

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Twelfth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

*Saturday, December 1, 2007/Agrahayana 10, 1929 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at five minutes past  
Eleven of the Clock*

**(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)**

### OBITUARY REFERENCES

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, Shri T.A. Patil and Shri Channaiah Odeyar.

Shri T.A. Patil was a Member of the Third, Fourth and the Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1977, representing Osmanabad Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

An able parliamentarian Shri Patil was a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings from 1969 to 1970.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Patil played a significant role in developmental activities. He was Honorary Joint Secretary of the Divisional Development Council (Aurangabad Division) from 1960 to 1961 and the Vice-Chairman of the District Development Board from 1957 to 1960. He took special interest in the cooperative movement and served as the Chairman of the Cooperative Oil Industry Limited from 1963 to 1968.

A well-known social worker, Shri Patil played an active role in the merger of Hyderabad State in the Indian Union. He was also actively associated with the Arya Samaj Movement in the erstwhile Hyderabad State. He was a Member of the Managing Committee of the Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Omarga. Shri Patil was a Member of Shri Krishna Shikshan Sansthan Gunjoti and served as its Chairman from 1985 to 1995. He has to his credit several articles in Marathi magazines.

Shri T.A. Patil passed away on 17th October, 2007 at Latur, Maharashtra at the age of 90.

Shri Channaiah Odeyar was a Member of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas from 1984 to 1996, representing the Davangere Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

Earlier, Shri Channaiah Odeyar was a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council from 1968 to 1980.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Channaiah Odeyar was a Member of the Committee on Government Assurances and the Consultative Committee of the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture and Cooperation during the Eighth Lok Sabha. During the Ninth Lok Sabha Shri Channaiah Odeyar was a Member of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1990.

A committed social and political worker Shri Channaiah Odeyar was the First President of the Taluka Board, Jagalur in the year 1960. He was also the Chairman, Karnataka State Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board and the President of the Karnataka State Wool Board. He was a member of the Senate of Mysore and Bangalore Universities.

Shri Channaiah Odeyar passed away on 19th November, 2007 at Bangalore at the age of 87 after a brief illness.

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

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.08 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

11.09 hrs.

### REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

#### World AIDS Day

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are all aware, today is being observed as the World AIDS Day. Cutting across the nationalities, caste, creed and religion, AIDS today is a threat to the mankind.

Let us today rededicate our efforts in increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education about HIV and AIDS and in handing out all support and assistance to the unsuspecting victims of this dreaded disease.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Government has banned the screening of the film 'Aaja Nachle' which has been released recently. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is time for everything. I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you. You please sit down. I am telling you that I will listen to you. Then why are you doing like this?

[English]

Please go to your seat and follow discipline. I will hear you.

11.09¼ hrs.

### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

### BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA – LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 2007."

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2007.

11.09½ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

#### 61st Report

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Sixty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2007-2008) on "Project Management Practices in Gauge Conversion and New Line Projects".

11.09¼ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

#### 24th Report

[Translation]

SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA (Khagria) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2007-08) on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2007-08.

11.10 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

#### 24th and 25th Reports

[English]

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports:

- (1) Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary Education and Literacy) on "Reservation in services including reservation in admission and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Kendriya Vidyalayas and in Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Navodaya Vidyalayas".
- (2) Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) on "Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Syndicate Bank and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them".

11.11 hrs.

## RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

## Statements

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee:-

- (1) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Sixth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1999) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of Railway Convention Committee (1999) on "Development of alternative routes for decongesting the existing routes".
- (2) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Seventh Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1999) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of Railway Convention Committee (1999) on "Construction of new broad gauge line between Kolayat and Phalodi on strategic consideration".

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in today's business it was decided to hold discussion on the internal security of the country under Rule 193. I would like to request you that this discussion should be deferred to 5 December.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me take the sense of the House. Has the Government any business?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the presence in the House is also very thin so it should be deferred to 5th December.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not standing in the way, but I have to take the sense of the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, only a few days are left, but we have no objection if it is deferred to some other day that you feel proper.

MR. SPEAKER: The suggestion is for 5th of December, 2007. Is it the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Item No.11 is postponed till 5th of December, 2007.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please follow the rule. Please follow the rule at least for one day. Your views matter. I will certainly give you opportunity. I am committed.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You know that if you speak without permission nothing will go on record. When you speak with permission then your name as well as your speech will go on record.

11.14 hrs.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of fall in the level of ground water, resulting in scarcity of water in the country particularly in rural areas and steps taken by the Government in this regard\*\***

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR(Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard.

"Situation arising out of fall in the level of ground water, resulting in scarcity of water in the country particularly in rural areas and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The statement can be laid on the Table of the House.

\*Not recorded.

\*\* Laid on Table and also placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7554/07



[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table following statement regarding situation arising out of fall in the level of Ground water the issue raised by hon'ble Member Shri Hansraj G. Ahir:-

The annual replenishable ground water resource has been jointly assessed by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Ground Water Organizations as 433 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters), out of which net annual ground water availability (for utilization) is estimated as 399 BCM. The total annual ground water draft is 231 BCM. The overall stage of ground water development in the country is 58%.

Based on the above assessment, out of 5723 dynamic ground water resource assessment units (block/mandal/taluka), 839 units are categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 as 'Critical' and 550 as 'Semi-critical'. Over-exploited areas where the annual ground water extraction exceeds the annual replenishable resource are located mainly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Kamataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

In drinking water, depleting ground water table/ indiscriminate tapping of ground water has led to a large number of habitations slipping back from the status of "Fully covered" to "Partially covered" and "Not covered" status. Therefore, the Department of Drinking Water Supply has suggested the States to ensure sustainability of drinking water sources. The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply renders technical and financial assistance to States through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme" (ARWSP). Under Bharat Nirman Programme, the Union Government intends to provide safe drinking water in adequate quantity to all uncovered, slipped back habitations while addressing all water quality problems in the rural areas of the country by March, 2009.

'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable action for arresting the declining ground water level in their respective States and supply of water in all rural and remote areas. However, some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for improvement of ground water level in the country are:-

#### Regulatory measures:

- Constitution of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Section 3(3) of the Environment

(Protection) Act of 1986 and notification of 43 Over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management and notification of 65 Over-exploited areas in various States for registration of ground water abstraction structures. Moreover, 746 Overexploited areas are under process for notification for registration of ground water abstraction structures.

- Advice issued by the CGWA to Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-Exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the Building Bye-Laws.
- Central Ground Water Authority has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc. in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 metres from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.
- Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a 'Model Bill' to "Regulate and Control Development and Management of Ground Water" to the States/UTs. So far 10 States/UTs have already enacted ground water legislation. 19 other States are also in the process of enactment.

#### Augmentation measures:-

- Constitution of 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' with the objective to share experiences and to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among various stakeholders.
- As per recommendation of the Advisory Council, the Ministry of Water Resources has instituted Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Gram Panchayats/Urban Local Bodies for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation through people's participation. For the Year 2007, the awards were given away by Her Excellency the President of India in September, 2007.
- Preparation of 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water.
- A Scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells" has been approved for

implementation in Over-exploited/Critical/Semi-Critical areas in 6 States.

- Circulation of Manual/Guide on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water by Central Ground Water Board to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.
- Implementation of 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various States under the Central Sector scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground water' in IX Plan. Through these projects, water harvesting and recharge technologies have been developed.
- Preparation of recharge feasibility maps to identify proper recharge structures as well as spotting correct locations for tapping ground water.
- Organisation of National workshop by Department of Drinking Water Supply on sustainability of drinking water supply schemes in May, 2007 with the participation of all related Ministries, State Governments, NGOs etc.
- A document entitled "Bringing in Sustainability of rural drinking water schemes" prepared by Department of Drinking Water Supply was released by Hon'ble Prime Minister in August, 2007 and circulated to all States.
- Implementation of 75 artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting studies in coordination with State Governments by Central Ground Water Board during XI Plan.
- Central Ground Water Board provides technical guidance on rain water harvesting to various agencies including State Government agencies, educational institutions, Resident Welfare Associations, Group Housing Societies, private entrepreneurs and individuals. It also organizes mass awareness and training programmes on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge in various parts of the country.
- Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (Delhi Division) has amended Building Bye-laws 1983 by making it mandatory that all new buildings that are erected on plots of 100 sq.m. and above in Delhi provide for water harvesting through storing rain water run off to recharge under ground water aquifers. Similarly, some of the States/UTs have also made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to draw the attention of the House towards this important issue. It is said that next World War will be fought for water. Water is very important for

human beings. Human Being is the most important creature of the world. Presently, there is serious crisis of drinking water in nearly all the urban and rural areas in the country. Nearly 60 percent water in urban areas and 80 percent in rural areas is being supplied from ground water. That is why the level of ground water is falling. As per the report of the survey, the level of ground water has fallen 5 to 6 metres in comparison to the water level in 1980. A survey was conducted by the World Bank and the advisor of the World Bank, hon'ble Shri John Brisko in his article based on the research entitled –

[English]

'India's Water Economy : Bracing for a Turbulent Future'

[Translation]

warned India that, in coming 15 years, there will be a serious crisis of drinking water in some of the countries including India. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that from his reply, it appears that he is not ready to ask industries not to use ground water recklessly. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that appropriate steps are not being taken by the Government to provide sufficient drinking water in the villages of the country as presently there is scarcity of drinking water in the villages and people are facing difficulties on account of this.

