopping Rs. 5.11 lakh crore in 2010-11 and Rs. 4.83

lakh crore in 2009-10. By contrast, subsidies that are intended to farmers and to poor account for a far smaller amount. But the trick is to give the dog a bad name and hang it. Hence, tax breaks for the rich count as incentives, but food and fuel for the poor are seen as avoidable burden.

The problems of tax foregone are also compounded with the circulation of black money in the country and those stashed abroad. According to the data provided by the Swiss Bank, India has more black money than the rest of the world combined. If the Government pursues this money deposited in the foreign banks and controls parallel economy in the country, it can easily cut down the high percentage of fiscal deficit and make huge investment in the social sector. The Government must be pro-active in bringing back the black money.

In fine, I strongly oppose the Finance Bill 2011-12. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand here to deliberate on the Finance Bill 2011.

At the outset, I would say that the Finance Bill needs detailed deliberation because on the face of it one comes to know towards the second last paragraph of the Budget Speech where the Finance Minister says that it is broadly tax neutral. The direct tax proposals, which have been done away with, are around Rs.11,000 crore and through indirect tax quite similar amount is going to be retrieved. He hopes to recover this through indirect tax proposals. He is banking upon a continued trend of tax fluency by projecting an overall 18.5 per cent growth in tax revenue in 2011-12 over the Revised Estimates of 2010-11.

If the growth story holds good and tax fluency as projected comes true one may feel relaxed, but there are dark clouds visible. Some of us have already deliberated on that and this will pressurize the administration to meet the ambitious revenue target provisions.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

Mr. Chairman, I will deal with four or five issues or points. Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has stated in a report that there is a glaring mismatch between the number of PAN card holders and the number of individual assesses filing income tax returns. The Comptroller and Auditor General has stated that while a total of 958 lakh PAN cards are issued up to March, 2010, the number of income tax returns filed last fiscal added up to mere 340.9 lakh. Has the Government found out the reasons for such a massive difference? Will the Government identify the reasons for non-filing of IT returns? What steps have been taken to weed out duplicate PAN cards and also update the position in respect of deceased assesses? Should it not be the endeavour of the Ministry to ensure that the entire assessee base is correctly identified?

Another issue is that of TDS, tax deduction at source. Is it true that more than Rs.4,000 crore is non-payment of TDS in the first eleven months of this fiscal year? Relating to personal taxation, the basic general exemption is increased from Rs.1.60 lakh to Rs.1.80 lakh. For those with new limit, tax savings will be around Rs. 2,060 after taking into consideration cess and additional cess. For senior citizens, the basic exemption limit is raised from Rs. 2.40 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh with tax savings of Rs. 1030 only. Women will continue without any savings. A major relief is the reduction of age limit for senior citizens from 65 years to 60 years. And they would be eligible for the revised limit of Rs. 2.5 lakh. However, a windfall is for super senior citizens who are 80 years of age, whose basic exemption limit will now be Rs. 5 lakh in lieu of Rs. 2.5 lakh. Tax savings compared to current liabilities for those incomes which are larger than Rs. 5 lakh will be Rs. 26,780. These changes would be effective — that is more important — from the Assessment Year 2012-2013 relating to the income of the Financial Year 2011-2012.

There is another issue to which I would like to draw

the attention of this House. The Member from Sikkim is not present here but I would like the Government to respond to it. An issue is floating around relating to the Indian citizens or citizens of Indian origin who had settled in Sikkim before Sikkim merged with India. There is income tax concession or those who are of Sikkim origin are not paying any income tax. But, those who are of Indian origin who had settled before Sikkim was merged with India, they have been asked to pay income tax. I would urge the Government to consider this aspect and also allow them the exemption which is prevalent for Sikkim people as they are citizens of this country, of that specific region.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Government that recently the Cabinet has taken a decision and today the Finance Minister also has moved the Bill and that is a baby step towards an ambitious tax reform relating to Goods and Services Tax (GST). The GST, which is set to be made applicable from April, 2012 rollout will simplify indirect tax. It will replace multiple taxes like the Central Sales Tax, the Value Added Tax, local levies, and surcharges imposed by the Centre and the States at various stages of production, movement and retail of goods. Under the new regime, only one tax, that is GST will be levied at the retail level. This will curb needless litigation, delays and tax evasion. Some 120 countries have adopted GST model. But, within our country, some States are not willing, are not for it yet. They want to keep the power to tax oil, alcohol, and tobacco. If State's levies are permitted, this would defeat the chief goal of GST.

The present system of selecting, taxing specific services has the advantage of eliminating services that do not yield much revenue but comprehensive services tax is based on the concept that all services are taxable. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Minister has not made any commitment to introducing a comprehensive service tax when GST is introduced. There are still discussions about two rates of service tax and even of continuing with selective approach. Are you going to

abandon the selective approach to service tax in favour of comprehensive service tax when GST is introduced?

Relating to health, I had a different opinion. I have never anticipated or rather many of us had never anticipated that the Finance Minister is going to rollback the taxes on health sector but I was in favour of that tax because it was taxing the rich who get admitted in private hospitals. How many of us especially from Odisha can go to Belleview clinics? How many of us go to Apolo Hospital or other private hospitals for treatment? A large number of private hospitals are run by window air conditioner. They do not have centrally air-conditioned facility but an atmosphere was created in the country; a number of associations came out on the streets, I would have favoured imposition of that tax. But when? I will like to know as to when the DTC is going to be imposed, what will be the position? What will be the position when GST is going to be implemented next year? The Finance Minister has not come out very clear on that aspect. I am not going to deliberate on that issue.

I am limited on two points. I need some more time. I was very elated when I heard the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister when he said that by unifying the differential export duty on types of iron ore, that is, 15 per cent in the case of lumps and 5 per cent in the case of fines, the hon. Finance Minister has effectively used the tariff mechanism to gradually restrain the outflow of the finite natural resources, that is, iron ore. Many think in the process, and I was one of them, the exchequer will benefit substantially with a projected revenue flow of nearly 15,000 crores a year. But I have two questions here. First, what is the prevalent world market rate of iron ore and how much is the duty percentage-wise? When there is such a high price in the international market why would there be value addition here?

Secondly, with this duty imposition, does the iron ore bearing States benefit in any way? I tried to find that out. Now-a-days lumps are not being exported. I do not know about Goa but from other States where iron ore is being exported, lumps are not being exported at all in great

quantity. The raising cost per tonne is only Rs. 600. The transport cost amounts to Rs. 2000 to Rs. 2,500. So the total cost of port head is around Rs. 3,000. What is the international rate of iron ore? Despite the tsunami and earthquake in Japan what is the rate of iron ore in the international market? The rate in the international market yesterday as per my calculation was 160 Dollars per tonne. If you multiply it by 48 then it comes to about Rs. 7,680. The port head cost is only Rs. 3000 and the person who is selling it, is selling it at Rs. 7,680 and that was the yesterday's price. How much are you taxing him? You are taxing him 20 per cent that is Rs. 1000. How can this tax will curtail or restrain export of iron ore, the finite material, about which the hon. Finance Minister has spoken?

I would urge that you try to contain it in a different manner. Of course you oblige the international understandings which you have already made but try to contain because the demand within the country for iron ore and steel is much more.

The next issue is relating to branded garments. Many hon. Members have already spoken about branded garments. Now Khadi is also being sold as a branded garment. Are you going to tax them?

My last point is related to MAT. The hon. Finance Minister has marginally raised the Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) from 18 per cent to 18.5 per cent. By increasing MAT, the Finance Minister has effectively signalled that exemptions will remain. Had the Direct Tax Code not been diluted, all exemptions should have been scrapped. MAT was introduced in 1987. Yet there has been resentment among many especially the STPI and SEZ units which are functioning. I find no justification of imposing MAT on STPI especially those smaller IT companies, the BOPs who are doing better and bringing in more revenue to our kitty than the bigger companies which are outside the SEZ and outside the STPI.

During the Budget discussion and earlier also when the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

discussed, Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, the leader of our Party, had drawn the attention of the Finance Minister relating to unseasonal rainfall in Odisha, and said that repeatedly for five months unseasonal rainfall had created havoc and destroyed all our kharif crops. A Memorandum was given by the Government of Odisha. A Central Team consisting of officers also had visited Odisha. After Shri Sethi had raised this matter in this House, the Finance Minister was kind enough to stand up and say: "Yes, we have already received the Report of the Group of Ministers which was seized of the matter and we are going to take a decision soon." Now, we are in the last week of this Budget Session. I would expect that the a sum Rs. 2,500 crore demanded by the Government of Odisha should be given to us as early as possible because now we are in the next crop season. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

[Translation]

I support the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri K.S. Rao who have initiated the discussion on Finance Bill and want to putforth my views on this Bill. It has been noticed that the Government was blamed frequently in this Budget Session. So, I would like to quote what Mahatma Gandhi said:

[English]

"It is quite proper to resist and attack a system, but to resist and attack its author is tantamount to resisting and attacking oneself. For we are all tarred with the same brush"

[Translation]

The Minister of Finance has brought this Bill keeping in view the policy net and policy of UPA and present

circumstances and also maintaining the tradition. In the circumstances prevailed in the country and in the world, no financial management can be better than this one. Those people who are interrupting the proceedings of the House should not forget the words of Swami Vivekanand:

[English]

"The whole universe is bound by the law of causation. There cannot be anything, any fact — either in the internal or in the external world — that is uncaused; and every cause must produce an effect."

[Translation]

When the economy of the world is going down and natural calamities are frequently taking place in the country, in such circumstances no Financial Bill or management can be better than this one. If anyone who for the sake of criticism thinks over the issues addressed in this Finance Bill by the Government of India. How this has been done, if we pay attention towards it we will find that everything has been included in it. I have worked a lot for the tribals.

Sir, (as) you know [English] Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are the Chairman of the Estimates Committee of which I am also a Member, [Translation] I raised the issues relating to PTG in the Committee for several times. The population of the primitive tribes, who live in Nyungiri hills and Andaman Nicobar, Naxalite belts of India and other places is around 32 lakhs. There was a Budget provision of 185 crores for them. We have brought this into the notice of UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and also discussed the matter with Minister of Finance that after 63 years of Independence they do not have assess to proper housing, potable water, healthcare and still being a human being they are not leading life of a human being. I would like to thank Finance Minister that he has talked about separate planning for it and increased the budget from Rs. 185 crores to Rs. 244 crores for this purpose. It is a common aspect and such things are given place in this budget and nothing can

be better and significant than this for common people? You can see that the issue of women has also been considered in this budget and the wages of Anganbadi workers has been increased from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3000 and honorarium of helper has been increased from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1500. The provision of the creation of corpus fund of Rs. 500 crores in micro finance for women empowerment has also been made. As we are talking about children, I too would like to make some points regarding children and education. Although there has been some changes in the life of Anganbadi workers and helpers but its dark aspect cannot be overlooked. I cannot exactly unearth the truth regarding the supply of mid-day meal under the Anganwadi and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in other States except Odisha where I reside and many of my friends are sitting here who know the pulse scam in mid-day meal scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, no cross talk please.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Sir, pulse worth Rs. 700 crores have been scammed last year resulting deprival of access to pulses to children and the pulse which has been scammed was rotten. If the schemes formulated by the Government for the betterment of children is failed no financial management can work. My friends who are sitting here always use to demand more grants for Odisha. How the grants released is being utilized is an issue about which I shall put my view later. The Government has evolved a series of programmes to check the inflation and to meet the demands of the people it is important to strengthen the agriculture sector and the farmers. There is not a single programme toward which the Government of India has not paid attention but there are lots of such programme like National Agricultural Development Plan or Green Revolution in the Eastern regions, or development of more than Sixty thousand villages under the Integrated Development Programme or the production of the 3 lacs metric tonnes of palm oil

in five acres of land in a year, or paying attention towards production of vegetable production or marketing, or the nutritious cereals, such as Jwar, Bajra, Ragi and its products; for examples. How to meet the demand of the people by providing protein supplement under National Mission is also a matter of great importance for the Government. The Government has given attention towards National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and also towards Agriculture credit. The agriculture credit has been enhanced from 3,75,000/- crore of rupees to 4,75,000/- crore of rupees. The UPA Government issues loans to the Government at the rate of 7%. There was a provision of the rebate of two percentage for those farmers who make their payment in time, which has been increased upto three percent by the hon. Finance Minister. It means the farmers will be able to take loan merely at the rate of 4%. What can be a great thing like this? If this great thing will be criticised, there remains nothing to say at all. I do not know how to abuse others in political terms, but I am bound to express the truth before you.

Sir, we do not have sufficient number of warehouses in our country to store the foodgrains. The proposal of new warehouses is under the after its arrangement there will be a facility to store 20 lakhs metric tonnes of foodgrains in coming years. The proposal of about 30 mega food parks is in progress. Amongst these 15 have already been sanctioned and 15 are going to be sanctioned.