The area from where I have been elected has two types of land. Some areas have forest cover and some areas have no forests. All the industries, set up in those areas which have less forest cover are using ground water extensively by way of installing big tube-wells and digging big wells. Lifting of ground water increases the intensity of its out flow and thus it is creating a serious problem. There are many industries like cement industry, steel industry and cold drink manufacturing industries located there. It is on account of reckless exploitation of ground water by cocacola plant set up in Kerala, that the people of that area are staging demonstration against this industry. The wells and tube wells of the farmers in that area have dried up. The way the ground water is being lifted by the industrial units are creating problems. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there is no dearth of rivers in our country. Our country is called the country of rivers. However, we are not able to fully utilize the potential of these rivers. We have failed to check the wastage of river water. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Ministry can raise the level of ground water in the country by storing the water by way of constructing big dams and executing major irrigation projects. However, such things are not being done. Whenever I write a letter to the hon'ble Minister requesting him to formulate irrigation projects that can provide water for irrigation and can also raise the water level, it is replied that the Forest Conservation Act is coming

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

in the way of such initiatives. The Minister of Water Resources do not take up irrigation projects on that pretext. The ground water level can be raised through these irrigation projects and drinking water problem in large number of villages can be solved. I would like to point out to the hon'ble Minister that our country is an agriculture based country. There are wells and tubewells in every village and field. People adopt the method of water-lifting. In the future, more and more wells and tubewells would be required to be dug and installed. The efforts should be made to raise the water level. We should make efforts to conserve river water at different places. It will, help in irrigation and drinking water problem would also be solved. The legislation must be enacted to check water-lifting by industry. We have observed that cement industry have dug up 250-300 metres deep 200 tubewells in their areas. Due to which wells and tubewells in the entire villages have dried up. This problem is being caused by the industries and I would like to submit that some effective steps should be taken to deal with this problem. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what steps are going to be taken up by the Government to recharge the depleting water resources to save the country from the scarcity of the potable water in the coming years. I would like to ask what legislations are going to be enacted in this regard. The hon'ble Minister has just replied that drinking water is a state subject and it is their responsibility. The manner in which the hon'ble Minister is trying to shoulder off his responsibility is not appropriate. I would like to tell through you that this is the responsibility of the Union Government. It should bring forward a legislation in this regard and issue directions to the States.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in the meeting of the Hon. Leaders at the beginning of this Session, I had said that I would strictly follow the rules and only on important occasions I would exercise my authority. This is one of the matters which I feel very important. Therefore, I am allowing four other hon. Members who have taken the trouble of giving notice this morning before 10 o'clock.

Now, Shri Rewati Raman Singh. Please put only two or three questions.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. First of all, I would like to congratulate, Shri Hansraj G. Ahir for raising such an important issue in the House. As he has said today, that if it happens, the third world war would be fought for water, it is true. You are aware that in earlier times, there used to be four or five ponds in every village in the country, but gradually as the population

increased, the concept of ponds went into oblivion. Even after, the Supreme Court's judgment, most of the ponds are in the possession of certain persons and therefore, the concept of ponds is vanishing.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance had made separate provision for ponds in the last year's budget, but I am sorry to say that nothing concrete has been done with the funds allocated for ponds. Through you, I would like the House to be apprised of by the hon'ble Minister as to how and where the amount was spent and the number of ponds dug alongwith the names of places?

Sir, today water has assumed so much importance that due to increase in its consumption, the ground water level has gone down by 20-30 metres in some areas. Due to it, water tankers are sent to many parts of the country in the summer season, because no arrangement for extracting ground water is being made. Hand pumps and tubewells are being bored at many places, due to which ground water is being tapped at a very fast pace. Water is being tapped in every way. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, whether the Government will make any arrangement to check excessive tapping of ground water resources. I would like to suggest that there could be no other better arrangement than constructing ponds for raising ground water level.

Sir, as far as I remember, the Government had announced in this House a scheme for rain water harvesting and ground water recharging for the urban areas, but no such scheme has been launched for our areas. I do not know whether rain water harvesting and water-recharging system is in place at Minister's bungalows or not, but no such arrangement has been made for our bungalows, houses or for any other city. I would like the Parliament to enact a legislation, so that efforts to evolve a system for maximum recharging of water in cities and villages could be made. Encroachment on village ponds should be immediately removed, then only we would be able to provide water to the entire population in the country.

Sir, one more danger has raised its head, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this fact that ground water has also been polluted. Due to use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the ground water has become polluted. All our rivers have become polluted. The Government repeatedly says that action on a large scale is being taken to clean rivers. But where the action is being taken in this regard? Till now, I am not aware of it. Through you, I would like to suggest to the Government that it should not make only statements and provision for funds, but also ensure that ground water and river water remain clean and the Government should take immediate action for raising the ground water level.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak by relaxing the rules. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that water is life. India is an agricultural country. Therefore, water is very essential for agriculture and living beings. The water harvesting is not being done in Rajasthan at all due to low rainfall, the level of existing ground water has also gone down. As a result of it, a grave problem has emerged before our country.

Sir, I understand that tapping of water has been done on large scale, but earth has not been fed up adequately as was required by adopting measures like afforestation, planting of trees, water harvesting, setting up of minor irrigation projects, water sheds, modern techniques of agriculture, like sprinkling, drip system, Israeli technique of growing more crops by using less water. Due to continuous tapping of ground water, the water level has severely gone down.

Sir, most of panchayat areas of my parliamentary constituency has been declared as 'dark zone' as a result, farmers are not getting loan. Besides more clean water could have been drawn by digging old wells, but it has also been banned. Leave aside the digging of new wells, old wells have been banned by the Government. Through you, I would like to know from the Government, whether the Government will make efforts for implementing inter-linking of rivers scheme for bridging the mismatch between floods and drought, plenty of water and scarcity of water, abundance and deficiency by making arrangement for water conservation, proper distribution of water, feeding the earth and checking the tapping of water. Besides, the Government should issue directions to the state Government for granting permission for further deepening the wells in the dark areas, so that one - two crops may be sown, otherwise scarcity of foodgrains will be caused.

Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government as to the measures to be taken by it to tackle the problem of depleting water table so that land could be irrigated and drinking water crisis could be eased. The Government has not paid adequate attention towards water harvesting schemes. These schemes are being abandoned in the name of Employment Guarantee Schemes. I wonder, how water would be harvested if water shed and soil conservation programmes are not undertaken and deepening of wells is banned?

Sir, big dams were constructed when Five Year Plans were initiated at the time of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Projects like Hirakund dam, Bhakra Nangal dam, Damodar Valley were prepared. However, today the entire country is feeling that we should focus more on small irrigation schemes in

place of big dams so that maximum water could be made available to the farmers and maximum yield could be obtained from minimum quantum of water. What scheme is being formulated by the Government in this regard? The Government is requested to present the scheme in this regard before the House if it has formulated any.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will be ready to give a full-fledged discussion on this.

Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to express my gratitude to you that despite the decision taken in the Business Advisory Committee's meeting that no second or third question would be entertained on this, you allowed time to the Hon'ble Members giving importance to the Calling Attention motion and associating myself with Hon. Ahirji who has brought this motion and Rewati Raman Singh ji and Rasa Singh Rawat ji who expressed their opinions I would like to ask hon'ble Minister if it is true that today the water strata in the hand pumps be that for drinking water or for irrigation in the rural areas has depleted to the extent that it can no longer draw water. Whenever the Department of Water Supply or the Irrigation Department is approached, they express their inability since the water strata is depleting. The Government is requested to make arrangements for drinking water and irrigation.

Secondly, the ponds have become an obsolete concept in the villages. The land mafias have constructed houses by encroaching and selling away that land. That is why, I want you to take some effective measures in this direction. The Supreme Court of India has given clear cut orders to get the land evacuated with immediate effect and to dig up ponds, only then water would be available in the village ponds and we can get rid of the problem.

Thirdly, the project of linking all the small rivulets in the rural areas would also prove to be useful. However, check dams can be constructed at a distance of every one or one and a half kilometers on small rivulets for it would stop water to a certain level and the remaining water would overflow. This would maintain the water strata and provide water for drinking, irrigation and bathing etc. facilities to people in the rural areas.

As stated by Shri Rewati Raman Singh Ji that through water recharging system the waste or rain water can be canalized into or bored into the ground so as to elevate the water strata.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

With these words I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure you would be happy that Parliament Complex has rain water storage facilities, apart from Speaker's official residence. I believe Dr. Kathiria has also done it in his residence. I am sure the Government should render all help in this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. You will be the first person.

Now, Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Depletion of ground water has reached an alarming proportion. I have two queries to ask. One is whether the Government is thinking of restricting the use of ground water, especially for industrial use. As water is the State subject, whether any attempt is being made by the Government to convince the State Governments to restrict the use of ground water specifically for industrial use.

As we have seen and in the Statement also the Minister has mentioned that there are some critical areas, over-exploited areas and accordingly around 50 per cent of the blocks and Talukas are covered under this critical area. I would like to understand whether the Government has given any suggestion to the State Governments to restrict the depth of the tube-wells to a given level, say, 200 metres, 300 metres or 500 metres so that the upper reach of the ground water can be utilized and it should not go below a certain level.

Another problem to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister, through you, is the salinity that is creeping in most of the coastal States. Orissa is facing it. Bengal has it. Andhra Pradesh and a great stretch of Tamil Nadu also have that. Salinity creeping in because of overuse of groundwater for agricultural purposes and other industrial purposes. As we have a specific zone that is demarcated that within 500 metres from the coastline no construction can take place, similarly whether the Government is thinking of bringing a law so that you can restrict the use of groundwater from a distance from the coast so that you can stop salinity creeping in into the main land? Thank you, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you full discussion, provided you give notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, a Calling Attention motion on a very important issue has been brought in the House by an Hon'ble Member and it out of discussion it has emerged that we should make proper use of the underground water. It should not be misused. As per the assessment made in the country, out of 5723 units (block/talukka/zones) 839 are over exploited zones, out of which 226 have been considered critical and 550 have been kept in semi critical category. Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh come under over exploited zones. As per the measure taken by the Government in this regard a model bill has been drafted with a view to create widespread awareness among people in areas where water is being over exploited and it has been implemented in 10 States.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Sir, all this has been given in the statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, what is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': If you are satisfied then it is all right. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should encourage your colleagues also.

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Goa, Kerala. ...(Interruptions) West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, etc. are included therein. Model Bill Act has been enforced in 10 States and a legislation on the lines of Model Bill has been initiated in 19 States. Some States, however, disagree and do not feel the need of a legislation. There are 6 such States. ...(Interruptions) and these are Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Punjab. Action is being taken further on the basis of Model Bill. Water is a State subject. We have to take further concerted action with the cooperation of the States to save water, for the better management of water and to save ground water. It is a major concern these days. Water table is depleting in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and other States of the country. Hon'ble Members have rightly said that our old water bodies, zamindari dams, and ponds which used to be maintained by our ancestors were gradually neglected by us in the race of modernization as we could not understand or appreciate their worth and we continued to encroach the ponds. It caused a lot of problem and today the condition is that there are no ponds. We have to restore those water bodies, we have to pay attention to lift irrigation system and

check river water by constructing check dams in the rivers. Hon'ble Prime Minister provided for Rs.3 hundred crores for the restoration of water bodies in the Tenth Plan. Through that provision we have tried to restore the ponds. However, we shall increase that provision. Rs. Ten thousand crores have been proposed under the World Bank sponsored scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan. Rs.300 crore have been sanctioned under the Tenth Plan, out of which Rs.180 crore have been released. 1098 reservoirs are being restored. The State Governments have been asked to prepare an integrated report relating to the restoration of water bodies. Several States have been asked to send a written report. This has been discussed several times yet only a few states have sent a report. When the State Government would send the reports then restoration of rivers and ponds would be done out of the amount allocated for it. Some very good measures have been taken for it.

Hon'ble Member raised a point that water table is over exploited owing to industrial use which causes a lot of problem. This problem is the result of urbanization, industrialization, population pressure etc. A large number of industries are being set up in areas with low water table. The Government has given it a consideration that industries should be set up in areas with sufficient water level. Infrastructure can be created easily but in the areas where the ground water level is already low, there it declines further with industrialisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These interruptions will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you trouble?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all States have been given instructions. It is not proper for

me to point out any particular State in the House. But, when the hon'ble Member repeatedly stands to make his point, then I feel that I should also give my viewpoint through you, Sir. For the water bodies, the Central Government have corresponded. I have documents and I will produce them before you. I would request the hon'ble Members, who are on their legs time and again in the House that responsibility, accountability and the constitutional obligations should be discharged. The Centre and States must also discharge their duties. Therefore, I would not like to discuss these things here, otherwise I will be compelled to reveal everything and will lay the letters on the table. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get diverted by them.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No interruption will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, listen to me for a second. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. These days there is no such system.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You keep quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, this House is taking up a very important issue. You have stated that the House is a sovereign body so a detailed discussion should be held on this issue. All hon'ble Members have appreciated this. ...*(Interruptions)* I am very happy that today a significant outcome is emerging out of this discussion as to what was done by the Central Government and what is the responsibility of the State Government which has to be discharged. I would not like to repeat it otherwise controversy will crop up. Except Jammui and Nalanda, I have received no reports from anywhere in Bihar. It is very unfortunate. I could not resist myself from saying this thing in the House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, please forgive me for this. But how to go ahead with this programme. The Hon'ble Members have raised the issue of decline in water level of the water bodies. We are exploring the methods by which the level of water can be raised through the watershed management and artificial recharge. A consistent campaign is being run under the watershed management for rainwater and roof water harvesting. We are creating awareness about rain water harvesting. Efforts are on to make water available to Delhi, Maharashtra and other big cities. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir. \*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a Cabinet system of Government, and he has a right to do it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do it. It is not fair. No, this will be deleted forthwith.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, he is giving a very good reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a Cabinet system of Government. What is wrong if they talk among themselves?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: I know the hon'ble Member Shri Prabhunath Singh ji and he also knows me. I have been the Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly since 1980. ...*(Interruptions)* I have been the Member before him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't reply to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: I am not giving reply to him, but since he spoke, so am I speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He wants you to get diverted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed additional Members to put queries to the hon. Minister under this Calling Attention as it is a very important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it. It is not proper that all things should be of your choice only. Do all like what you say or do?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not bring in State politics here.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, sir, our programme is to conserve the underground water levels in areas where due to exploitation, water levels have gone down. For this purpose the UPA government has girded itself by formulating a scheme amounting to Rs. ten thousand crores. In the 10th Five Year Plan, water bodies are being rejuvenated by providing Rs. 300 crore. Apart from this, rain water harvesting campaign is being launched in schools, colleges, villages and streets. Participation of women in this campaign is maximum. They are playing major role in this public awareness campaign. The State Government as well as the Central Government have to share responsibility under this programme. Hence we are launching a campaign to maintain the water levels through artificial recharge and rain water harvesting and our other mediums in northern and southern areas where water levels have become depleted and we are taking the cooperation of everyone in this regard. As regards the question of interlinking of rivers, the UPA Government has prepared its own programme for this purpose

under Common Minimum Programme. It has been accorded top priority and a very vital role was being played by the Government with regard to the linking of rivers. We are not the ones to back up. For this purpose, preparations were made in the year 1980 and a Committee was constituted in the year 1982. The said committee's report was submitted in 2004. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in order to link Ken and Betwa rivers. It was signed during UPA Government's regime. The postulation of the UPA government is that the Government will link not only the rivers of the country but also the rivers of the State. Under UPA government, the hon'ble Prime Minister, and Smt. Sonia Gandhiji have formulated a scheme in the Common Minimum Programme, there is a proposal in it to prepare a feasibility report about the plan to link the six rivers of Bihar and 15 rivers of Maharashtra in the first phase. Hence, the question of linking the rivers of the State and the country, to create awareness about the depleting levels of ground water, to seek technical advice in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, the Calling Attention was regarding the fall in the level of ground water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): It was regarding the depleting ground water level in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: All these works will be implemented by seeking the advice of the scientists and with the cooperation of everyone in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, I wish to compliment you on your very good reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is good that you have not got distracted by all the interruptions.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.50 hrs.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

**Postponement of Calling Attention regarding shortage of fertilizers in various parts of the country**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 9 is another Calling Attention on an important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But there have been some requests to postpone it as today is not a usual working day. Therefore, accepting that request I have decided to postpone it to 5 December, 2007. I am thankful as the hon. Minister is present and he is ready to go ahead with it, but this is a matter that should be discussed fully. Therefore, it will be taken up on 5 December, 2007.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.51 hrs.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 3rd of December, 2007 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any Item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
  - (a) The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and
  - (b) The Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Rajya Sabha:
  - (a) The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007;
  - (b) The Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, 2005; and
  - (c) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007.
5. Consideration and passing of the National Jute Board Bill, 2006.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shripad Yesso Naik – Not present.



Shri P.C. Thomas — *Not present.*

Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

I must thank you for your very effective participation.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need to give exemption in all taxes to the industries of the extremely backward Vidarb region affected by farmer's suicides on the lines of north-east States of the country and the earthquake prone Bhuj area of Gujarat.
2. A large number of proposals for irrigation projects of Vidarb are lying pending the Union Government. The need for Union Government's cooperation to accord immediate sanction to the various irrigation projects estimated to be about 71, pending for approval and their expeditious execution.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need to bring a Bill to protect the social security of unorganized sector workers during the current session of Parliament.
2. The urgent need for setting up of an IIT in Orissa,

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the following may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. A discussion on the National Agriculture Policy announced by the hon. Agriculture Minister.
2. A discussion on the pending Kuwait war compensation claims of Indian nationals yet to be released by the UNCC.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. After the extension of the rail services upto Nandigram and the extension of Devgirl rail service upto Secunderabad, the people of Parbhani are facing heavy rush in the said rail services and there is no direct rail service between Parbhani and Mumbai, hence two new rail services be introduced between Parbhani and Mumbai.