Sir, there has been an increase of 24 per cent in the budget allocated in the field of education and there has been an increase of 20 per cent in the budget allocated for health. The common people believes on the UPA Government for the Backward Region Fund, MGNREGA, Indira Housing Project etc. there is provision in this budget to sort out the problems of the common people which is according to the policies of the Congress Party. Sir there is a very sensitive programme. The integrated action plan is extant in those 60 backward areas which are naxal affected, where insurgency prevails,

[Shri Bhakta Charan Das]

where poor people live and where there is huge regional imbalances. After so many of years these areas are still away from the development compared to the development of other areas. Therefore, for the development of those areas, 25 crore to 55 crore rupees have been allotted to the 60 districts with the proper consent of hon. Chidambaramji and the Finance Minister and you will realize the utilization of the fund by the common people. Sir, I would like to ask whether we are able to achieve our goal despite all these schemes whatever extent you speak technically? The fund raised under these sensitive programmes obviously goes to the villages but it is not spent properly. How problem of regional imbalances can be sorted out? But if the State Governments do not take steps to strengthen the country and do not spend money in the proper way, then it cannot be achieved.

Sir, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha are backward areas. In these areas, even twenty percent of these schemes fails to achieve success. It has been mentioned here and during his budget speech hon. Minister of Finance had stated that consultation should be made with the MPs concerned regarding the distribution or planning, but till today no MP has been consulted with in any district and only that happens which is in vogue, and the Government funds are shared duly by all. Today, that is what is going on. Nothing can be achieved in this way. My request to the Government is that for all the schemes of the Government, whichever agency is there between people and the Government, State Government will remain as an agency as authority of the Government should be there, but the middle agents who are there in districts, blocks and panchayats, the system which is in place there, why not that system be directed towards the villages so that direct planning takes place in the villages.

A package for all schemes should be given to a village so that everyone has a pucca house with proper sanitation, drinking water facility, proper supply of electricity, proper roads and drainage system, proper upkeep of livestock and proper system of irrigation in

place. We have not been able to formulate one package for one villages in the Planning Commission. Rupees twenty lakh crores have been earmarked for spending in the Eleventh Five Year Plan and we are planning to expend rupees 40 lakh crores in the 12th Five Year Plan. *[English]* UPA is spending money like anything for the inclusive growth of the country. But alas, the State Government and their machinery, the system is so much defective that they are unable to deliver. I would like to request that deficiencies which are there in the administration should be removed. *[Translation]* Efforts should be made in this direction. Farmers are committing suicides in Odisha as they are not getting anything. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not talking about corruption in mining. I would like to talk on the specific point. ...*(Interruptions)* If you are happy then I will talk. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Hon. Members, please maintain the decorum.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: If you go on asking for thousands of crores of rupees and you do not spend even a pie for the people and you go on amassing money, making money just on the sense of the programme, just on the sense of the scheme, then, there is no meaning in evolving such programmes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Please wind up.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: That's why there is no meaning left on these programmes.

Sir, through you, I would request the Government that an integrated village oriented action plan including

*Not recorded.

all these programmes could be ushered in the villages. A prosperous village will make a prosperous nation. Today even after spending lakh rupees by the UPA Government in the villages their development targets have not been fulfilled.

Sir, this is not a dispute between Centre and States, this is a matter of administrative dignity and making the country prosperous. Hence, we should usher in such prosperity which cannot be misused by the middle agents.

With these words I support the Finance Bill presented by the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North-East Delhi): I would like to make a request to the hon. Finance Minister that though excise duty has been reduced from 10 per cent to 4.5 per cent on the readymade garments, the garments upto the value of Rs. 1000 should also be exempted from the excise duty. Crores of people are associated with this work and this is a domestic industry. If this item is not exempted from the excise duty then people in large numbers will be forced to leave this trade, causing large scale unemployment and then Government will have to shell out more money under MNREGA or they would be at a disadvantage in the face of competition from China. Therefore, with folded hands I request you to exempt garments upto the value of Rs. 1000 from excise duty.

[English]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairman Sir, almost half of the population of our country comprises of women. The income tax relief of Rs.40,000 which was enjoyed by them has been done away with this year. I think it is not proper. The prices of essential commodities have shot up, they have become out of reach of the common people. For the men, only Rs. 20,000 is the rise in the threshold limit which is a meagre amount. It is not going to help the people in

any manner. Therefore I would request Hon. Finance Minister to give this issue of tax relief a second thought. The exemption limit for women must also be increased to Rs. 2,10,000 — this is my humble submission I would also mention that it has been announced that those salaried employees who earn upto Rs. 5 lakh annually will not have to file income tax return. But I suggest that this particular provision should be extended to all salaried employees who earn even more than Rs. 5 lakh per annum.

The interest rate for EPF has been increased to 9.5% but the rate for General Provident Fund has been pegged at 8%. The practice was to always keep the EPF rate half percent more than the rate of GPF. Thus I would request you to raise the GPF rate to 9% so that the half percent gap is maintained.

Another important thing is that, it was declared that senior citizens of the country would be given half a percent more in Senior Citizen Saving Scheme by the banks and all other financial organizations. But actually they are not being offered the enhanced rate of interest. Some banks offer a rate of more than 9%, the State Bank of India pays 9.75% to the general people. For Senior Citizen Saving Scheme, the bank rate is only 9%. The rates offered by the post offices for Senior Citizen Scheme are still lower at 9%, why older people would like to invest more in the post office schemes. Therefore this should be seriously looked into. I also want to suggest that instead of half percent, the senior citizens should be given at least one percent more than bank Fixed Deposit Rate. The manner in which prices of all commodities are increasing it will become very difficult for the people to survive. Even the prices of medicines and drugs are also going beyond the reach of the senior citizens. Thus I humbly request the Hon. Minister through you sir to kindly spare a thought for these helpless people who generally have no other means to survive.

Many Hon. Members have talked about the increase in taxes in the textile and hosiery goods manufacturing

*English translation of speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar]

sector. I am of the same view that this tax should not be imposed because it will lead to huge loss and more and more unemployment. It may also result in payment of subsidy to this sector in the end. So the proposed 10% excise duty should be done away with.

Subsidies on food, fertilizers and cement have been brought down further. I was not present in the House when the budget speech was being read out, yet from whatever little I would comprehend, I can say that the budgetary allocation for NREGA scheme has also been curtailed despite it being one of the flagship programmes of the UPA Government. This is not an encouraging signal.

We are feeling proud of our educational sector and are trying to invite foreign players and foreign investments. As a result, education has turned into a business like proposition. Educational institutions have become organs of minting money. This is a dangerous trend and we have to be very cautious in this regard. Most importantly, the primary education sector must be guarded against any corrupt practices.

The allocation for the social security sector is not much. This year, it might have increased a little from the previous years. But that is not enough. As we are aware, agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. India is basically an agricultural country. But even then, the share of agriculture in the budget is very less. The Government must invest more and more for the development of infrastructure in this sector.

I am not very well today, thus I am unable to speak at length. But I must say that if you cannot feed your family properly or cannot provide two square meals a day to your family members, how can you claim that the family is a prosperous one. People of the country today are battling with high rate of inflation. They are hungry and are not able to purchase food to survive. When people are starving on one hand, how can the Government say that this is a budget for the 'aam aadmi'? Much needs

to be done; much is left. So we should not be complacent with our achievements. A lot more is required.

With these words I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I have stood to speak on the Finance Bill which the hon. Minister of Finance has presented in the House. I support the Finance Bill. I want to give some suggestions. You are aware that our Government has made no difference especially between our villages and cities. Villages are being given money as per their entitlement under different schemes, but there is some deficiency being noticed in this regard. Whatever schemes you have, you keep a common criteria for each State. It is not right you will have to do away with it. There is one hilly terrain, a tough area. If a one kilometer road is to be constructed there and another one kilometre road is to be built in a plain area, then there is a huge difference between both the roads. Hence, no State can be treated on equal terms with other States because there can never be a similarity of plains and hilly States despite making any efforts. Therefore, Sir, I request you to pay attention to it.

Sir, I want to give an example. I am talking of MPLAD. I extend many congratulations to you for increasing the amount under this scheme. You have done a very good job by increasing the amount under MPLADS. We were unhappy with the previous amount of Rs. 2 crore under MPLAD but much more unhappy when it was further increased. I think you will sincerely take notice of what pain the Jammu and Kashmir MPs have. My constituency is spread over 22 thousand kilometer area. There are 17 Assembly segments in the constituency. Now you please tell me that an amount of rupees one crore each is earmarked for five MLAs under one MP. However, my Assembly segment received Rs.11.75 lakhs. I used to avoid different segments under my constituency. We remained in limitations always. So, I would like to say to you Sir that the constituencies which are small should

be given an amount of rupees five crores and you gave them. This is a great obligation on your part but at the same time pay attention to our case. It is because in our Lok Sabha constituency there are 17 Legislative Assembly constituencies. So, we should be given more money. Therefore, we request you to please treat our constituencies in the same manner in which the other constituencies are treated.

Sir, another thing which I want to State is regarding the PMGSY. You have implemented a number of schemes like CRF and NABARD in the States. You have fixed as to how much money under CRF you have to give to a State or an area. I want to say to you Sir and I want to tell you about my constituency that in my constituency, there are eight districts and in all eight districts, there are no culverts and crossings on drains, large pits and canals due to which around 50-100 people fall into them and die. It is written in PMGSY that unmetalled roads should be constructed and then metalled after 18 months. I am aware that they are not to be made and bridges are not to be constructed.

16.00 hrs.

That is not to be made, bridges are not to be constructed. My request to you Sir is regarding our bridges which are not being made. I want to tell the hon. Minister of Finance that he did a nice thing by identifying Jammu and Kashmir for the first time according to each region in the State. You granted an amount of rupees 100 crores Laddakh. This is commendable. You gave rupees 150 crore to Jammu. This is a very good thing, but the population of Jammu is 60 lakh equal to that of Kashmir. The population of Laddakh is less, there are only one lakh votes, I also ask them to construct, you see the quantity the population and the area also.

Thereafter you said that the fund which is earmarked for backward areas should be monitored by the MPs. Sir, My request to you is that whatever fund is in our area, the same may also be monitored by the MP. Otherwise, in regard to the condition of monitoring, I know how the

money was diverted. *[English]* There is no accountability and there is no monitoring. Who is doing that? *[Translation]* You please come, I tell you how money is misused and wrongly used. This hampers our progress. It so much fund is granted why is it there is a talk of thousands or lakhs or crores of rupees but it is very difficult on ground level.

I want to State one more thing about the schools according to distance as fixed by you. You please see that 5 kilometers of distance of my area is equal to 50 kilometers of distance in the city. You kindly walk 5 kilometers there. You arrange a primary health centre for a population of 20 thousand. I would like to know from you, Sir that in search of 20 thousand people, one has to cover a distance of 50 kilometers and there is a provision of health centre in every 150 kilometers. We have sub-district hospital here at a distance of 150-200 kilometres which can be seen in Banihal. If the people of Rongta, Dolka, Khaddar, Panal have to reach district hospital Kathua from here, then it takes three days. Please tell me what kind of facility we are getting. My request to you, Sir, is that the distance may kindly be reduced a bit and efforts should be made to go ahead according to the requirements in the area.

Then, you opened colleges. If you see colleges here you can notice that a lot of progress has been made but the distance should not be fixed as has been done at present. You may search our sub-centres and our schools. I am deeply pained that all the schools in the villages are understaffed. What is this? When children don't get education properly, I can tell you the actual position that if we have five thousand schools, then in these schools, you will hardly get teachers, staff in cities but not the students. Why is it so? The places where there are students and school-going children and requirement of schools there are no schools in those areas and in case schools are there, then there are no chalk, no carpet, no desk are available. Not to talk of desk, we do not have any desk in our villages. I take you, to a higher secondary school not to talk of any primary school, middle school and high school.

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

My request to you, Sir is that since funds are being sent, proper discussion should be held, this matter should be discussed with Chaudhary Lal Singh about my constituency, things should be discussed with Shri Madan Lalji in his area. I say that when the matter is discussed with each M.P. Whatever amount under MPLAD is received, Shri Pranab Mukherjee who is our senior colleague, is present here. Now, I want to tell you that you can take account of each paise and whatever lakhs or crores of rupees you have tell us about that and it will make a big difference. You please come with me to see the villages which are in very bad condition because of these people.

16.04 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

If you see the condition of electricity in villages, you will find that there is no proper electricity in the villages even now. Drinking water is not being supplied in villages. You tell us about clean water, potable water, water for health in Televisions but here in our place, pipes are directly connected to drains. The water pipes are attached to the drainage system. Possibility of a snake or any waste material making way through these pipes cannot be denied. We cannot know how poor people are surviving. What is this? You are giving money. Why is the money not being properly used? When will you get the people safe drinking water? You drink mineral water. When we visit people, they give us mineral water as if we are suffering some disease.

Nobody is drinking Bisleri in village. Villagers drink very dirty water. I have requested Sir to pay heed to it. Money comes for water in schemes, sometime this water supply scheme next time other water supply scheme and story goes on but after four years you wrote about the improvement in water supply scheme. After that money came again.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lal Singh ji, please conclude.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Then you talked about the maintenance of water supply scheme again. Money come on three occasions but people did not get water. This is a challenge. I take you to Athoonthiyante, to Dagghuru, to Otar. I will take you to Bonjvaa. You came with me and see it for yourself. Someone is getting any amount of water from your installed taps, then talk to me. I tell you. Even today people carry pitchers on their heads and climb up/climb down hills to fetch water. They are in very miserable condition. You give them money from IAY. IAY says that Gram Sewaks and BDOs will decide the score in this regard. What is this? Are we playing cricket? BPL family will remain the BPL family. What is the need of having a score? If they decide to deny this facility to someone, his score is reduced. Are we playing cricket? My humble submission is that please be kind to the people and give them quality service — be it water or houses. Out of 45 or 48 thousand of rupees which is given to him there, at least five thousand is siphons off. Where are the houses being built? Big thieves are those who are manufacturing cement, who are making lintels. Madam, if two rods are to be purchased, then Rs. 45 thousand will be exhausted. How he will lay the lintels?
...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please finish.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: How do you think about cement? What do you think of rods? Where the poor will buy these materials? Do you know the rate of bricks? What is the rate of that? Our Government is in the office. They are giving money and progress is taking place. But the speed of growth and progress is very slow. We need to accelerate it. With this money. The money is going in wrong hands. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are still three-four members to speak. We have to give time to them also.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: We brought a compulsory education scheme by name, RTE plus SSA and gave our share to one of our northern region States. They were

informed in writing. I want to say that our position is more miserable again them. They were given in 90-10 proportion. Jammu and Kashmir cannot be given in 90-10 proportion. We are also in turmoil. We are in trouble for the last 20-25 years. We live in difficult hilly areas. We remain under strict vigilance of our forces. We live in very bad conditions. Then do not we deserve 90-10 proportion? I therefore request you to kindly give us also in the same manner and proportion? Finally, one more request I have to make. ...*(Interruptions)* There is nobody to procure our paddy crop in Kathua. Nobody has visited this place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your party's two-three members are also there to speak.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Our paddy was not purchased. I want to say to the Chair that rate of paddy was rupees one thousand per quintal but farmer could sell it only at the rate of rupees seven thousand per quintal that too on credit basis. They have not got this money till now. The new crop of Gandum is suffered from a disease. Nobody has assessed so it so far. Till date money compensations have been given but when you give this compensation to farmers it should be fairly equal or they suffer huge losses due to inadequate compensation. Please pay attention towards farmers plight. His crop genes are imported-exported but face numerous obstacles in the process. Farmer should retain his freedom. Farmers have invested in Lakhanpur, a place visited by Abdullah Sahab very often and he knows Lakhanpur is on the way. Goods cannot cross over. ...*(Interruptions)* My request to you is that think of that farmer. Madam, at last I want to say something about BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji, now you may speak.

*(Interruptions)...**

*Not recorded.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairperson, I have gone through the Finance Bill 2011-12. Only big capitalists, big industrialists and the rich have been given due consideration therein. Nothing is in it for common trader and for poor people doing retail sale-purchase in our villages. Nothing is there for the poor. Now I want to give an example. In eighties, transaction of Rs. ten thousand cash was allowed. In nineties, it went to fifteen thousand. In the year 2000, permission to do transaction in cash was allowed upto Rs. 20,000/-. Eleven years have gone, there is no inflation in that. There is no mention of increase in it. What sale-purchase a common man does in our villages. What the business a small businessman or a trader does? I give you an example. I will not speak for the poor. There is nothing for the common trader in this Bill Why there no amendment is proposed in section 40 of Income Tax Act? My question number one which wants to ask the Government, is why have they not allowed common man stilled to do cash transaction of more than 20,000 for the last twelve years. Is there anyone to listen to those small traders? Why no thought is given to it? Small traders, businessmen who are in lakhs of numbers are simply ignored and only same big people are consulted in this matter. The small traders doing sale-purchase are crores in numbers. What facilities can be given to them? We never think about them. Madam Chairperson, there is nothing for the poor in that. Government likes to constitute only commission for poor man. Tendulkar Commission, Sexena Committee, Planning Commission is already there, Arjunsen Gupta Commission one of the reports two years back but Government has taken no decision thereon. The criteria of BPL people which Government does not decide, how will that eradicate poverty? How will poverty be reduced?

My question number two is that nobody knows the number of poor people in the country. Whether it is five crores, six crores or eight crores — nobody knows. The Government have not decided it so far. We did not constitute Tendulkar Commission, Government constituted.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

No thought given to that commission's report. Two years have passed since the report thereof was submitted. Eleventh Plan is about to end, poor people and all poverty eradication schemes are meaningless unless we decide the number of BPL people. How do you propose to implement poverty eradication schemes unless below poverty line people are identified? Be it rural electrification scheme, Indira Awas Yojana or Senior Citizen Pension scheme, nothing and no scheme for the poor can be implemented properly unless the Government prepare a list of poor people. Government have failed to do it in the last so many years, how will they eradicate poverty? Poverty will not come down rather it will increase.

Is the epicentre of entire concerns lie only in the concern of food security? Is there only a single report of food security remained? There is a report, which is different from the report on food security. What is the progress in the NSSO and Planning Commission as they have their own version of understanding? Why no decision has yet been taken on them? Why the Government is in the State of indecision? We have an allegation on Government that it is directionless due to lack of a common minimum programme. It is the common minimum programme which shows us the way to move in right direction. The Government is directionless resulting in perplexity. The Government will awake to its jobs when everything is spoiled. The JPC was constituted after the insult of the Government. The CVC was terminated after the insult. The Government will work when the court applies its whip.

We have mentioned earlier that there is nothing worth-mentioning in it for poor people. There is 3 lacs and 10 thousand crores of rupees due on the Government. The matter is under litigation. Who are those people who have not paid their income tax? The Finance Bill is nothing but an illusion because black money is still being deposited. The entire law,

excise and custom is nothing but an illusion in the eyes of the common people. It is said that 70 lacs crore of rupees have already been deposited somewhere in the foreign countries. Had the law been justified and things on right track, the black money could not have been deposited in our country or in foreign?

The fourth point is that why the Government does not awake. The Government does not formulated SIT even after the order and scolding by the Supreme Court. Why laws are not being made spontaneously to curb black money in India and outside as well to utilize it for poor people, farmers and in the development of the country. Why does the Government not come forward to look into the matter? Why pro-active measures are not being taken? When the court will issue an order and there is turmoil on the issue and when there is protest all over, then only after being insulted, the Government takes some measures. Why all these things are happening? The common people does not have faith in black money which is seized either in the country or in foreign, Finance Bill, excise duty. It is started that 70 lac crore rupees are deposited either in Swiss Bank or other banks outside the country. How much black money is there in the country? Why does the Government's soft corner towards the people having black money, I don't understand. There should be a tough attitude towards it and after being pro-active make laws to seize black money. All members of the House will support it. Black money after its confiscation should be utilized for the welfare of farmers and in eradication of poverty. There is no estimation as everything seems to be in dark. Some says that 70 lac crore rupees is deposited in foreign countries while some say that the amount deposited in foreign countries is in lacs. It is said that there is Finance Bill and tax is imposed accordingly. When there is a law then where did the black money come from? The Wangchu Committee was constituted to curb the black money. The black money is a problem since the period of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. ...(*Interruptions*) The concrete step will be taken after the court applies its whip. What is this? What is the fear for?

Journalism is the fourth pillar of democracy. The Majithia Commission was constituted. What happened to the Majithia Commission? Why no action was taken on the Majithia Commission? Such a poor condition of journalism, the fourth pillar of democracy! The Majithia Commission was constituted and its report was ignored. Journalists are working on contract basis while paid news is being telecast. What will be the future of democracy in the country when its fourth pillar will be in such a dilapidated condition and the journalists will work like bonded labour? We want to know why no action has been taken on the recommendations of the Majithia Commission? How much time will be taken? Bhakta Charan Das was saying about suicides committed by farmers. These incidents spill the bean. When farmers are committing suicides in different parts of the country then how the Government can claim that it has done better jobs for the farmers? We, specifically want to know why farmers are forced to commit suicide.

The Rail Budget was started in 1924-25 by the English. Why do you not start a Farmer's Budget? Why there is a separate Rail Budget? This is because there will be focus on the railway and as a result the railway will progress. No discussion took place in favour of farmers and agriculture as well. What is the problem behind presenting a separate farmers budget? If this would have been taken into account then the morale of the farmers would have been boosted to think that the Government is serious on our issues. The Government says that it is providing loans to farmers, but despite all these things there should be a separate budget for farmers.

I just want to raise issues relating to the problems of farmers. I have come to know that farmers do not get subsidy on fertilizers.

The subsidy is increasing on various items. The fertilizer producers, fertilizer companies are getting subsidy but farmers are deprived of it. We had heard that direct subsidy will be given to farmers. We want to ask why that subsidy is not being given to farmers? What is the problem in its implementation? Why so compassion is

being shown to fertilizer companies? When it came into consideration that direct subsidy will be given to farmers then why that mechanism was not formulated?

Madam, farmers get subsidy. Is an item of wages included in that subsidy? The bargaining capacity of workers in the country has increased. There has been an arbitrary increase in wages. Will farmers be able to pay arbitrary wages? Therefore, we want you reply on why do you not consider on providing subsidy on wages?...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Raghuvanshji, now you please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: A commission was constituted for subsidy to farmers. ...(Interruptions) Why no action was taken on the Second Commission Report. The report is lost somewhere. Whether any action has been taken on the Sachar Committee or not? All these things are for eradication of poverty.

Madam, I want to raise a specific issue. Anganwadi Workers. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Raghuvanshji, now please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, it is a pleasant co-incidence that you are presiding over the seat and you are the chairperson of the Commission for Women. ...(Interruptions) I, specifically want to say that this co-incidence has been appreciated all over the country. The monthly wages of Anganwadi Workers has been increased from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3000 and this has been appreciated all over the country. There is no concrete information regarding the remuneration and allowances given to ASHA, the health workers, the total number of whom is around eight lacs. Monthly allowance is not provided to them. Some ASHA workers are hardly

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

paid Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 for delivery of pregnant women or for birth control? I want to ask why the working environment for ASHA workers is so discouraging? They are moaning over their plight. At some places, ASHA workers are being beaten up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, you please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The steering committee has passed that at least 500 rupees should be paid to ASHA worker under the National Rural Health Mission. It is nothing but a biased yardstick of the Government. The Ministry of Finance said that it will not pay Rs. 500 to them. It could not be implemented despite passage from the steering committee. There is a gross discrimination against women. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government is showing a dual yardstick. No one is here to look into the problems of women. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, now, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Today women work-force is there on higher posts. The chairs is also presided over by a woman. ...*(Interruptions)* The population of widow under forty years of age is 4% but they do not get pension. What defect in mechanism! There is a provision of providing pension in the State Governments whenever a woman becomes widow. Now, it is said that they will not be given pension for forty years, but work. We would like to ask as to how many of widows, till now, have been given work? The details of information regarding the work given to these women, should be provided at least to the House. The Government is not aware of the incidents taking place in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghuvanshji, now, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, in this regard, the Government should execute all these works strongly. What have you done to remove the regional disparities for the unity of the nation?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Madam Chairman, despite switching his mike off, we are unable to debate as his voice is still louder even after the mike is switched off. Raghuvanshji, no one can debate/ compete with you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please do not talk to each other. As Shri Raghuvanshji has wound up, you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is not a matter of judging the intensity of voice, but a matter regarding the various issues of the millions of the poor people. ...*(Interruptions)* This is matter related to the farmers of this country. ...*(Interruptions)* Poverty will be alleviated only when unemployment is alleviated. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, without alleviating unemployment, poverty cannot be alleviated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please co-operate. I would like to inform the House that five-six more members are yet to speak and the reply is to take place at 5 o'clock. So, all of you, please, co-operate.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Madam, both Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji and Shri Lal Singh have put their speeches in a high note, I think I do not have anything to say in this regard. What can I say as the opposition is also not present here. I cannot make out why my colleagues in opposition benches became so angry while taking part in such an interesting debate [*English*] in spite of Pranabda explaining them the urgency

of this particular Bill to be passed. ...*(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* I am talking about BJP ...*(Interruptions)* and about Communists as well. The same things is going on right from the beginning. You may go back to 1950 for instances. Sometimes they termed the issues as cow-slaughter, sometimes as Article 356, sometimes as Common Civil Code, at times as Ram Janm Bhumi, sometimes Hinduism and now they have got the issue of Wikileaks. ...*(Interruptions)* These people always raise such issues. Why have we assembled in Parliament and why are we here? They never allow us to do whatever is needed to be done. *[English]* I do not understand the biggest embarrassment for the Government is the Question Hour but they never allow the Question Hour to function. I do not understand what they are going to get out of it.

Anyway, coming to the point, *[Translation]* while saluting the Minister of Finance Shri Pranab da, I would like to say that *[English]* think for the first time, the Finance Minister had the courage to accept and admit that there is a gap between our planning and implementation. There are leakages. There is corruption. We have to plug this. This is one of the most valid statements that is being given in the present circumstances. How to do it? I want to give some suggestions if they could be adjusted.