2. The laying of new gas pipeline between Hajira and Marathwara in order to develop and promote industries in the backward region of Marathwara.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need to give Rajasthan 50 per cent share of the petroleum profit earned by Government of India through all means from the Petroleum products generated in Rajasthan.
2. The need to import marble in lesser quantities from foreign countries and to issue import license to only some competent importers by preparing transparent guidelines in order to protect lakhs of people from suffering losses in Marble industry which is their sole support for earning their livelihood.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Stoppage be given to intercity rail service at Kidihirpur, stoppage of Lichvi express at Nunkhar, stoppage of Krishak rail service at Lar road, stoppage of Durg express in Nunkhar as earlier and also at Salempur and Bilthara Road.
2. The work regarding the construction of retiring rooms at Salempur railway station and Bilthara road railway station in my Parliamentary constituency Salempur.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Rajasthan is facing serious problems regarding fertilizers and supply of electricity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have postponed the discussion on this matter to fifth of December for which I am grateful to you.

2. The construction work regarding the six lane National Highway between Delhi and Jaipur about which an announcement had already been made, be commenced immediately.

The Minister of Finance had made a mention about this in his Budget speech. Presently, there is a four lane Delhi-Jaipur Highway but even then one cannot reach Delhi quickly from Jaipur, it takes about five hours. Hence the work regarding the conversion of said highway into six lane be commenced. The second point is that the said highway is a toll road and there is a toll office there. From today, toll tax for the buses has been raised to Rs. 400 from Rs. 240. Similarly

toll tax for cars etc. has been raised from Rs. 55 to Rs. 75 and for heavy vehicles the said amount has been raised upto Rs. 850. There has been an increase of four times in this regard. The Government should also ponder over it and the toll tax should be reduced. When we go to Jaipur, the toll tax office is located on the way just before Jaipur. That's why I have made this submission.

11.57 hrs.

### SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Need to ban the film 'Aa Jaa Nachle'**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, come to the front benches and speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that after a long time you have called me to the front bench. ... (Interruptions) Yesterday, the film 'Aa Jaa Nachle' has been released. This film has been produced under the banner of ... \* Production. In one of the songs of the film it has been said that shoemaker can never become a goldsmith... \* The actress of this film has made a comeback in the film industry after a long time and it is her first film after her marriage... \* I would like to submit that 'Aa Jaa Nachle....

MR. SPEAKER: You should not mention the name.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would like to submit only that this film should be banned. I have also talked to hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji in this regard. There is a derogatory word in one of the songs of this film and the lyricist... \* of this song is related to RSS. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): What it has to do with RSS?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I demand that the film should be banned and the persons responsible for this should be tried under the Atrocity Act. The department comes under hon'ble Dasmunsiji so he should say something in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Name will not be recorded.

... (Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, these days media hype is created before release of any film. The hype of the film about which the entire country and we are discussing was also created in the same manner. But such casteist expressions are there in our vocabulary and sayings. It is very unfortunate that we are living in 21 century but even today sometimes we become insensitive. Often, we have the impression that one cannot change his or her profession and this impression has been expressed in one of the songs of this film. I feel that it is against the democratic tradition. We have every right to go anywhere in democracy whatsoever is our family background or profession. Not only that, it has also been guaranteed by the Constitution. However, if any poet or lyricist is not sensitive towards certain expressions in our language, then it will be injustice to the society or the person. So, the Government should also be sensitive and the Film Censor Board should also be sensitive. Along with this, the entire country should equally be sensitive towards using any such words or expression that may hurt the sentiment of certain section of society.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That means you have heard the song.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Raigarh): The film producer is responsible for this so we should blame him. How is ... \* responsible for this?

MR. SPEAKER: This name will be expunged from the proceeding.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Minister like to respond?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, first of all, I must confess to you that I have not seen the whole thing. I just gathered from news report and also late night information from the TV.

I knew that it would come up in the House and so, I consulted my office. The hon. Members might be aware that the Government does not interfere in the functioning of the Central Film Censor Board, which is headed by a very distinguished lady and performer, Ms. Sharmila Tagore Ji. Whenever we decide a film in the Censor Board, and if a producer or a viewer or anyone has any reservation, he has a right to go to appeal, which is headed by a retired High Court Judge, at present, Usha Mehra Ji, a retired Judge of the Delhi High Court.

So far, no such complaint has been lodged with the Appeal Board. But when we heard that the distinguished Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has banned it, on such things, our UPA Government's policy is that nothing should be done in the country which will offend any community, caste or religion. It is a pluralistic society; we have to uphold the dignity of everyone.

However, the noted producer – not just noted producer, but also outstanding in India – Shri Yash Chopra immediately directed to change those lines and correct those things. This is the information; early morning, the Secretary of the Ministry of Information has gathered and conveyed to me. Even after that, if something is there, there is a room for review.

But I can only tell you that it is not the intention of the Government and we do not like it; naturally therefore, all matters should be taken into account by the concerned Review Committee. But for your information I would like to tell you that production and censoring is the job of the Union Government and the execution is the job of the State Government. If the State Government feels something wrong, they can ban it. But the national level ban is a difficult job, unless the things are like that.

Here, since the producer himself had admitted that it is wrong and he already changed it, I do not think that the issue will rise again.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the clarification is good. We should also appreciate that there is a response; whenever a protest has been made, it has been responded to and corrected. That is good.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Suman Mahato. It is her maiden submission.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMAN MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Sir, it is on account of poor power supply situation in industrial city Jamshedpur of Jharkhand State that the production of small scale industries has declined. Medium and big industrialists are also disturbed, education of children is also getting affected and the incidents of theft and dacoity have also increased due to darkness. Through the House, I would like to demand that the power supply in Jamshedpur should be improved.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised this issue quite systematically so many thanks to you.

[Translation]

Shri Shailendra Kumar. I have mentioned from the Chair that today is World AIDS Day.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I would like to

say few things. Today is World AIDS Day as you have just now mentioned. So, I would like to give some suggestions in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, mostly the youths are falling prey to this disease all over the world. At present five crores people are infected with this disease all over the world and daily 14000 persons are getting infected with this disease. As far as the question of India is concerned, the Government figure states that there are 25 lakh AIDS patients in India, however, as per the figures of other organizations, there are 55 lakh AIDS patients in India. There are 36 thousand AIDS patients in the capital city of Delhi and 2900 persons have already died out of that due to this disease. It has been published in newspapers that the military forces deployed in border areas are also getting infected with this disease whose figures, hover around 300 to 400. I would like to submit in this regard that privacy and social security should be provided to the AIDS patients. Free of cost treatment of this disease is available in India for 10 thousand patients however, lakhs of patients are infected with this disease in our country and since 1981 2.5 crore people have died due to this disease so far. The medicine of this disease is so costly that poor man cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, either he is affected by starvation or becomes the victim of poverty. I want that Government should carry out investigation right from the village level to the areas where the disease is spreading. It has been said that till now 5 thousand diagnostic centers are proposed to be set up and in private sector ten thousands diagnostic centers will be opened. The Government is going to bring the Bill in this regard so, through you I would like to submit to the Government that it should introduce a Bill regarding this disease in the coming Budget Session, so that, HIV positive patients may get medical facilities.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, the new data reveals that in our country. HIV/AIDS has affected nearly 2.47 million people which constitutes 0.36 per cent of our total population.

Sir, over the past two years, the number of women and girls infected with HIV has increased in every region of the world. In Delhi alone, in 2004, it was 945 and as on January 2006, it was 2592. Among the youth, 75 per cent of people living with HIV are females. Most of the women who suffer from HIV/AIDS are in the prime of their productive lives. Often 'positive' women who have been abandoned by their husbands and ostracized from their communities. Widows who have lost their husbands to HIV are very often refused their share in their husband's property. 'Positive' children are not permitted admission to study in schools.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps for setting up Permanent Legal Aid Clinic with the participation of women lawyers throughout the HIV/AIDS infected areas with the objective of helping women, young girls and children living with HIV/AIDS to get medical treatment, to assist them to acquire property rights, to get maintenance, to assist getting employment, to get Government schemes like old age pension, monetary benefits for destitute women and widows and education for their children.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of sugarcane farmers across the country is worse. The crushing season of sugarcane begins from October, however, no work of crushing has begun. The price of sugarcane was fixed at Rs. 125-130 per quintal but the mill owners are not prepared to buy it even at Rs. 50/- per quintal. Today, the situation has come to such a pass, the farmers are destroying their crops. 80 percent of sugarcane farmers are the ones who had taken loan from the banks. The crushing of sugarcane begins after harvesting of sugarcane crop. The wheat crop is sown on the same field. The sugar mill owners are not buying sugarcane and as a result the farmers are being served notice from the banks for the non payment of loan and on the other hand the farmers cannot sow wheat because the sugarcane crop has not been cleared from the fields. This is a very serious issue. Through you, I would like to state that a statement of the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar was published in the newspaper recently:

*[English]*

"Sugar Mills may soon get 12 per cent subsidy. Farmers may be getting only five per cent interest subsidy, but if Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry has its way, sugar mills would soon get 12 per cent subvention."

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, where the Government speaks of protecting the interest of the sugar mill owners, it should also pay attention to the condition of sugarcane farmers on priority basis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to submit that the Government owes an outstanding of approximately Rs. 2 thousand crore to be paid to the sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh alone. The Government of Uttar Pradesh had earlier given this assurance that it would pay the outstanding dues of sugarcane farmers by 31st August, however it did not happen. Subsequently, they said that they will clear this due by 15th of November but again failed to honour their words. We need your protection. The Government of India should

immediately intervene in this matter. The entire area of Western Uttar Pradesh is the area of sugarcane growers. This is their only source of livelihood. The situation arising in entire Western Uttar Pradesh is horrible. Whereas on the one hand we talk of giving protection to agriculture, increasing production, on the other hand our policies are going to bear terrible results. Would the Government of India pay attention to it, positively, I request the Union Government to contact Uttar Pradesh Government so as to ensure immediate payment of sugarcane dues to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, especially to the farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh.