First of all, I want to repeat what I said in 2005, we are all having domestic gas subsidy including Ambanis, Tatas, Birlas *... Do we deserve this? I was repeatedly telling this. First of all, you cancel the subsidy to people who are having an income of more than Rs.6 lakh and who are in constitutional positions like MPs, MLAs and Ministers. We do not deserve this subsidy. You introduce some other colour gas cylinder. It does not make any difference. You introduce yellow colour or some other colour cylinder and say that this is subsidy-free cylinder, people will start buying it because now a situation has come for becoming a Village Sarpanch who has no powers and who cannot even terminate his *Banto*, they are

*Not recorded.

spending Rs.50 lakh to Rs.60 lakh as they want that identity. For identity, they are spending so much in the elections. I want to tell you that if that identity is given, they would go for it.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The name of Madam should be deleted.

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am sorry.

I was repeatedly telling this when Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was the Minister for Petroleum. I told this to Mr. Murli Deoraji and Shri Jaipal Reddyji as also Madam Sonia Gandhiji. Everyone feels that it is a very good proposal and that it should be implemented immediately. But somehow it is not being implemented. Apart from that, whoever is paying income tax, he would buy these cylinders. Everybody believes that everything is *golmaal* in Income Tax. Nobody is interested in paying income tax. If you go to a person and ask him about it, he will say that *[Translation]* Once trapped, it is to be treated as trapped. Try to be away from the jurisdiction of the income tax my saying some amount. *[English]* I wanted to tell you that for these people who are paying the income tax and are having PAN card, make some reservations for them and give some dignity to them. When they go to a Railway Station, like a First Class Waiting Room, there should be a Waiting Room for PAN card holders. If a PAN card holder goes to a Police Station to get a man released on bail – if it is a bailable offence – then a PAN card should be sufficient and he need not have to produce any document of his property. When he goes to the airport, let there be a lounge for the PAN card holders. *[Translation]* All the people will stand in the queue and start paying income tax for obtaining PAN card. *[English]* If the Government tries this, then there will be an enormous increase in the collection of revenue by way of payment of income tax. This is what I want to

[Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli]

suggest to the Government. This Government may think over this.

Madam, I would like to suggest another important thing. We have a project of connecting the Godavari and Teesta rivers. The reports suggest that after this project is completed, the returns would be 19 per cent every year. That means in just five and a half years the entire amount that is spent on completing the project would be recovered. I think this Indirasagar — Pollavaram project is the most viable irrigation project that exists in India today. It works entirely on gravity and there is also a plan for generation of 968 MW of power out of this project. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to declare this as a national project so that the process of inter-linking of rivers may start from our State of Andhra Pradesh.

Madam, my next point is on mid-day meals. The Government is spending a lot of money on mid-meal scheme. In my home district of Rajahmundry this job of providing mid-day meals has been outsourced to the ISKCON Temple authorities. It is running wonderfully well. If this scheme is given to be run by private people there is a feeling that they will make money out of it. But there are quite a few of them like the ISKCON, the Ramakrishna Mission, the Mother Teresa institution, and many other NGOs like that. Like in rural area we have given to one Charitable Trust and they have constructed a wonderful kitchen because they want to get name and fame. They are supplying the best food possible which even you cannot get in a five star hotel. Why do we not do this in the entire country? Why do we not provide micro finance to such NGOs and institutions like the ISKCON and the Ramakrishna Missions? If such people are provided with micro finance, then that will definitely bring in changes in rural areas. This entire focus of this Budget has been focused on the development of the rural masses and directed at providing more money to the people in the rural areas. The hon. Finance Minister has himself

admitted that there are certain leakages. I want to suggest that these loopholes can be plugged in the way I have suggested. I would once again like to thank him.

Finally I want to suggest that bureaucracy, red-tapeism, black marketing and hoarding have to be checked. Now, we intend to reach every rupees to the rural poor. *[Translation]* Rajivji used to say that if an amount Rs. 100/- was sent to Hyderabad from Delhi, it remained only Rs. 50/- after reaching there and finally the amount remained only Rs. 25/- after reaching at this District Headquarters from Hyderabad. Finally, the amount remained only Rs. 5/- after reaching at Revenue Headquarters. *[English]* This is what is exactly happening. To check, this, these four, namely, bureaucracy, red-tapeism, black marketing have to be controlled.

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (Thane): Madam, Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill 2011-2012. The Minister of Finance has presented a better budget compared to the budget of the previous year. I represent the urban areas. Most of the parliamentarians talk about the issues of the villages and this is justifiable because they represent the people of the villages who have cast their votes in favour of them. I belong to an urban constituency. For the development of urban areas, Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewable Mission was started. This mission was started by the Central Government for the development of the cities of the State Governments. This scheme will come to an end in the ensuing financial year 2011-2012. The fund which was made available to our State Maharashtra, under this mission has been utilised properly. We have been putting our demand before the Minister of Finance for the last two years to provide more fund under this mission to Maharashtra. Sufficient work has been done under this mission in Maharashtra some other States while there are a number of States where no such work has been done properly. As this scheme will come to an end

in the financial year of 2011-2012, it is my request to the Finance Minister to transfer the amount allocated to those States who have not initiated their works under this scheme to those States who have done better work under the scheme and who have utilised the fund properly by taking up the matter with the 12th finance commission and getting approval from them.

I would like to draw the kind attention of the honorable Minister of Finance towards the scheme under the urban accommodation that houses measuring 200 square feet were provided to the people in the beginning which was later extended upto 250 square feet and it was extended upto 275 square feet in Maharashtra. I would like to request you to take a decision to further extend it to at least 350 square feet so that the people could comfortably reside there. You also know that people can't even reside in a house measuring 250 square feet. If the Government is keen on implementing this good scheme, it is my request to you to provide them with the house measuring 350 square feet.

Another problem is with regard to the disposal of the sewage of these cities in drains, sea or rivers without proper treatment. In the last 7 years, certain amount has been released by the Central Government for the sewerage plant. For instance, Navi Mumbai has done a commendable job and it has been praised for the job by the Central Government. If this scheme is implement in all the cities of the country, I think it will balance the environment and the sewage water can also be re-utilised. The Central Government should pay more attention to the implementation of this scheme.

MMRDA region is meant particularly for Mumbai and adjoining cities. For the last three-four years, demand is being made to give more funds for it. More than two and half crores of people are living in these cities. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Finance Minister that a special package be given for these cities so that the people of these area may get maximum benefit of the

scheme. City development plan has been sought by Central Government from all cities. The Parliament House in which we are sitting was built by foreigners. I would like to say that there should be a planning for the next 100 years, so that our coming generations may get good transport and may not face drinking water problem, sewage problem and shortage of housing in these cities. If we implement this scheme by bringing together all the States, then there will be no problem in the time to come.

In the end I would like to submit three points. The first point is that people easily get insurance upto 60 years of age but no such scheme is there for senior citizens. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to introduce such a scheme for senior citizens also so that some one may take their responsibility after the age of 60 years. Honourable Finance Minister would definitely take care of it.

As Shri Jai Prakashji has said that the tax has been reduced on garment from 10 per cent to 4 per cent for which I thank the Government but I also would like to say that they should get the benefit of Rs. 1000 on tax exemption. I also would like to thank the Government for the service tax it has waived on medical hospitals. I also thank the Government for raising MPLAD to Rs. 5 crores. Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring it to the knowledge of finance Minister that though enough has been done for country's development and betterment and slogan for eradicating poverty was given long back, but I would to know from the Minister that in the absence of exact number of poors how the programmes can be chalked out of their betterment and development? All the States are claiming that the number of people below poverty line has increased. Uttar Pradesh Government has raised this question time and again but till date number of BPL

[Shri Dara Singh Chauhan]

people has not been determined. This given rise to the doubt as to how can we chalk out programmes and schemes for them?

This is true that interests are discussed in Parliament. 75 per cent population of this country are farmers and they are called backbone of the country but what should have been done them to protect their interest, has not been done. Loan waiving schemes do not benefit small farmers who are 75 to 80 per cent of farmer community. Farmers having less than one acre of land holdings are migrating to big cities and there also they get insulted. It is said that dirty people from villages have come to make these cities dirty. Unorganised labour and farmers came in large number of Delhi from Eastern, Uttar Pradesh, they are labelled as dirty people and are driven out of Delhi. I would like to bring it to the knowledge of the hon. Minister that so long as the programmes are not formulated for the benefitts of small farmers, they cannot become prosperous. It is quite visible from this budget also.

I would also like to say about the interest of weavers. You have made a provision of Rs. three thousand crore in the budget. We have a large number of weavers in our country, be it Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra. In my constituency Mau district has maximum number of weavers. The defaulter society and those who roarm with bags can be benefitted from it but there is no provision in the Budget for the weavers who work on daily basis by purchasing raw material. I would like to say that the budget allocated for weavers should be increased. We are not in favour of loan waiver, but the right to live with dignity should be given to weavers. When a weaver goes to take loan from a bank, then he is harassed by the bank on one pretext or the other, be it farmer, weaver, or a student, everyone faces such problems. I would like to say that today saree is imported from China and if we compared that saree weaver of UP lags far behind. Arrangement should be made to make

the weavers technically strong and good techniques should be provided to them. Similarly small farmer come to big cities who are involved in readymade garments work and have small income of about Rs. one thousand. The Government has reduced tax from 10 to 4 per cent on garments. I would urge the Government that this per cent should be done away with completely, so as to enable them to lead a respectable life.

I congratulate you that you have done away with service tax in hospitals. But I would necessarily say that even today the people in village are suffering from malnutrition and there is no facilities for the treatment of patients suffering from Cancer and Kidney failure. Life saving drugs are very costly. I came from UP Electricity is very important. No power project has been started in UP to increase power generation for the last twenty years. I have demanded many times to reduce the difference which is two and half to three thousand magawatt, but the Government has made no provision for it. The power plant which is installed in Shahjahanpur, has the capacity of 27 lakh metric tonnes but as per the agreement signed in 2010-11 we receive only 16 lakh tonnes per year, so I demand to raise it.

I would like to say one thing about Rajiv Gandhi Electrification scheme that our State has done very good work as compared to other States in this regard but for the small towns, villages which are more than 100, we have sent a proposal for more than one lakh 37 thousand, but you have given to Raibareli and Sultanpur only and left out the entire State. I demand that provision should be made to include entire State in it. I would like to say to hon. Minister that a number of proposals were sent under this scheme to remove unemployment in our State, but no money has been given to the State during last two years. Construction cost of Amar Shaheed Road, Lucknow and the Sitapur Road, connecting Delhi, Aligarh, Kanpur is increasing due to delay. My demand is that these projects should be completed in a time bound manner otherwise this money will be

recovered as a tax from the poor. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Madam, I am grateful to you that you gave me the opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill tabled by Hon. Minister of Finance for discussion today. I raise to support the Bill and I congratulate Hon. Minister of Finance that he kept in mind the welfare of every section of the society in the Budget and the hon'ble Members have drawn the attention of the Finance Minister towards the issues which were left out. There are one or two things which I want to bring to the notice of Hon. Minister of Finance through you that there are many development schemes being implemented in agriculture and much relief has been given to farmers, and whether UPA-I or UPA-II the Governments of UPA has introduced various schemes for the farmers of the entire country and has made efforts to provide many benefits. But I feel that the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir have not benefitted from those concessions. This is due to the fact that the benefit of fertilizers, drugs or farming implements which reaches other farmers of the country, does not reach the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir. For example, the cost of tractor which is brought for 4.50 lakh rupees in Punjab-Pathankot increase by 60 thousand rupees in Jammu and Kashmir. I consider this as a big justice to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir. I request the Minister of Finance that when you are giving money for the progress of Jammu and Kashmir, this burden of farmers should also be included in your scheme of things. State of Jammu and Kashmir is poor and it cannot bear such a huge burden.

Madam, the second point which I want to raise is that the Minister of Finance has every problem in his budget but the border from Gujarat to Leh, whether International border or the Line of Control, Jammu and Kashmir and my Parliamentary Constituency Jammu-Poonch-Rajauri has been the victim of past four-five wars. They become refugees in every five or ten years. When Pakistan indulges in cowardly arts across the border and starts firing, then there are incidences in which farmers

working in fields and school going children get injured or killed. In those instances of firing farmers are killed, animals are also killed and crops are also damaged. A positive step that can be taken for Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir is that an insurance scheme can be implemented for farmers living near border areas so that the morale of farmers living near border area can remain high if their loss is compensated by the Central Government.

Madam, I want to talk about Ex-Servicemen who have been neglected in this Budget. Ex-Servicemen, who have protected the country in extreme heat of desert, at snowcovered peak and in the deep sea and returned to their home after retirement with their better part of life dedicated to the protection of country. Something should be done for them. I want to especially mention about ex-servicemen of Jammu and Kashmir, the Servicemen have do not get the concessions and benefits like the Ex-Servicemen in the rest of the country. I feel that some scheme should be formulated to raise their morale for the service which they have rendered during their service and they should be rehabilitated.

Madam, I will conclude after my fourth point. Minister of Finance is fully aware of the fact that it was the idea of Nehruji, Indiraji and Rajiv Gandhiji that on SSB volunteer team should be constituted in the country. And those who have done so much for the protection of country are sitting on 'Dharna' at Jantar-Mantar for last few years. As on date, at least 20000-25000 SSB volunteers from the entire country are demonstrating together. They have done so much for the welfare and unity of the country and today if they sit on dharna and hold demonstrations then it would not be good. Those people should meet Minister of Finance and I request that they have come from the whole country from Bengal to Jammu and Kashmir and something should be done for their rehabilitation and a one time settlement policy should be formulated for those who have become overage and those who are underage should again get employment somewhere. Likewise, persons employed as

[Shri Madan Lal Sharma]

Home Guard have come to Delhi and met leaders and they are sitting on dharna in Jammu and Kashmir for the last five years. I urge the Minister of Finance that when you are giving so much money for Jammu and Kashmir and talking to the every section of society to normalise the situation there so that there is complete peace and therefore, I want that their difficulties should be removed by talking to them so that there is peace in Jammu and Kashmir and the country progresses.

I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (Siwan): Madam, on behalf of the great people of my Parliamentary Constituency I express gratitude to the learned Minister of Finance whose intelligence protected Indian from economic recession. This is the seventh Finance Bill of UPA Government in succession. During this period several countries of the world passed through a phase of economic recession and their industry sustained with economic assistance but our nation did not face such a difficult situation. We express gratitude towards UPA chairperson and the Prime Minister of our country for it.

Madam, we are thankful to Minister of Finance for the five per cent reduction in tax in Healthcare sector declared today. We urge Minister of Finance and UPA Chairperson to consider to glorious past of Bihar. There are total 38 district in Bihar out of which the Central Government Consider 37 districts to be backward districts and provides money for their development. But the only district in Bihar which does not get money is Siwan, the district of first president of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad and has not been declared a backward district because too much money comes from foreign countries. Three mills and a cotton factory was functional in Siwan during the regime of Congress. At that time people used to get employment and the financial condition of farmers was good. But these three mills are closed for twenty years and the money sent by employed youth for the sustenance

of their families from the Gulf counties reaches their families through banks. But this money is not utilized for the development of district and the construction of drains and roads but it is utilized for the sustenance of their families. The Government give money for the development of 37 districts out of 38 district but does not provide money for one district. I feel that money should also be given for upliftment and development of Siwan district by declaring it as a backward district. We request you for it.

We express gratitude to Minister of Finance for increasing the MPLADS fund from 2 crore rupees to five crore rupees. But it is inadequate for the very large size of this area but we express our gratitude for showing respect towards the feelings of Parliamentarians.

Madam, much is spoken about farmers in this House. But there is a dark Bill due to which when a kidnapper goes to jail and a tax evader goes to jail he is provided free meals by Jail Administration. But on the other hand when a farmer takes a loan of four-five thousand rupees for farming and if he is imprisoned then Jail Administration and Bank recover the amount from him for his meals. Therefore, we urge you to end this dark law and farmers should be treated fairly.

Madam, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (South Goa): Madam, I rise to support the Finance Bill which is before the House. I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for the good fiscal management and also I must thank him for increasing the MPLAD Scheme Fund from Rs.2 crore to Rs.5 crore. My only request to the hon. Finance Minister is to widen the scope of implementation so that we can use it for various purposes which are right now limited.

16.59 hrs.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Madam, minerals are the riches of the country and they should be preserved for the posterity. The way rampant mining is going on throughout the country, maybe both legally and illegally, and the way it is being exported, a time may come when we may have to import the same minerals to see the various factories, industries functioning in this country.

17.00 hrs.

But, Madam, Goa has got a particular problem. The economy of Goa is based on tourism and export of iron ore. The iron ore that is exported from Goa is very low grade. The grade is between 48 and maximum 62 per cent. If this is not exported, it is hoarded in a place. During rainy season, all that will go to rivers. This not to happen, it is a blessing for us that today this ore is being exported to various countries.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that in 2008-09, 55 per cent ore was 3.5 million; 55 to 59 per cent was 16 million; and 59 to 62 per cent was 14 million. In 2009-10, around 55 per cent was 6.5 million. In 2010-11, it is around 11 million out of the total 31 million which is exported. So the ore which is 59 to 62 per cent is only 5 million. Now the hon. Minister has increased; he has brought it at par in all the States and *ad valorem* 20 per cent the tax has been increased. Earlier it was 5 per cent on fines and 15 per cent on lumps. So my only request to the hon. Minister is to roll it back. Last year, our State has collected around 800 million. Prior to that, it was 250 million. All the schemes of development which are going on in the State, that will come to standstill if this income is not generated in the State.

So my only request to the hon. Minister, this was tried earlier, two years back but again it was reverted because the State approached the hon. Minister. The same thing we have already requested the hon. Minister. I hope the hon. Minister will consider and revert back to the old 5 per cent and 15 per cent on fines and lumps which was existing.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam Speaker, I express my heartfelt thanks to all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on Finance Bill. With the passage of the Finance Bill, the budgetary exercise for the year 2011-12 will come to an end.

When I look just in front of me, I find that the benches occupied by principal Opposition Party are empty. Of course, every political party is to take its own decisions but it has some implications. Parliament is essentially meant to give its approval for all the financial transactions of the Government of India. When the country became independent, when our financial transaction was very inadequate and quite meagre, if I remember correctly our first Budget of Independent India was a little less than Rs. 200 crore. Budgetary classification was very simple: civil expenditure and military expenditure. Deficit was just Rs. 26 crore. We had only two types of taxes; Income Tax was around Rs. 116 crore and customs duty around Rs. 50 crore. And there was a special tax — perhaps it was introduced during the war — for imported alcoholic drinks of Rs. 2.5 crore.

The point which I am trying to drive at is that 60 per cent of the time of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were devoted on discussing money, finance, taxation, planning and all other related matters because three are very fundamental rights which this House particular enjoys. No Tax can be levied except by the authority of law — Article 265.

No expenditure can be incurred without the authority of this House. No money can be withdrawn from the Consolidation Fund of India without the approval of this House through the Appropriation Bill. Therefore, if we do not pay attention, it is not a question of individual; it is not a question of a particular point, it is a question of how to strengthen the institutions. Of course, Opposition Parties will have their views. They will express their views. But Parliament, as my colleague in the morning suggested, is essentially meant for debates, discussions and sometimes for decisions. It is not that always we will

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

agree with each other's view point but nothing should stand in the way of expressing our view.

Therefore, I feel sad that I am to get the Finance Bill passed with the approval of the hon. Members present and voting it in the absence of Principal Opposition Party. But at the same time, I would express my gratitude to all other colleagues including the Opposition Parties, who have decided to remain present and to make their contributions.

Madam Speaker, about 16 hon. Members have participated. Quite a number of them have already spoken on different issues, which are of general nature and which have been replied in details while replying to the general discussions on the Budget. This time we have to make some adjustments in our schedule because of the provincial elections in five States. Otherwise, we would have passed the Finance Bill in the second leg of the Budget Session.

I also appreciate and express my gratitude to the hon. Members for cooperating to complete the budgetary exercise in one go and for that we had to pay the price. We did not receive the valued comments of the colleagues, sitting in the different Standing Committees, analysing the budgetary proposals and making their suggestions on various expenditure proposals. We had to dispense that as we did so in 2006 when the similar situation arose.

Madam Speaker, normally, after the presentation of the Budget, we receive series of representations. Budgetary exercise is a huge and complex exercise in a country like ours. The total expenditure proposal is more than Rs. 12,57,000 plus crores of rupees. There are substantial quantum amount of borrowings. The general thrust which I have given in this Budget had three objectives and these objectives are not out of context. In the context of the international, financial situation, international commodity price situation and some sort of international instability in

some parts of the world and from the viewpoint of economy, these regions are important.

In the morning, I referred to the tragic natural disaster which affected Japan, one of the most powerful economies in the world, and so far as we are concerned, Japan is one of the highest investors in direct foreign investment and from the early 50s, Japan used to provide developmental assistance to us. The Prime Minister has already expressed and this House has expressed its solidarity with the suffering people of Japan.

There is uncertainty in the Middle East and North Africa. Apart from the political angle, about which the hon. Members have expressed their views in the morning and they have shared their concerns, and Government of India's stand is clearly known to everybody, it has its other implications on the energy sources. Substantial quantum of oil is being produced there. Therefore, it is not merely the question of highly volatile price but it is also the question of availability. I do hope normalcy will be restored there.

After the presentation of the Budget I have also received comments from my colleagues in both the Houses of Parliament, industry, trade and various other observers. Taking into account of that, I have modified my budgetary proposals including the taxation proposals, which will be provided; some of which I have already announced, and when the hon. Members will pass the Finance Bill, I am proposing certain amendments to different Clauses of the Finance Bill.

I am specifically talking of the amendments which I am bringing in the Finance Bill and thereafter the relevant amendments will be moved.

In my proposals for the Direct Taxes for the year 2011-12, I had proposed to provide lower tax rate of 15 per cent on dividends received by Indian company from foreign subsidiary companies in which the Indian companies owns more than 50 per cent share capital. Several representations have been made requesting

further relaxation in the ownership pattern of the foreign subsidiary. I, therefore, propose to lower the holding of the requirement in the foreign company from 50 per cent to 26 per cent. This will enable the overseas joint venture with Indian partnership to also avail this benefit. In other words, money will come from outside, which is not coming right now because of the higher taxations. Of course, it is not the foreign investors, the Indian investors who are making investment abroad while bringing back their money and this will facilitate them.

In order to provide the deduction to employer's contribution to a pension scheme on account of an employee, I propose a consequential amendment in Section 40A(9) so that the deduction to the employer for his contribution is not barred under this section.

As no deduction for export profit is allowed after April 1, 2005, I propose that such export profit should also not be allowed as a deduction while computing book profit for the purpose of the levy of Minimum Alternate Tax after the said date.

Suitable amendments have been proposed in the Finance Bill to give effect to these changes.

Madam Speaker, in respect of my Indirect Tax proposals, among the Government amendments to the Finance Bill, I propose to insert a new provision in the Customs Tariff Act to enable the Central Government to extend anti-dumping duty imposed on an article in cases of circumventions. The other amendments are technical in nature and do not involve any substantial change.

The House would recall that one of the considerations that guided the formulation of my proposals in indirect taxation was to prepare the ground for the transition to Goods and Services Tax, beginning with a reduction in the number of exemptions. It was in this background that a mandatory levy of 10 per cent was proposed on branded readymade garments and made-ups of textiles. I have received a large number of representations seeking to review this proposal on the ground that this industry is

still quite fragmented with a predominance of unorganized units.

While moving the Finance Bill for consideration in the morning, I have already announced an increase in the level of abatement on these products so that the overall burden of tax comes down and small manufacturers benefit.

I would take this opportunity to re-emphasise that this would enable an SSI Unit to continue to enjoy the exemption from the taxations even if it had a turnover based on a Retail Sale Price of Rs. 8.9 crore in 2010-11. I shall now take up some additional measures to provide relief to this sector in nature of the clarifications. In other words, the units with Retail Sale Price of Rs. 75 lakh per month, which will be around 8.9 crore per year will be exempted from paying the taxes by increasing the abatement.

It has been pointed out by the garment industry that often the brand owners, who outsource production to small units, do not disclose the Retail Sale Price to them. Since the duty is payable on a value linked to the RSP, this poses a problem to the small manufacturers. A deeming provision is being made to enable such manufacturers to pay duty on the Wholesale Price at which they make a sale to the brand owner. As and when the brand owner affixes the Retail Sales Price on the garment or mad-up, he would pay the additional duty, if any.

The garment and made-up industry has a high incidence of return of unsold stock. In order to obviate the burden of the double payment on such goods, I propose to exempt from Excise Duty, returned goods not exceeding 10 per cent of the value of the clearances of the unit in the preceding financial year. Physical verification of the stock of such returned goods by the Central Excise Officers would not be necessary. That means, there will be no harassment from the Excise Inspectors. There would be no return of the Inspection Branch.

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The doubts and queries raised by the industry have been examined. A detailed clarification is being issued on these. I would also like to recapitulate to the hon. Members that the levy does not apply to unbranded goods; it does not apply to goods made to order for a retail customer; the benefit of SSI exemption is available to goods bearing or sold under the brand name of the small manufacturer himself; and the simplified export procedure is available to units that predominantly export and sell unbranded goods or goods bearing their own brand name in the domestic market.

Another issue, which was persistently raised by some hon. Members relate to the reduction of the Import Duty on raw silk (not thrown) from 30 per cent ad valorem from five per cent ad valorem. Shir Devegowdaji had mentioned this in his intervention even today. Now, let us look at the problem. The total requirement of the raw silk for the weaving industry is around 30,000 Metric Tonne per year. Our total production, all over the country, is about 20,000 Metric Tonne. Therefore, there is a gap of 10,000 Metric Tonne. As a result of this gap, the prices reached very high and the weavers in the entire Northern India and many other parts of the country were suffering. Therefore, it was decided that let us reduce the Import Duty so that the Import becomes cheaper and as soon as it will meet our requirement — domestic production plus imported material — which will be equal to the demand, the duties can always be adjusted by either increasing it or decreasing it. I have received representation from various sectors. I can assure them that this does not mean that this Import Duty reduction would continue for an indefinite period. It is to bridge the gap. If we do not bridge the gap, the weavers will suffer, and which actually they were suffering.

In this connection, I would not like to reiterate the relief scheme, which I have announced in my Budget Speech.