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, I would like to associate with him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Sumanji raised the issue right now that the Union Government has not announced a uniform rate for the sugarcane farmers across the country. The Union Government has tried to give different rates of sugarcane on the basis of different types of recoveries in different States which is not in the interest of the farmers. Today, most of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh have not been paid their dues. A case was filed in the High Court in this regard. The price of sugarcane was earlier fixed at Rs. 125 and 130 per quintal which has now been reduced to Rs. 110/-. This way two kinds of situation have arisen. The Government mills are not yet ready to pay Rs. 125 and 130 per quintal whereas private sugar mills owners are ready to pay Rs. 110 per quintal across Uttar Pradesh. The sugarcane farmers are protesting on this issue and on the issue of price. I would request the Government of India to determine a uniform rate for sugarcane farmers and put an end to the discrimination done against the sugarcane farmers by the State Government in Uttar Pradesh. The payment to the farmers should be made at the rate of Rs. 125 and 130 per quintal as fixed in the past and Union Government should try to pressurise the State Government to pay the dues of the farmers.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a matter of urgent national importance. The Union Government decided to implement the Sachar Committee Report after the recommendation of the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission. Six months have elapsed. This report was submitted to the Government on 21st May 2007. Justice Ranganath Misra Commission has made certain recommendations to bring the Dalit Muslims and Christians in the main stream after studying their social, educational and economic conditions.

The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Rangnath Mishra Commission in principle, however, it is quite unfortunate that neither the recommendation of the Rangnath Mishra Commission has been presented in the House nor the Government have prepared any action plan for its compliance. The Cabinet had not clarified as to whether the recommendations of the Rangnath Mishra Commission were being included in the 11th Five Year Plan? Dalit Muslims and Christians are quite backward from social, economic and educational point of view. We need to take steps to bring them in the mainstream and also for their upliftment, only then our country would strengthen. Unless we give SC status to Dalit Muslims and Christians we will not be able to bring them in the mainstream of the country. I demand that the recommendations of the Ranganath Mishra Commission should be presented in the House immediately and the Government should take further action after making an action plan in this regard.

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I associate with him.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very liberal today. Though you have not given any notice, I will allow you to associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I would also associate myself with him.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly send a slip.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Commissions are formed but reports are not submitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Devendraji, you have raised the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh and Shri Vijoy Krishna associate themselves with it.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to associate myself with it.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I disassociate myself from it. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except Shri Francis George, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Today all of you have raised such important issues, why you are behaving like this, now?

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, in our country, coco is mainly produced in Southern States, especially in Kerala. In India, 80 per cent production of coco is in Kerala State, out of which, 60 per cent production is in Idukki District, which is my Constituency. The production of coco is developing in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also. But the present production caters only to 60 per cent of our need. The growth of production is only two per cent, whereas the growth of consumption is 15 per cent. There is large demand for coco in India and also in the world market for chocolate and confectionery industry. But our farmers are not getting fair price as they get only Rs.20 per kilogram for wet beans whereas they should be getting, at least Rs.40 to Rs.50 to be remunerative. It is because cost of manure, spraying and other inputs have increased manifold but the farmers are not getting fair price for their produce. Also there is large scale imports to meet internal demand from countries like Ghana and Ivory Coast at an import duty of only 35 percent.

So, I would request the Government to induce more farmers to go in for coco production and to cultivate coco. The Government should give liberal financial assistance and also should hike the import duty so that the farmers get a fair price and more farmers opt for the production and cultivation of coco. That will meet our internal demand and will also cater to exports from the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what is happening is that any and every matter is being treated as urgent and notices are given. It requires very serious thinking. There is a procedure of Rule 377 which is much better. But you are raising every issue and issues concerning your constituencies. It is for raising matters of urgent public importance. Please consider this. I would appeal to all the hon. Members. For obvious reasons, today I am very liberal but in future, I would not allow this.

[Translation]

\*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, Tiruchur, is the cultural capital of Kerala. The Trichur Akashvani, has a rich past, and has been broadcasting many programmes of public interest and awareness; and has carved a niche in the minds of listeners in Kerala.

\* Not recorded.

Without much financial burden, using the infrastructure available there, we can start an FM unit.

It is indeed a matter of much regret, that the Government has given broadcasting rights to many a private FM radio stations, neglecting the potential of Trichur radio station.

Sir, the people of Trichur have much resentment due to the negligence, especially since for the last many years we have been submitting may a memorandum to get an FM radio station at Trichur. The Government has continued to neglect our memorandum.

Therefore, I request, that the Government should immediately intervene and facilitate steps so that FM station can function at Trichur.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: FM stations are for light songs. Are not they? Therefore, you want light songs. Now Shri Hansraj Ahir to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given the notice before 9.30 am.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : I wish to raise a very important issue. Heavy quantum of petrol is imported in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given notice on an important issue. He is a very serious and very rule abiding Member.

[Translation]

He listens to the Chair, he is not like you.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: The country has to spend a major portion of its foreign exchange reserve on import of petrol. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Petroleum that some quantity of ethanol should be blended with imported petrol. The sugarcane growers will be benefited if the blending of ethanol and petrol is made mandatory. Time and again, the hon'ble Minister says that he has permitted for the blending of five percent ethanol in petrol, however, despite such instruction, the oil companies are not blending it with petrol.

In reply to question no 17 dated 15th the hon'ble Minister has informed that the Government propose to make five percent E.P.B. programme mandatory and the blending of

10 percent ethanol is being made optional. The Government is merely making rhetoric but it is not enacting any strict law in this regard. It is on account of this that the oil companies are not selling ethanol blended petrol. Through you, I would like to submit that this blending of ethanol with petrol will ensure timely payment of dues of sugarcane growers by the sugar mills because just now it was being submitted that the payment is not being made to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills. Thus they will get timely payment of their sugarcane because today several sugarmills are on the verge of closure. Thus the sugar mills will not be closed down and will run profitably. Through you, I would like to request the Government that it should enact law making the blending of ethanol with petrol mandatory.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramkripal Yadav, you please speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I had lost hope, I am thankful to you.

MR. SPEAKER: You have cultivated a habit of making running commentary. All right you confine yourself to your matter.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, you do not look good when you are angry, you look good when you smile. We are just like your child who follows you.

MR. SPEAKER: All are laughing to hear this.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on a very important subject. There is extreme poverty and unemployment in our country and the Government have launched a popular scheme, National Employment Guarantee Scheme and have implemented it all over the country, so that, the people may get employment and alleviate their poverty.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Bihar State. The fund allocated for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being grossly misused there in the State. Prior to this too, through you, I have drawn the attention of the Government several times towards this. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards entire Bihar, especially to my Parliamentary constituency. My Parliamentary Constituency comes under Phulwari Sharif. Presently, 'Dharna' are being staged and protest rallies are being organized there. Lakhs of rupees of the people are outstanding as the people have not got payment of their wages. So, the people are staging Dharna and organising protest rallies there. This news has been published in prominent newspapers that the payment

under the said scheme is being made on the basis of false job cards. There is resentment among the labourers on account of this. It is a very backward area. Though the entire Bihar is backward, however, there are four-five such villages in my area Phulwari Sharif Legislative Assembly about which I would like to give authentic information here so that the hon'ble Minister may not face any difficulty in conducting inquiry of this matter. The names of those villages are Sakrecha, Suitha, Sorangpur, Koriyava, Parsa and Bhusola Danapur. Gross irregularities has been committed in these Panchayats and the wages of the labourers are not being paid to them: The works are being done on the basis of false job cards. Hence, the basic objective of the Employment Guarantee Scheme of the Central Government is being defeated. It is such a popular scheme, however, it is being misused.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to intervene immediately in this matter as the scheme is being misused and it is not being implemented on the ground. The employment is not being provided to the genuine labourers of that area. Due to this, the unemployment and poverty are increasing in that area. I would like to urge the Central Government that it should immediately intervene and the payment of wages should be made to those labourers who have worked there, so that people may get justice. This scheme should be properly implemented in Bihar and the basic objective of the Government of providing employment to the people should be fulfilled. You all know that there is abject poverty in Bihar. I would like to request that the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development should immediately interfere in it so that people may get justice and the benefit of the Employment Guarantee Scheme may be given to the people as per the guidelines of the Government. With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava ji, is your Safe Grain Campaign office matter, a Central Government matter?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Yes, Sir, it is a matter related with Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER: It is related to Safe Grain Campaign.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am talking about food security campaign. I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me check which notice is yours.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please look into it in the meantime.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you. It is the office of the Central Government. It is located in Jaipur city. This office is being shifted to Pune, Lucknow and Kanpur. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whether these are the offices of the Central Government?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Yes, Sir, I seek your protection otherwise all these offices. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No body can shift you at least from Jaipur.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the development of Jaipur will be affected if these offices are shifted else where from there. ...(Interruptions) I, would like to submit that the office of the Food Security Campaign, Jaipur, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, New Delhi is functioning since 1976 in 32 districts of Rajasthan state. It is providing scientific training to individual farmers in various villages for the storage of foodgrains, providing bricks and cement for the construction of granaries, imparting training to the employees of Agriculture Department, carrying out inspection of ration ship and conducting test of samples of foodgrains for the quality control and then finally it submits its report to the headquarter. Besides, the office has its own building, vehicles and has publicity material and laboratory instruments and equipments there. The people of the State are being benefited sufficiently by this office. The Government of India propose to shift this office to Pune, Bhuvaneshwar, Bhopal and Lucknow. The employees of this office will face a lot of difficulties if the said office is shifted from Jaipur city.