I once again assure the hon. Members that this issue

will continue to receive our attention throughout the year and by adjusting the duties, it would be addressed so that the adequate quantum of raw silk (not thrown) is available to the weavers of the country.

Some suggestions have been received in respect of the levy of one per cent Central Excise duty on 130 items. I propose to extend the RSP-based assessment with an abatement of 35 per cent to many of these items so that disputes with regard to valuation are avoided. I also propose to exempt any waste, scrap or parings arising in the course of manufacture of these items as a measure of relief.

To provide a simplified regime for taxpayers exclusively manufacturing these items, the following procedural relaxations are being made:—

- (i) Physical verification of premises would not be necessary for the new registrants;
- (ii) Visits to such units by Central Excise officers would be permitted only with due authorisation as in the case of SSI units;
- (iii) They would be required to file only quarterly returns; and
- (iv) A simplified return format will be prescribed.

Based on the feedback from the domestic industry, I am proposing the following reliefs in customs and central excise duties with a view to encourage the domestic manufacture:—

- (i) To extend the concessional rate of five per cent CVD and Nil SAD to parts of all computer printers imported by actual users;
- (ii) To exempt seven specified parts of personal computers from levy of special additional duty of customs;
- (iii) To restore full exemption from excise duty and CVD on silicon wafers imported for manufacture

of solar cells and modules. I hope the Minister in-charge of Non-Conventional Energy would feel a little happy;

- (iv) To exempt certain types of coking coal imported for the manufacture of iron or steel from customs duty;
- (v) To prescribe an unconditional one per cent excise duty and CVD on mobile handsets including cellular phones in addition to one per cent NCCD already leviable; and
- (vi) To reduce the basic customs duty from 60 per cent to 30 per cent on CKD kits containing pre-assembled engine, gear box or transmission assembly, imported for the manufacture of vehicles.

Notifications to give effect to these changes would be issued in due course and laid on the Table of the House.

As for Service Tax, I have already announced earlier this morning our decision to exempt the new levy on health services in entirety both in respect of services provided by hospitals as well as by diagnostic tests.

Point of Taxation Rules are due to come into force from April 1, 2011—this is procedural part—and are meant to shift the payment of service tax from only cash basis towards accrual basis. The changes are essential to align the system of payment of taxes between goods and services. Many taxpayers have expressed concerns about some provisions and also sought some time for the switchover on account of the changes required in their software. Accordingly, certain changes in the relevant provisions are being worked out and an additional period of three months up to June, 30, 2011 is being provided to make the transition. These changes shall be notified shortly after completing the process of consultation.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, most of the general

points which the hon. Members have referred to have been replied. I would not like to repeat it but the basic thrust of my budgetary proposal was that I had three objectives. One objective was to maintain the growth and confront the inflationary pressures. In order to do that, on the one hand I had to improve the supply position and remove the supply bottle neck on most of the agricultural products which was a cause to the inflationary pressure in the WPI and also in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Almost 18 months, we took certain steps and those steps have started yielding results. I must appreciate the contribution of my colleagues' the Agriculture Ministers.

I will give just one example to show how the drought mitigation efforts exercised in the year 2009, when there was failure of the south-west monsoon, helped us. We have noticed that when there is a large scale drought, the agricultural growth becomes negative. It became negative in 2002-03 to the extent of minus 7.02 per cent. But, despite reduction of the Kharif crop to the extent of 15 million tonnes, we are able to maintain the overall agricultural growth of 2009-10 at a positive rate of 0.2 per cent, thanks to the farmers of the country and thanks to the policy initiatives taken by the UPA-II Government.

What has been the net impact of it? Pulses production has been increased by 17 lakh tonnes; oilseed production increased by 16 lakh tonnes; sugarcane production was higher by 47.1 million tonnes; and the cotton production increased by 95 lakh bales. Therefore, these are not merely the words. These words are actually translated into action and we are continuing it. I have worked it out in greater detail in the formulation of budget proposals and also I have mentioned about it in detail in my budget speech.

Hon. Member Shri Dara Singh Chauhan while making his observations very correctly pointed out that the one area which is affecting the effective implementation of our various anti-poverty programmes is the number of people below poverty line. Various figures are floating around. Even if we take the Tendulkar Committee recommendations, I have the figures and I find a large

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number of States where the figures are reasonably very high. They are, for instance, Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh. Uttar Pradesh (Rural) is also above 42.7 per cent; and Uttar Pradesh (Urban) is 34.1 per cent. If you take that figure, it is a substantial number.

In order to address the problems of the people below poverty line, how to reach the special programmes which are meant for the targeted group? There comes the role of the UID and the AADHAR. We are monitoring it. AADHAR is just not a number. It is actually being implemented from next October everyday. They will provide ten lakh numbers everyday. I gave the figure which was the figure as on 28th February from which we started. Therefore, this number will help identify persons below poverty line and the benefits which are being worked out through various social sector schemes.

If you look at the total budgetary exercise, as regards the developmental expenditure, 48 per cent has been spent for infrastructure, including the rural infrastructure. One hon. Member mentioned that unless we build up the rural economy, industrial and manufacturing development cannot be supported if the purchasing power and consumption capacity of the rural population, the vast segment of the rural population, is not increased. All these schemes are meant for that.

You are talking of the increase of agricultural credit. I may mention that when the UPA-I assumed office, the agricultural credit was around Rs. 86000 crore.

In this year's Budget, we have provided Rs. 4,75,000 crore and I am quite confident that this will surpass the number. It is not merely that these are going to the very big people. The share of the small and marginal farmers in the number of the Kisan Credit Card-holders and in value of the loan for the year 2008-09 was 53.8 per cent and 54.5 per cent. In the year 2009-10, it was 59 per cent and 30.8 per cent. It has again started moving up

and in 2010-11, up to December, 2010, it was 60.7 per cent and 36.8 per cent. Therefore, both in terms of the number of beneficiaries under the scheme and the amount of credit available to them, they are increasing in terms of the percentage. I agree that requirement is much more and capacity to provide is limited. There is a gap, and sometimes you may describe that it is a huge gap, between the actual requirement and the actual performance, but at the same time, it is not correct to say that we are not moving in the right direction.

We shall have to contain it, fiscal discipline has to be restored and fiscal consolidation is necessary. Many hon. Members, who have the experiences of the early nineties, are fully aware of the state of fiscal situation. A big country has to face an almost ignominious situation. I am not blaming anybody, but that was the ground reality. To borrow a few hundred million dollars, we had to pledge our gold. That does not speak well of a country like India. Therefore, fiscal consolidation is necessary.

We cannot go on spending beyond our means and we have made an attempt. You may describe that it is a rather ambitious target, but I am confident that we shall be able to meet it. From the performance of our Government in the earlier regime and during this period between UPA-I and UPA-II — I would not like to quote the figures — every year our revenue forecast has gone beyond our Budget Estimates and every year we have been able to maintain the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit except the year 2008-09 which was an extremely bad year and it was deliberate. Standing from here while presenting the Interim Budget and thereafter, after receiving the mandate from the people, presenting the full Budget in 2009, I myself said that I am expanding the fiscal space to the extent of almost three per cent of GDP, Rs. 1,86,000 crore in absolute terms, as stimulus package because I want to retain the growth to prevent further deceleration of the GDP. We are able to prevent the deceleration to move upwards and thereafter, we have been able to improve the fiscal consolidation by this year, reducing the fiscal deficit from 5.5 per cent to 5.1 per

cent. I do hope that we will be able to do it, and with the cooperation of all of you it would be possible to maintain the fiscal deficit for the next year also and it would be possible to come back to the path where the fiscal deficit would be around 2.5 per cent and revenue deficit would be zero per cent and that is the objective.

Here, we have to work in close cooperation with the States because our federal structure depends on the simultaneous movement of two wheels. If the two wheels do not move at the same pace, at the same speed and with the same objective, the total socio-economic transformation would not be possible. The institutional mechanism, which has been provided under the Constitution, is being strengthened. I do hope that with the collective cooperation of all our colleagues sitting here we will be able to strengthen the most important and vital institution, that is, the Parliamentary system. I also do hope that by increasing the MPLAD from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore, I will get not only the support in developmental assistance, but also in strengthening the Parliamentary system where debate, discussions and decision-making process will be done.

With these words, I thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposal of the Central Government for the financial year 2011-2012, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 1 to the Finance Bill, 2011 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 1 to the Finance Bill, 2011 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 7A Amendment of section 40A.

Amendment made:

Page 5, after line 33, —

insert '7A. In section 40A of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (9), after the words, brackets and figures “under clause (iv)”, the words, brackets, figures and letter “or clause (iva)” shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2012.’. (1)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 7A be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Insertion of new section 115 BBD

Amendments made:

Page 7, line 27, —

for "subsidiary"

substitute "specified". (2)

Page 7, line 39, —

for "subsidiary"

substitute "specified". (3)

Page 7, line 40, —

for "more than half"

substitute "twenty-six per cent or more". (4)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 Amendments of Section 115 JB

Amendments made:

Page 7, line 41, —

omit "with effect from the 1st day of April, 2012".

(5)

Page 7, line 42, --

after "sub-section (1),"

insert "with effect from the 1st day of April, 2012". (6)

Page 7, after line 46, —

insert "(ia) after sub-section (2), in Explanation 1, clause (iv), clause (v) and clause (vi) shall be omitted and shall be deemed to have been omitted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2005;". (7)

Page 7, line 48, —

for "inserted".

substitute "inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2012". (8)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 38 Amendment of Section 18

Amendments made:

Page 13, line 3, —

after "assessed"

insert "or re-assessed, as the case may be.". (9)

Page 13, for lines 5 and 6, substitute—

'(b) in sub-section (2),—

(i) in the opening portion, after the words "assessed finally", the words

“or reassessed by the proper officer” shall be *inserted*;

- (ii) for the words, “finally assessed” wherever they occur, the words “finally assessed or re-assessed, as the case may be,” shall be *substituted*;

- (c) in sub-section (3), after the words “final assessment order”, the words “or re-assessment order” shall be *inserted*;

- (d) in sub-section (4), after the words “duty finally”, the words “or re-assessment of duty, as the case may be” shall be *inserted*.¹ (10)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 39 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 40 Amendment of
Section 27**

Amendment made:

Page 13, line 41,—

after “final assessment thereof”

insert “or in case of re-assessment, from the date of such re-assessment”. (11)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 40, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 40, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 41

**Substitution of
new section for
Section 28**

Amendments made:

Page 14, line 52,—

after “date of notice”

insert “where it is possible to do so”. (12)

Page 14, line 54,—

after “date of notice”

insert “where it is possible to do so”. (13)

Page 15, line 3,—

for “Explanation”

substitute “Explanation I”. (14)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam Speaker, before I move Amendment No. 15 to clause 41 of the Finance Bill, 2011, I have to make a request for your consideration. There is a minor mistake of grammatical nature in Amendment No. 15 tabled by me. I would request you that the Amendment No. 15 may be read as follows:

I beg to move:

“Page 15, line 7,—

after “final assessment thereof”

insert “or re-assessment, as the case may be”.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“Page 15, line 7,—

after “final assessment thereof”

insert “or re-assessment, as the case may be”.”

The motion was adopted, and amendment was made.

Amendment made:

Page 15, *after* line 9,—

insert “*Explanation 2.* — For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that any non-levy, short-levy or erroneous refund before the date on which the Finance Bill, 2011 receives the assent of the President, shall continue to be governed by the provisions of section 28 as it stood immediately before the date on which such assent is received.”. (16)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 41, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 41, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 42 to 46 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 17 to the Finance Bill, 2011 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to

the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 17 to the Finance Bill, 2011 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 46A Amendment of Section 114A

Amendment made:

Page 15, *after* line 47, *insert*—

‘46A. In section 114A of the Customs Act,—

- (a) for the words, brackets and figures “sub-section (2) of section 28”, wherever they occur, the words, brackets and figures “sub-section (8) of section 28” shall be substituted;
- (b) for the figures and letters “28AB”, at both the places where they occur, the figures and letters “28AA” shall be substituted.’.

(17)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That new clause 46A be added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

New clause 46A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 47 to 54 were added to the Bill.

Clause 55 Amendment of Section 3

Amendment made:

Page 17, *for* lines 18 and 19, *substitute*—

“Measures Act, 1976,” the words and figures “Legal Metrology Act, 2009” shall be substituted with effect from such date as the Central

Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.’. (18)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 55, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 55, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 19 to the Finance Bill, 2011 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 19 to the Finance Bill, 2011 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

**New Clause 55A Amendment of
Section 9A**

Amendment made:

Page 17, *after* line 19, *insert*—

55A. In section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1A) Where the Central Government, on such inquiry as it may consider necessary, is of the opinion that circumvention of anti-dumping duty imposed under sub-section (1) has taken place, either by altering the description or name or composition of the article subject to such anti-dumping duty or by import of such article in an unassembled or disassembled form or by changing the country of its origin or export or in any other manner, whereby the anti-dumping duty so imposed is rendered ineffective, it may extend the anti-dumping duty to such article or an article originating in or exported from such country, as the case may be.”.

(19)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That new clause 55A be added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 55A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 56 to 58 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 59 Amendment of
Section 4A**

Amendment made:

Page 17, *for* lines 45 and 46, *substitute*—

‘words and figures “Legal Metrology Act, 2009” shall be substituted with effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.’. (20)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 59, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 59, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 60 Substitution of
new section for
Section 11A**

Amendments made:

Page 19, line 4,—

after “date or notice”

insert “where it is possible to do so.”. (21)

Page 19, line 5,—

after “date of notice”

insert “where it is possible to do so.”. (22)

Page 19, line 7,—

after “appellate authority”

insert “or tribunal or court”. (23)

Page 19, line 10,—

after “appellate authority”

insert “or tribunal or court”. (24)

Page 19, line 12,—

after “appellate authority”

insert “or tribunal or court”. (25)

Page 19, *after* line 16,—

Insert “ (15) The provisions of sub-sections (1) to (14) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the recovery of interest where interest payable has not been paid or part paid or erroneously refunded.”. (26)

Page 19, line 17,—

for “Explanation”

substitute “Explanation 1”. (27)

Page 19, *after* line 35,—

Insert “Explanation 2. — For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that any non-levy, short-levy, non-payment, short-payment or erroneous refund before the date on which the Finance Bill, 2011 receives the assent of the President, shall continue to be governed by the provisions of section 11A as it stood immediately before the date on which such assent is received.”. (28)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 60, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 60, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 61 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 62 Substitution of
new section for
Section 11 AC**

Amendments made:

Page 20, line 22,—

after “appellate authority”

insert “or tribunal or court”. (29)

Page 20, line 32,—

after “appellate authority”

insert “or tribunal or court”. (30)

Page 20, line 35,—

after “appellate authority”

insert “or tribunal or court”. (31)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 62, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 62, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 63 and 64 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 65 Insertion of new
Section 12F**

Amendment made:

Page 20, for line 51, substitute,—

“Excise or such other Central Excise Officer as may be notified by the Board has reasons to believe that any goods liable to confiscation or any documents or books or things, which in his opinion shall be”. (32)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 65, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 65, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 66 to 70 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 71 Amendment of
Act 32 of 1994**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move:

Page 22, omit lines 36 to 51. (46)

Page 23, omit line 1. (47)

Page 23, in line 2, —

For “(25aa)”

Substitute “(25a)” (48)

The Finance Minister has explained and moved certain proposals. But unless 10 per cent excise duty, which is

being levied on readymade garments, is taken back, it would hamper the interests of thousands and thousands low-income group people of our country.

Madam, he has explained in regard to reducing import duty from 30 per cent to five per cent in case of import of raw silk, which would definitely hamper the interest of lakhs and lakhs of sericulture farmers. So, I demand that both the proposals should be withdrawn. Ten per cent excise duty on readymade garments and hosiery should be withdrawn. From 30 per cent, it has been reduced to five per cent in the case of import of raw silk and that should be retained, may be from China, may be from the USA. But in the interests of sericulture farmers, the import duty should not be reduced from 30 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 46, 47, 48 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia, to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 71 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 71 was added to the Bill.

Clause 72 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 73 Amendment of
Section 16 of
1955**

Amendment made:

Page 28, for lines 5 and 6, substitute,—

“the words and figures “Legal Metrology Act, 2009” shall be substituted with effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.’. (33)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 73, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 73, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 74 to 76 were added to the Bill.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

*The Second Schedule to the Tenth Schedule
were added to the Bill.*

Eleventh Schedule

Amendments made:

Page 92, line 57, column (4),—

for "Nil"

substitute "5%".

(34)

Page 92, line 58, column (4),—

for "Nil"

substitute "5%".

(35)

Page 92, line 59, column (4),—

for "Nil"

substitute "5%".

(36)

Page 94, line 47, column (4),—

for "60%"

substitute "40%".

(37)

Page 107, line 3, column (4),—

for "16%"

substitute "5%".

(38)

Page 107, line 4, column (4),—

for "16%"

substitute "5%".

(39)

Page 107, line 5, column (4),—

for "16%"

substitute "5%".

(40)

Page 107, line 6, column (4),—

for "16%"

substitute "5%".

(41)

Page 107, line 7, column (4),—

for "16%"

substitute "5%".

(42)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Eleventh Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Eleventh Schedule, as amended, was
added to the Bill.*

*The Twelfth Schedule and the Thirteenth Schedule
were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long
Title were added to the Bill.*

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Madam Speaker, I would like to attract Government's attention to the Home Guard Volunteers sitting on agitation in Jammu for the last five years. They are running from pillar to post. They are given work for 15 days in a month and paid 60 rupees only which is quite an injustice to them...*(Interruptions)* I want to urge to the Government that it should pay heed to their problem and solve it so that these people can suitably discharge their responsibility. They are facing difficulty, the Central Government and State Government is not listening to them. I would say that their issues may be sympathetically looked into and resolved.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Madam Speaker, you gave me opportunity to speak in Zero Hour, I am obliged to you. India is an agriculture based nation and basis of Indian economy is agriculture. Agriculture has an important contribution in the nation, nevertheless condition of agriculture and farmers is not good in our country. However, till now, Governments have given series of schemes for development of agriculture sector, but this is a fact that instead of increasing agricultural growth rate, it is decreasing by 0.2%. This crisis is increasing day by day due to constant population rise and industrial expansion resulting into reduction in agriculture land. During past two decades, particularly, in the economic reforms, period of liberalization, agriculture has been ignored to the greatest extent. At the time of independence where the livelihood of about 70-75 per cent population was dependent on agriculture, that has decreased to about 52%. Indeed, in our country, agriculture and other production is capable to cope with natural calamities. But in spite of it, 26 crores of population is compelled to sleep hungry one time.

Through you, I would like to say that India has 2.4% of world's total land, whereas 18% of world's population resides in India. We have per capita 0.3 hectare of agricultural land, whereas in developed countries, this figure is 11 hectare per capita. Effect of natural calamities like drought and flood is more in India. Our condition is being affected by things like climate change. Land acquisition is being done for many other inappropriate works like industrialization and special economic zone in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh which is cultural and regional capital, there is constant acquisition of fertile lands of farmers at very cheap prices...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you finish please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rajendra Agrawal ji, you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMKISHUN: I want to say that 214 acres of land of farmers of Transport Nagar, Karnadani of Mohan Sarai, Milkichak is being affected. Constant dharna and demonstrations of farmers of this place is going on.

17.59 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

100 acres of land of farmers of more than half of villages is being acquired in the name of Sathwan Sewer Treatment Plant. In the name of residential colony, land is being acquired of about 400 farmers around Varanasi ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, due to the frequent acquisition of land of farmers of this country, agricultural area is reducing. Agricultural production is reducing.

I demand from the Government through you that Land Acquisition Amendment Bill which Government is about to bring, Should be brought soon?

[Shri Ramkishun]

18.00 hrs.

Frequent acquisition of land of farmers in the country, which is going on, be stopped. You gave me time to speak, thank you for it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend its time till 'Zero Hour' is over?

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is extended till 'Zero Hour' is over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of Government about negligence of Uttarakhand State in special industrial promotion package.

Sir, on January 7, 2003, NDA Government in centre has announced a special industrial promotion package for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. This package was announced for coming ten years from the date of announcement, means upto January 6, 2013. Under it, chiefly three financial promotion facilities were granted— one, cent per cent exemption in Central Excise for ten years from the beginning of production — Two Income tax exemption of 100 per cent for first five years and 30 per cent for next five years for companies and 25 per cent for individual units. Three, central subsidy of 15 per cent of immovable capital investment in plant and machinery and maximum upto 30 lakh rupees.

Sir, after coming of UPA Government in centre, on July 9, 2004, the time limit of this package for exemption in Central Excise was reduced to March 31, 2007. Then, on request of State Government, Government of India has extended this limit upto March 31, 2010, which is

applicable at present, means only those industrial units will get exemption in Central Excise, which have started their production upto March 31, 2010. Uttarakhand Government is continuously requesting Government of India for past four years that originally announced time limit of this package, i.e., keeping March, 2013 as usual on the lines of applicable package for North-East States, special industrial package to Uttarakhand State be extended upto 2020. In this regard, Chief Minister of State and Parliamentarians have met honorable Prime Minister, but Government of India is giving a logic that giving such exemption is not appropriate due to proposed GST in country, on the other hand, special package for North-East States is applicable upto year 2017. Thereby, depriving Uttarakhand from it is discriminatory. To eliminate unemployment in hilly areas of States and to stop migration, special integrated promotion policy was implemented in year 2008 by State Government. But by not getting the benefit of Central Excise exemption by new units, adverse impact is there on this policy and investment is affected in the State.

Sir, my request to the Government of India is that this package be extended upto year 2020 so that industrial development of Uttarakhand State may speed up. You gave time to speak, I am obliged to you for it.

SHRI PURNMASI RAM (Gopalganj): Sir, Terminal building of Gorakhpur Civil Airport Terminal has only three rooms. Its seating arrangement for 18 people only whereas more than 100 passengers visit it daily. VIP room is there in name only and it is not properly maintained. Due to non-availability of canteen, it is very difficult for the passengers to get refreshment facility at the Terminal. Through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation that the said building may be extended and canteen facility may be provided there for the passengers.

PROF. RAMSHANKAR (Agra): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on this important subject.

Sir, there is acute shortage of water in Agra and due to that, public is facing a lot of problems. The wooden foundation of Taj Mahal which was laid in water 400 years ago is shrinking due to unavailability of water in Yamuna. As per the report of a survey, the risk of tilting minarets of Taj Mahal has increased. Sand and dirt get deposited there as the Yamuna remains dry. The shine of Taj Mahal is gradually fading away due to the dust flying from sand deposits there in summer.

I would like to say that dirty sewages of Agra fall in Yamuna due to which silt gets deposited. People who come to see Taj Mahal at Yamuna Bank, get surprised when they feel foul smell from Yamuna. The biggest problem there is that since the construction of Gokul-Mathura barrage, the quantity of water in Yamuna has substantially reduced, and the water has become saline. People of Agra has a long standing demand for construction of a barrage there. Shri Motilal Voraji, former Governor of Uttar Pradesh gave his approval for it, but the barrage has not yet been constructed. Many problems are being faced by the people due to consumption of polluted water. 70% public of Agra is compelled to consume stinky and dirty water. My demand to the Government is that a barrage be constructed there so that a long pending problem of the people could be solved and the protection of Taj Mahal could also be ensured.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh): Sir, Bharatiya Janta Yuva Morcha organized a National Unity March on National Youth Day from Kolkata to Kashmir to awake the national spirit among the youth of the country. This march was organized to draw the attention towards the problem of Kashmir. This march was peaceful and passed through 12 States, which covered a distance of about 3300 kilometers. We challenged separatism and tried to give a message that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. It was a challenge to separatists, but Central Government bowed down before separatists. I want to say this because this march

peacefully passed through 12 States and we were determined to unfurl the national flag at Lal Chowk. But Jammu and Kashmir police took us in custody when more than 50,000 youth were with me on the border of Jammu and Kashmir. Police arrested 500 people. The way in which Jammu and Kashmir police behaved, committed excesses, used third degree against youth, national flag was torn by the State police and the hands of many youth were fractured. I would like to ask whether it is a crime to unfurl national flag in any corner of the country? Leaders of opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were arrested and detained in jail on the day of 26th January. My colleague Shri Anant Kumarji, who had been a Central Minister and I were kept in Kathua jail on that day. Is it a crime to unfurl national flag in this country? I want to ask it from the Central Government. I want to know whether the Government has taken any action against police officials who have committed atrocities, used third degree at Lal Chowk against the youth who challenged separatism? Was that march not peaceful, keeping in view that no untoward incident took place anywhere in 12 States? Then, what was the reason that Leaders of opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were detained? What was the reason to stop us from unfurling national flag? I want to know whether it was a crime to awake national spirit among the youth of the country. Has any one bothered to ask about the condition of 2500 policemen who got injured and incidents of stone-pelting on Indian Army in Kashmir? Today, it is being said that Rs. two lakhs would be given to each one of those youth who went across the border to become terrorists and now want to come back to India. But the special police officials who fought terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, are not being paid salaries for the last one year. Will anyone from Central Government would answer these questions?

Today, I rise here to say that the insult of national flag in Jammu and Kashmir was done not by the separatists but by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The youth of this country feel disappointed as they cannot even unfurl national flag in their own country.

[Shri Anurag Singh Thakur]

Thousands of youth have sacrificed themselves for that Kashmir. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government as to what will happen to those youth whose hand and legs were fractured? Will the Central Government make any statement on that incident? Mr. Chairman Sir, I want your protection.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ganesh Singh associated himself with the matter raised by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE (Jhargram): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter regarding rural electrification programme under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in my parliamentary constituency of West Bengal which is not satisfactory.