So, I would like to urge the Central Government that this important office, located in Jaipur, should not be shifted to elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection because the Government of India is hell bent to destroy Jaipur city. I feel that the Government of India should not do like this.

MR. SPEAKER : You will not allow it to take place.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri C.K. Chandrappan – Not present.

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the House towards a very significant matter. In our Parbhani, since 1975 there has been an auto street of the railway new service. There are 45 post offices attached to it and there are

350 branch offices. This office has been functioning there since 1975 but presently some officers are trying to shift this office to Aurangabad or Nanded. The people of Parbhani and Marthwada are opposing this move. Many a time I have written letters to the Hon'ble Minister and officers requesting that the said office should not be shifted from there and even after that, the process for shifting the office has not been stopped. If this office is shifted from here, the courier services will be benefited. The revenue earned by the Central Government is decreasing owing to the encouragement received by the courier services. So, earlier also, I had raised a question asking the Minister to make amendments in the Postal Act. The Hon'ble Minister had said that it would be amended but the said amendment has not been moved till date and if the postal services remain confined like this, it will benefit private courier companies.

Hence I request the Hon'ble Minister that the railway post office at Parbhani should not be shifted, let it remain there. Through you, this is my request to the Government.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency lies adjacent to Uttaranchal border. The forest area of Uttaranchal and that of district Bijnor form part of it. Seven farmers have been killed by a wild elephant till date. Just now, I got information that another killing took place there a day before yesterday. Even a day before yesterday also, an elephant entered that area. There is resentment among the people of the said area. They are staging picketing and demonstrations. Till date no compensation has been announced by the Government to the persons killed and no plan has been formulated to kill the elephant or prevent the killings of the people by the elephant. All the farmers belonging to Najibabad and Kotwali development blocks in my parliamentary constituency who had been killed, be given Rs. five lakh as compensation. The elephant is targeting the farmers living in the houses located in the farm-fields. I request the Government that steps be taken to prevent the elephant from killing people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Archana Nayak, already a Bill on the unorganized sector has been referred to the Standing Committee. So, I am not allowing you to raise the issue because it has already been done.

[Translation]

Rasa Singh ji, it will be better if you raise this under Rule 377.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a Union subject.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a Union subject

[English]

Just because it concerns with the Centre, it does not become extremely urgent.

From next week, I will be very strict on these issues.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ajmer is a remarkable place from the point of view of historical, cultural, geological and educational background in the country. This city is located in the centre of Rajasthan which can be successfully accessed from any part of the country. Students from every corner of the country come to the educational institutions situated in Ajmer. The Government college of Rajasthan is the largest and the oldest college of the State. Ajmer was a Union territory till the year 1956. Various classes of people following different religions and the people belonging to various linguistic communities have been leading their lives in a very cordial atmosphere here. In the times of the princely States also, the war of independence was fought keeping Ajmer itself as the focal point. Many great patriots like Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Swami Shradhdhananda had visited Ajmer and had given the clarion calls for freedom for the entire Rajputana. Therefore, it is quite natural that the glory of Ajmer should be kept intact.

Rajasthan is an educationally backward border State which is also the largest State area-wise having a lot of geographical diversity. Sometime ago, the Government of India had taken a decision to establish a Central University in Rajasthan also. For the establishment of a Central University, Ajmer is the most appropriate location as it is renowned for its academic glory.

Therefore, my request to the Government of India is to establish a Central University at Ajmer which is significant location from the academic point of view and it is centrally located in Rajasthan so that the grace and glory of Ajmer could be maintained in independent India also.

12.33 hrs.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL BILL, 2007

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 10, the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007.



Hon. Minister please.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move\* :

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of an armed force of the Union for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Special Services Bureau, now Sashastra Seema Bal, was raised in 1963 under the Cabinet Secretariat in the backdrop of Chinese aggression. The organization was initially functional in the regions of the then North-East Frontier, North Assam, North Bengal, hills of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu. Subsequently, its activities were extended to other areas in Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mizoram, South Bengal, Nagaland and some areas of Jammu and Kashmir between 1965 and 1991.

The SSB was initially assigned "Stay Behind Role" wherein the non-uniformed Area Wing was primarily responsible for organizing, planning and execution of the assigned tasks and the uniformed wing was providing administrative and logistic support for the same.

On 15th January, 2001, the control of the SSB was transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on reforming the National Security System. The Ministry of Home Affairs entrusted to the SSB the role of guarding Indo-Nepal border, stretching over 1,751 kms.

On 12th March, 2004, the Ministry has further assigned the task of guarding Indo-Bhutan Border to the SSB, stretching over 699 kilometres. The SSB seeks to achieve these objectives by policing the border through armed combatized wing which has been re-structured into 41 Battalions.

The organizational structure, sphere of responsibilities and role of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has undergone a considerable change over a period of time. The Force has expanded both in size and responsibility. At present, the SSB is performing the Border Guarding duties on Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders through its Armed combatized wing with the following objectives:-

1. to promote a sense of security among the people living in the border areas;
2. to prevent trans-border crimes and unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India; and

3. to prevent smuggling and any other illegal activities.

The organizational structure and sphere of responsibility of the SSB have undergone a qualitative change since its inception in 1963. The role and duties entrusted to it as a Border Guarding Force (BGF) on Indo Nepal Border and Indo Bhutan Border have necessitated enactment of a comprehensive legislation to be called the Sashastra Seema Bal Act, on the lines of similar Acts for other Border Guarding Forces especially the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBPF) Act which is the latest Act of a Border guarding Force on account of the following factors:-

1. to lend statutory backing to the Organization/Force and clothe it with a separate and independent identity at par with other Border Guarding Forces;
2. to dispense with the existing arrangement of extending selective applicability of the provisions of the CRPF Act 1949 to SSB personnel and to introduce uniformity by enacting a separate comprehensive legislation for the SSB;
3. to reinforce superintendence, guidance and control for effective operational efficiency and management of the Forces to achieve its organizational objectives as a border guarding force; and
4. to pave way for cohesive organizational structure as also to provide for a set of rules, methods and procedures in matters of discipline and performance.

The following are the salient features of the proposed legislation:-

1. Constitution of the Sashastra Seema Bal as an Armed Force of the Union with provisions for control, direction and service conditions of the Force personnel.
2. The details as regards the constitution of the Force and conditions of service of its members and the powers of the Director General, SSB, are incorporated in Chapter II (clauses 4 to 15).
3. Bringing under purview of the proposed Bill all persons appointed (whether on deputation or in any other manner) in the Force, namely:-
  - (i) Officers and subordinate officers; and
  - (ii) Under-Officers and other personnel so enrolled.
4. Constitution of the SSB Force Courts and provision for the powers, processes and procedures to be followed, and the penalties which can be imposed are contained in Chapters III and IV (Clauses 16 to 60) and Chapter

\* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

VII to IX (Clauses 76 to 132) of the proposed legislation. Death penalty has been stipulated for certain grave categories of offences (Clauses 16 and 17).

Out of 11 Chapters in this Bill, Chapter 2 relates to the Constitution of the Force and conditions of service of the members of the Force. Chapters 3 and 4 deal with the Offences and Punishments. Chapter 5 deals with the Deductions from Pay and Allowances of the persons subject to the Act. Chapter 6 deals with the Arrest and Proceedings before trial of the persons subject to the Act. Chapters 7, 8 and 9 deal with the Force Courts, Procedure of Force Courts and Confirmations and Revision of Proceedings of Force Courts. Chapter 10 deals with Execution of Sentences, Pardons, Remissions etc. and Chapter 11 deals with the Powers and Duties, Protection for acts done by members of the Force.

The Sashastra Seema Bal in existence at the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to be a Force constituted under this Act and the members of the Sashastra Seema Bal in existence at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been appointed or as the case may be enrolled under this Act.

Moreover, anything done or any action taken before the commencement of this Act in relation to the constitution of Sashastra Seema Bal in relation to any person appointed or enrolled as the case may be shall be as valid and as effective in law as if such thing or action was done or taken under this Act. However, nothing shall render any person guilty of any offence in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the commencement of this Act.

All expenses incurred concerning the administration of this Force would be met from the 'Consolidated Fund of India'. As the Force has already been constituted, no additional expenditure of non-recurring nature is likely to be involved when this Bill is enacted and brought into force.

The Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 28.11.2007.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Bill to this august House for consideration and approval.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tapir Gao to speak now.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to speak from here.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not like your own seat?

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007 is a very important

Bill and I am here to support this Bill. But I have got a lot of views on this Bill. I would like to highlight them in this connection.

12.44 hrs.

(SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*)

Sir, I salute the services of the SSB. As has rightly been pointed out by the hon. Home Minister at the outset, this organization, SSB – earlier, it was called as the Special Service Bureau which was formed in 1963 – was to inculcate a sense of security in the border areas and the citizens of the NEFA - the North-East Frontier Agency, which is today called Arunachal Pradesh after the 1962 aggression. Proudly, the people of Arunachal Pradesh can say that only because of the SSB's services, they are calling Jai Hind in all the remotest corners of Arunachal Pradesh. The SSB, in those days, was well organized and the initial role of the SSB in NEFA was very unique and its salient features were to provide humanitarian assistance, to maintain integrity and to provide security to the nation and the people.

I have gone through the Bill. Luckily, I am in the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. So, I have got access to this Bill. Hence, I would like to point out that the initial role of the SSB of 1963 was to inculcate a sense of security among the border people and subsequently it has been changed. But I have some fear. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government of India and I would like to make a mention of the Padmanabhaiah Committee's recommendations of 1999 also.

I fear if I am not wrong, I would like to get the reply from the Home Minister regarding the salient features of the role of SSB today. In the initial stages, the role of SSB was to inculcate a sense of security and spirit of resistance in the border populace and perform "Stay Behind" role during enemy invasion or occupation, promoting national awareness and security consciousness among the people of the border areas, generating mass support in the border areas through National Integration Programme and welfare activities and countering enemy propaganda through psychological operations and awareness campaigns. Now, as the hon. Home Minister has rightly pointed out, I think now it is limited to only three points. They are to promote a sense of security among the people living in the border area; to prevent trans-border crimes and unauthorised entry into or exit from the territory of India; and to prevent smuggling and any other illegal activities on the border.

Today, I would proudly like to say and you can see it for yourself that today, in spite of China's repeated claims on the territory of Arunachal Pradesh, not a single Arunachali

[Shri Tapir Gao]

supports it. All this is because of the services rendered by SSB for four decades in Arunachal Pradesh. So, I salute the services, rendered by SSB. That is why, I highlighted the initial role of SSB in this country. They organise the villagers and make volunteers in the villages. By this, they generate Indianness among the people living in the border areas. We have seen it with our own eyes. Secondly, you cannot get the intelligence information from across the border with your uniform. The SSB were having some non-uniform workers also in those days. I hope the present day SSB is also having them for intelligence accumulation from across the border. So, it was so well organised. This force has got the strength to guard the international borders with Nepal and Bhutan. I think today the Bhutan border and the Nepal border are more sensitive than the Western border with Pakistan. All untoward activities, extremism, unlawful entries and anti-India propaganda are enrouted through the Nepal border. Therefore, the same spirit of SSB's working should be maintained in the future also.

Today, the SSB is guarding 1,700 kilometres of border with Nepal and 699 kilometres of border with Bhutan with high altitudes and all dangerous trends in the Himalayan range. Therefore, Sir, we need to maintain its initial role and it need to be strengthened by Padmanabhai Committee's recommendations.

Sir, earlier the SSB's role was to stay behind, but now they have been asked to guard the border. So, same type of facilities should be extended to the SSB also which may require better coordination with intelligence agencies and the main intelligence agencies should look into this aspect.

I have gone through the Bill. The hon. Minister has very rightly brought this Bill now and we support this Bill and I hope this Bill comes under the Armed Forces Act which is good for the Armed Forces personnel who are serving in the SSB. In Clause 7 of the Bill, it is stated that their jurisdiction will not be limited to the country and every member of the force shall be liable to serve both inside the country as well as outside India. If the personnel of SSB are to be sent on UN services outside the country, then in addition to the nomenclature of SSB, like ITBP, CRPF etc., we may also give an English name for this force like Border Armed Force or Border Police Force so that it gets a broader sense when its personnel are sent outside India.

Sir, I have been appointed as one of the members for looking after the housing facilities of para-military forces.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, please give me a little more time.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are four speakers on behalf of your party, please make it short.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : I will try to make it short as far as possible.

[English]

Sir, in para-military forces, housing facility has been given only to 25 per cent of their personnel, but in SSB it is less than one per cent. Therefore, the housing aspect of SSB personnel may kindly be looked into seriously because they have to work in the remote, Himalayan ranges and they will have to look after their family members like old aged father, mother etc. So, this is an area where the Government of India should pay attention.

Sir, para-military forces have been given flying facilities as it has been given to their DGs and also for evacuation of their soldiers at the time of any casualty. Now, SSB is looking after more than 45 Outposts at an altitude of more than 10,000 feet above the sea level in the Himalayan ranges in the Nepal border and Bhutan border. At the time of any casualty, they cannot carry out evacuation as they do not have flying facility now. Nepal border is the corridor of naxalities. Therefore, for quick deployment and better operation of this force, flying facility may be extended to SSB like it has been given to other para-military forces.

Then, with regard to enrolment to this force, as per the guidelines, 20 per cent of their recruitment should be from the guarding areas, another 20 per cent should be from militancy-affected areas and the remaining 60 per cent should be from the rest of the country.

The silent feature of the SSB was in regard to recruitment of non-citizens' enrolment also. This is a good service that they have rendered for the four decades in the nation building. Therefore, there may not be enrolment only but they should be allowed to recruit non-citizens services on the border so that they can get a lot of intelligence information from outside the territory also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up now.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, for the first time in my life, if I handled arms and ammunition, it was through SSB only. I was one of the volunteers in those days and for the first time in my life I fired 303 in the SSB camp. Therefore, this organization has a vast role in social upliftment, for voluntary organizations in the border areas. The same type of initial stage should be there.

12.56 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

The recommendations of the Padmanabhai Committee be kindly implemented so that this organization

can do lot of services in protecting the borders, protecting us from the enemies and doing social service for the people living in the border areas.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I rise to support the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill that has been introduced by the Government to give legal and statutory power to what was earlier the Special Services Bureau and which has now been renamed as the Sashastra Seema Bal.

As the hon. Home Minister has, in his presentation, mentioned the background of the SSB, a force that was established in 1963 to perform mainly the stay-behind role and now after 44 years, it has been found necessary to give it a different role.

I personally feel that this is something that was long awaited and should have been done much earlier. I say this because I am personally aware of the sensitivity of the Indo-Nepal Border. This border is nearly 1800 kms. long and it is open, it is porous. It is so following the provisions of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950 in which there were provisions especially incorporated to promote Indo-Nepal Friendship and Amity and the preservation of centuries of our common culture.

But this sincere attempt at promoting friendship with Nepal has been misused by forces inimical to India's interest and I am aware also of the fact that it is extremely difficult to police this long border. As a result, it is possible to cross from Nepal into India and from India into Nepal without there being any serious checking or monitoring of such movements. Consequently, we have faced the brunt, as my dear colleague, Shri Tapir Gao, has mentioned, this has become even more sensitive, this border with Nepal than our western border. Any number of incidents which have been orchestrated by terrorists seated across our border have been so done by people who have entered India across this border. Therefore, it became extremely essential to organize some kind of effective policing of this border.

The SSB, which was basically, as the hon. Home Minister has very rightly mentioned, in a somewhat dual role, it was stay-behind role in a non-uniform way and it was given logistical support, etc. by a uniformed force. Without meaning to cast aspersions on the force, it was doing very good work.

13.00 hrs.

But the fact also is that, at a certain point of time, that Force was not very clear as to what it is supposed to do; whether it is supposed to perform uniform duties or it is supposed to perform non-uniformed duties. However, that is

now past. A time had come when the SSB was not, if I may submit, quite clear as to what duties it is supposed to perform. At the same time, the Government was faced with the serious problem of policing the open and porous border with Nepal. Therefore, a very sensible decision was taken to deploy the SSB on this border. I am aware personally of this deployment. I met people from this Force who were deployed along this border. They lacked the infrastructure to police a border; they lacked the training; they lacked the arms; they lacked the necessary logistics to be able to perform their duties effectively. The most important thing was that they needed to change their mindset. Earlier, their mindset was quite different; and now their mindset is supposed to be akin to a border guarding force. Therefore, it became utterly essential to ensure that the border guarding duties to be performed by the SSB in its new avatar should be effective and should, therefore, have a legal cover. There is no other way to do it except to provide them with a proper enactment. It is for this that this new Bill has been introduced. Therefore, it has come not a day too late. I support it fully.

But, Sir, there are a couple of considerations which I would like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Home Minister and the Government. There will, now, be three border guarding Forces. There will be the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB); there will be the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP); and there will be the Border Security Force (BSF). I recall that some time back a Group of Ministers has been constituted to go into the question of internal security and external security. As you all know, internal security in India is, now, largely governed by or determined by happenings outside the border. Therefore, it became very necessary to see what kind of policing, what kind of border policing is being done in this country. So, the Group of Ministers mentioned in one of its recommendations that all these Forces should go back to their primary duties. If you are in the Border Security Force, you should go to the borders; if you are in the Central Reserve Police Force, you should manage internal security duties; if you are in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police – it is a border guarding Force – then you should go to the borders.

Now, this is a new border guarding Force. With this, there will be three new border guarding Forces. My sincere apprehension is that there is bound to be some amount of coordination problems amongst these three. This coordination has to be organised and overseen by the Government of India. My appeal to the Government of India is that it should be done. ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me some little time. This is a very valuable peace of legislation. It is something very new. Therefore, there are certain considerations which I must place before this hon. House.