A private company, namely, Mythias of Andhra Pradesh has been engaged to electrify 2942 *mouzas* in my constituency under this scheme. But it is with a great sense of concern I would like to submit that this company has completed electrification work only in 210 *mouzas* in my constituency, that is, they have been able to achieve only 7 per cent electrification in the period given to them for this work. Thousands of families of this backward area in my constituency is suffering because of lack of power. Neither any heavy industry nor small scale industries could be set up due to shortage of power in this area. It is clear that this company is not capable of continuing work in this area. So, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to solve this problem immediately and help develop this area both socially and financially.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State of Gujarat has 70% of contribution in the total production of salt in India. In this context, the Kutch extension is noteworthy. 30 lacs metric tonnes of refined salt from 15 salt refineries is produced from the Kutch extension. A lot of racks have been made available for the transportation of food items and sugar. While the allotment of wagons for transportation of salt is inadequate. Consequently, huge quantity of salt remains unused at the loading site and the salt becomes spoilt due to which the salt traders have to bear huge financial loss.

There is a requirement of 100 racks every month for the production of 20 lacs metric tonnes of salt while in comparison to this, only 10 to 12 racks are allotted. Thus, the production of salt and allotment of racks are uneven. The salt industry is linked with the railway for the last 50 years and despite this, the situation is same.

The Government of Gujarat and the MPs from Gujarat have put their submission before the Central Government and despite all, the situation is unchanged.

Therefore, I request the Government to allot at least 70 racks (wagon) every month for the transportation of the salt.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House about the problems being faced by the passport applications, particularly of the Muslim Haj pilgrims in getting passports under the *Tatkal* scheme. This scheme has been introduced to provide the aspirants of passports at the earliest. But the aspirants are not getting passports even after one month. So, it cannot be called a *Tatkal* scheme. ... (Interruptions) A passport aspirant has to get a signature from an officer of the rank of Under Secretary or above of Central Government and of the rank of a Director or

above in the State Government. It is somewhat difficult to get such signature by a common aspirant, particularly the aged Muslims. Normally the people who undertake Haj Pilgrimage do so after they attain the age of 50 or 60 years. The old people normally will have beards. Now, with such beards if they approach an IAS or an IPS officer, the officers are scared to sign. So, my request and also suggestion to the hon. Minister of External Affairs is to allow local Members of Parliament to sign the verification certificate for the issuance of *Tatkal* passport. The MPs are also responsible and equally answerable. I would like to request the Ministry of External Affairs to monitor the *Tatkal* scheme so that it is implemented with a true spirit. Since there is a delay in issuing the passport under the *Tatkal* scheme, it should either be scrapped, or the passport should be issued within five days.

The pilgrims who are performing the Haj should be taken care of, more particularly the aged ones who are above 60. Earlier, they were issuing white passports for pilgrims who are performing the Haj. That may be continued. That was valid only for the Haj. That should be continued because there is no need for them to run from pillar to post to get the signatures.

My request is that this should be considered by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi and Dr. Prabha Kishor Taviad are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Aaron Rashid.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government of India towards a matter of great importance. The Members of Parliament (MPs) of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh had shown their protests beneath the Gandhi statue against the discrimination being done by the Central Government to the State Government. I would like to raise a matter in the House on this issue.

Out of a total of ten coal blocks which were allotted to Madhya Pradesh by the Government of India, seven coal blocks are in Madhya Pradesh and three in Chhattisgarh. After making way for joint sector for the mining, the intimation has been sent by the Mineral Corporation of Madhya Pradesh to the Government of India for obtaining all necessary approvals in this regard. The selection of the joint sector could not be carried out as the Korba issue for the Morga number-1 coal block is under consideration of the hon'ble High Court. The Government of India has issued direction for the utilization of coal of the three coal blocks out of the remaining nine blocks for thermal power plant. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not accorded its approval to one of the coal blocks which covers Dogri Tal Coal Block in respect of which mining plan approval has not been obtained so far. At present, three coal blocks out of the remaining 6 coal blocks come under no-go area of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the Government of India has not granted its approval to start work in the remaining three coal blocks. The coal mixed from these blocks, has been reserved for the steel and cement plants. In such a situation, coal is not available for the thermal power plants. The hon. Minister says that the Government has provided ten coal blocks to Madhya Pradesh. In this context, the proverb-giving by one hand and taking from the other (*Quid Pro Quo*) seems to be opt. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I urge the Government of India to grant approval immediately for starting work in the coal blocks for which permission has been sought and issue orders to remove restriction from thermal power plants which supply coal to the coal blocks...(*Interruptions*) Through you, I would like to appeal to the Government to put an end to the discrimination being meted out to Madhya Pradesh. The loss of crops of the farmers due to frost should be compensated. The frost should be

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

declared as a natural disaster and a new crop insurance scheme for formulated...*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE (Latur): Sir, there is nothing so startling if a fake bank account, mobile sim card, credit card in the name of a person is generated without his or her knowledge and this is a matter of great concern. The reasons behind all these problems possibly lie in the documents of the applicants applying for the D.D.A. Housing Scheme which are not returned to the unsuccessful applicants and are stocked outside for sale as scrap. These waste papers contain the photocopies of the documents such as the photographs, pan card, electricity bills, passports, voter identity cards, driving licenses and all these photocopies of documents possibly fall into the wrong hands resulting in cases of cheating against the innocent people. This should not be done by the D.D.A. In this regard, concern has been raised several times in the past. Despite this, no attention has been paid and these documents are still lying scattered at the headquarters of D.D.A. Any one can misuse these documents and big problems may rise for the people whose documents are misused.

Therefore, this is my request that in public interest, when cheques of the unsuccessful applicants are returned through post offices or courier services, these valuable documents should also be returned along with the cheques so that innocent persons do not have to face any difficulty.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

*Not recorded.

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You had boycotted the House.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Hon'ble Minister, I had boycotted the Finance Bill. When I had asked you, you had told me to come during the Zero Hour. Now, I have come here to put my stand during the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. Shri Meghwala, I have given you time. Your name had gone.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Mr. Chairman, this is the same House where discussion on increasing incidents of atrocities against SC/ST had taken place and the discussion continued for two days. The figures of the National Crime Bureau which I am going to put before you are surprising ones that despite proper discussion, the graph of crimes is showing an upward trend. I belong to Rajasthan. Rajasthan is in second place in terms of the incidents of atrocities against SC/ST after UP. Through you, I would like to say that there is a Tijara tehsil in Alwar district, where in Husapura village wherein an quarrel for a goat took place. Twenty five families of SC community were living in this village and reacting to this incident, the houses of these twenty five families were set on fire. The wells of those families were demolished and entire crops cut. All the sixty buffaloes were stolen and nothing was left in their houses. Every thing in their house was broken, fans were broken, chairs were broken. I mean to say that such a massive reaction was shown on a petty incident. I made a complaint about this matter to Human Rights Commission. Human Rights Commission visited the spot. I would like to say through you that the Commission for Scheduled Castes should also visit the spot. The report of the Human Rights Commission should be provided to

the Member of Parliament concerned. Human Rights Commission visited the place taking my complaint under consideration. The Human Rights Commission went there and now, it is saying to keep its report in secrecy. We want that the report should be given to us.

My second suggestion is that there are two Acts dealing with atrocities against SCs and STs. *[English]* Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989, *[Translation]* these acts are required to be amended and there are procedural complications in taking witnesses causing low conviction rate as hon'ble Minister knows, it is only 27.2% in the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Chairman, these are the reasons which require to amend both the Acts and the Commission for Scheduled Caste should also visit that place. The RTI activist in Barmer was also attacked. Their huts were set on fire in Bharatpur. The Government should take stringent steps to stop the increasing atrocities. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been elected from a very backward and tribal area. There is a monstrous problem there which I would like to put before the House through you. My Constituency is depended on agriculture. Farmer work hard day and night, even though he is not able to earn enough to meet his both ends meal. Farmers have resources. We have five rivers. The river Tapti originates from there and it flows across the tribal areas for twenty nine times and reaches into State of Gujarat. But how prosperous Gujarat is now-a-days is known to entire nation. River Tapti originates from my Constituency from tribal area despite this area is so backward that not a single industry has been established there. Being benefitted from the water of river

Tapti, many regions are now prosperous and have generated employment for a number of people in the country and abroad. But the farmers residing there are hungry today. It is very painful for me and today, I am very happy to have an opportunity to put forth my views through Zero Hour. I request the Government to construct dams for the farmers on large rivers. The revenue generated from this, should be allotted to that district. Water from my district goes to Maharashtra. Maharashtra and Gujarat both are prosperous but why we are still poor. Why is our Betul district poor today? Why is no employment generated there till now. Why are farmers not alive there today? What is the reason that even after the lapse of sixty three years, farmers have no access to water of their district?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please wind up.

SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE: The UPA led Central Government should focus on this district, it should adopt this district so that the problem of the farmers there could be removed. The unemployed may get employment, the women there should be empowered. The young generation has its own dreams. Their dreams should be materialized. I hope that this district would emerge as a prosperous district in the coming days. Here big projects will be set up and big industries would be set up. I, through you, would like to assure my constituency and I am hopeful that we will get all these things. Thank you.

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to speak. I was trying to raise this issue in the Zero Hour for many days and today, I have forgotten the opportunity for which I express my gratitude to you. Today, I am raising this issue because a programme of altering the names of the institutions in the name of the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been started by the Congress and it has started altering the names of the institutions which are in the name of our great freedom fighters. Shilaru

[Shri Virender Kashyap]

in Shimla is my Constituency and Shri Veer Bhadra Singh is sitting here who has been the former Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Sir, What is this? ...*(Interruptions)* The people asked the Government to name the Institution after Shri Rajiv Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the former Prime Minister of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Please listen to me and then only you will realize the truth. I want to say that Shri Veer Bhadra Singh also comes from the same district and he has been the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for many years. There is a training centre namely Altitude Training Institute in Shilaru. This training centre was named as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Altitude Training Institute. The name of this institute existed for many years but Sri Gil, the sports Minister visited Himachal Pradesh some days back. There, he inaugurated and altered its name as Rajiv Gandhi Altitude Training Centre. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Sir, there can be no comparison. Veer Bhadra Singh, the Central Minister is sitting here, it is my demand that we should not and we cannot equate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Rajiv Gandhi as Netaji fought against the Britishers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please stop it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL : Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR : Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now. Hon. Minister, what are you saying?

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I would like to know whether he has given any notice for raising this issue. Moreover, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the former Prime Minister of this country. Why is he making it an issue?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I call Shri K.D. Deshmukh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Deshmukh, please start now. Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, nothing is going on record. Why are you wasting your time? Shri Deshmukh, please start.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH (Balaghat): Sir, thank you for the opportunity you gave me to speak. India's economy is based mainly on Agriculture and 80 per cent of the

*Not recorded.

population dwell in villages. Farmers are taking suicidal steps in the country. Farmers have become indebted. Farmers are perplexed and disappointed due to ruin of crops and natural disasters like the hail storms and frosts. There is unprecedented increase in the price of electricity, water, diesel, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, agro-instruments, wages of agro-laborers, etc. which has made the situation more worse. It is utmost important to increase the minimum support price of Kharif crops produced by the farmers in view of the rising prices. There have been steep hike in price of every commodity. But no hike is taking place in the cost of farmer's produce, due to which farmers across the nation are badly hit.

Hence, I demand from the Government that in the interest of public and farmers in coming time, proper support price the announced for paddy crops in the country. I think that minimum support price of paddy should be at least Rs. two thousand per quintal.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to bring the pain of honourable 545 MPs and 1.2 billion public to the attention of honorable Railway Minister. Today, all over the country, large crowd and long queues of people are seen at Railway Reservation Counters because the employees sitting there remain busy on their mobile phones. It is a common trend. The common man faces a lot of difficulty in getting Railway tickets as a result there of.

Sir, in this complex too, one reservation centre has been opened for honorable MPs. But its timing is from 11:00 am to 5.00 p.m. My demand to Railway Minister is that the timing of this counter be changed from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Apart from this, honorable Railway Minister provides priority reservation in passenger trains for common man on the recommendatory letters of honorable MPs. But the letters for reservation given by Members of this House are ignored by the employees in Rail Bhawan due to the touts and there is open loot going on. This is a breach of privilege of honorable MPs. The common man who wants to come for treatment in Delhi, is not getting the deserved priority reservation in trains.

I demand from Railway Minister that use of mobile phones by such employees on duty may be banned so that common people do not have to stand in long queues and priority reservation be granted on letters of MPs. I want to make this demand to Government through you.

SHRI NARAYAN SINGH AMLABE (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present, not only India, but whole world is facing storage of water. Priority of UNO and World Bank is also to conserve and preserve water. In this situation, one small project in Keetkheri Pond development division Susner was sanctioned in Susner Assembly Constituency under my Parliamentary Constituency, Rajgarh in the year 2007 and the administrative sanction of Rs. 1974 lakh was received from Madhya Pradesh Government on 7th August, 2007. But till day, the work of above pond has not begun due to Government's negligence. When I contacted the department in this regard, it was learnt that it is being proposed to lapse this scheme by terming it as a costly scheme due to latest cost escalation of the project of Rs. 4548.43 lakhs.

Sir, the latest cost escalation of above scheme is due to season, the work was not started timely and merely giving this reason for lapse of the scheme would be like an injustice to the public of my Parliamentary Constituency.

I would like to request Government through you that it should give appropriate directions in this regard to Madhya Pradesh Government to continue the above Keetkheri Pond small irrigation project and commence the work on it soon.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Wednesday, the 23rd March, 2011 at 11 a.m.

18.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March, 23, 2011/
Chaitra 2, 1933 (Saka).*