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

This coordination amongst the three border-guarding Forces is extremely important. There has to be a coordination mechanism so that there is no overlap of the duties. I say this overlap of duties especially with reference to the newly constituted SSB and the ITBP. There is a little grey area as to what will be the areas of responsibility of SSB vis-a-vis the ITBP. There are portions along the Indo-Tibet border and Indo-Nepal border, especially in Uttarakhand, where the question of actual delineation of areas of responsibility will need to be very carefully looked into. Once that is done, perhaps the Government may also take a decision as to whether this new Force should be so deployed as to not come into conflict with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. My sincere apprehension is that since this area is a little grey area, there is a little overlap, something should be done to see that this overlap is taken care of and there is no coordination problem. The second thing is that – as my dear friend Shri Tapir Gao mentioned, and I commend him for this – there is need to look after the welfare of the SSB people. Today, they are lacking in their housing conditions, for instance. They are lacking in the fact that not enough has been done to look after their welfare.

As it is, the attrition rate of our paramilitary forces is very high. I am not particularly clear about the statistics but I am more than reasonably certain that a number of personnel from the border guarding forces particularly the BSF who take premature retirement and retirement at a time when they are entitled to full attention is very large. Now, the Government has to pay a very special attention to this attrition rate, which is in the paramilitary forces. Much the same kind of danger faces the new force which we are creating it. It is a good thing that we are creating it but at the same time we need to look after the welfare of these people. If you do not look after the welfare of these people, then the attrition rate will go on mounting, and the very intention of our border guarding being effective will be belied. So, this is my submission to the Government to look into this.

The third thing is that the SSB is deployed particularly along the Indo-Nepal border, say in the border districts of Bihar, which are infested by a great deal of left wing extremism. Now, here it is mentioned that it will be essentially meant for border guarding and other duties. Now, these other duties will need to be spelt out with special reference to the problem of the left wing extremism in the border districts of Bihar along Nepal. There, Sir, a great deal of coordination will be needed between the SSB and the State police of Bihar for the simple reason that there is a great deal of criss-crossing of the left wing extremists between Nepal and India. As we are all aware, there is a very strong movement of the

left wing extremists in Nepal and they have very close connections with people in Bihar especially in the northern districts of Bihar, which are on the border of Nepal.

If the SSB is to perform its duties in the manner that we expect it to, then it must be in a position to coordinate its functioning with the State police of Bihar to see that it keeps an eye on the left wing extremism that is burgeoning in the whole area, all around the Nepal border, and today, it is in a position to pose a much greater threat to the security of this country than even terrorism. This will need to be kept in mind, and let not the SSB later on say that this is not a part of its duties. This has to be specified, this has to be clarified and even now when this Bill is being passed, this will have to be brought to the notice of the Government for necessary and appropriate action.

Sir, my final point is that there is an expectation of all of us that the SSB will be deployed along the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders as per the Explanatory Note given to us by the Government along with this draft Bill. That is all very nice but at the same time it also mentions in this Bill that it will be used for border duties in the country. So, what happens if this border guarding force which is supposed to guard the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders is suddenly withdrawn from there and posted elsewhere? Is it this which needs to be guarded against because I do think that once this force is aware of the topography which is supposed to police, which is supposed to guard and suddenly it is removed from there, then it will take a long time, Sir, to get to grips with the problems of the new areas.

Sir, these are the three points that I submit for the consideration of the Government. With these words, I also commend that this Bill has been brought not a day too late, I support it fully and it should be passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I would request the next hon. Member to speak, I have one announcement to make. Since this is the last item in Today's Revised List of Business, if the House agrees, we would not take lunch break today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir, we all agree.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. There will be no lunch-break today.

Secondly, I have a long list of hon. Members still to speak on this Bill. Therefore, I would request them to be very brief in their speeches.

Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar. Please give suggestions and be very brief in your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007.

Sir, I rise to strongly support the Bill moved by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. I would like to commence my speech by paying tributes to the memories of Jawans who had laid down their lives for ensuring the safety of our borders. The idea of forming this force was born after the Chinese aggression. It was called Special Service Bureau in the year 1963. This Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in the year 2006 and even today these Jawans are protecting our borders at an altitude of about 18000 feet above the sea level. The force had been raised with a view to guarding Indo-Nepal border stretching over 1751 kilometers. This force plays a pivotal role in promoting a sense of security among the people especially those living in villages. While a discussion is going on in this House about the Bill, my demand to the Hon'ble Minister is that the youth deployed along the borders be equipped with state of the art weapons as they have to combat terrorism and extremism, the youths who are trying to keep the unity and integrity of the country intact, should have to be equipped with state of the art weapons. Generally, it is seen that many complaints related to the violation of human rights come up. We have to deal with them strictly and we have to shell out something or the other in the form of compensation. Often we hear the news of Jawans committing suicides or dying while fighting with their own force. We have received many such reports from our Jawans. This tendency also needs to be curbed. Such situations arise when Jawans face difficulty in getting promotions or when they express their desires for going on leave to their homes or when they themselves or some of their near and dear ones fall ill and when any function like marriage, etc. take place in their homes or when they are persecuted by their officers. Then it comes to our notice that they commit suicides or pick up quarrels. We have to look into such complaints also.

I would like to make a request to the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that as Jawans are posted to remote, interior areas, their salary should also be raised accordingly and good arrangements be put in place for the proper education and health related facilities for their families who live separately from them in their native village homes.

These people guard the borders of our country during all the seasons be it winter, summer, or rainy season. We should provide overcoats to them in the winter season. In summers, their clothes get torn due to the reaction of chemical caustic present in sweat smeared with their uniforms. Therefore, special attention should be paid towards their uniforms. Similarly, raincoats should be provided to them in the rainy season. Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that special recruitment camps should be set up in Tahseel Headquarters and Block Headquarters.

Today, is World AIDS day, yesterday, I read in the

newspapers that many soldiers deployed on borders are HIV positive. There is need to pay attention to this malaise and analyse the reasons for the spread of this disease.

Secondly, I would like to say that recently I read a newsitem in regard to Nautanva border located on Indo-Nepal border, in Uttar Pradesh. Around 40,000 'Madheshis', people of Indian origin living in Nepal have infiltrated into our country and are living in Balrampur and Siddharth Nagar in Uttar Pradesh which is a border area. They had staged a 'dharna' before the District Magistrate in Siddharth Nagar and demanded that they should be accorded the status of refugees and arrangement should be made for their settlement. This raises a question mark on the state of our internal security. We should try to ensure that terrorists, Maoists or Naxalities do not enter our country under the guise of Madheshis and encourage terrorism. This is a question we should seriously ponder over. Therefore, special attention is required to be paid in this regard and there is a need to identify them.

I would like to add one more point. A Passi Regiment should be raised in the Army, because, the people of Passi community are very brave and self-respecting. Therefore, this regiment should be raised in the armed forces. These people will face the enemy boldly, and never desert the battlefield, therefore, they should be recruited and deployed on borders. With these words, I support this Bill and conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh, please conclude your speech in five minutes.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007 has been presented by the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs for discussion and passing in the House. All of us here and the whole county is proud of our army, navy and air force, which are guarding the borders of the country and have proved their mettle in war many times. We are proud of their gallantry.

Earlier, some armed forces used to be deployed for the security of the borders of the country. Later on, forces like BSF, CRPF, ITBP, etc. were also raised. They are guarding our borders. Today, Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007 has been brought in the context. As compared to the time when these forces were raised, the problems have aggravated today and the situation has gone out of control. In our border areas – whether it is Rajasthan or Punjab or areas adjoining the borders with Pakistan, Tibet, China, Nepal or Bhutan – infiltration has increased and terrorism is on the rise in the country. These people want to disturb the peace of the country. It is said that law and order is a State subject, but security of the country is the responsibility of the center. It is this purpose, that this force has been raised.

[Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh]

Sir, this Bill contains 156 Sections. The composition of the Force has been mentioned in this Bill. The service conditions have also been laid down in the Bill. Its section also contain the details of the crimes. Complaints in regard to other forces has also been received from time to time. As it has been mentioned here, I would like to quote the relevant section also. Any person, subject to this Act, who treacherously holds correspondence with or communicates intelligence to the enemy, terrorist or any person in arms against the Union, or directly or indirectly assists the enemy or terrorist with money, arms, ammunition, stores or supplies or in any other manner whatsoever shall be liable to suffer punishment. It has also been provided that any person, subject to the Act who absents himself without leave or without sufficient cause shall be liable to suffer punishment. A provision for setting up three kinds of Force Courts has been made under this Bill. In regard to composition of these courts, it has been said that Judge Attorney or a Deputy Judge Attorney-General or Additional Judge Attorney General shall be appointed and officers of Petty Court or Summary Court shall be appointed by the Attorney Judge, General Force Court. I would like to give one suggestion to the hon'ble Minister that there should be transparency in the working of the courts. At present, Judges are not of Director-General rank, Comptroller General rank, Deputy Comptroller General rank. The judge shall be of the Attorney-Judge rank. It should be stipulated for all the courts and a provision should be made in this regard.

Secondly, I would like to say that the guidelines in regard to Evidence Act, CrPC, IPC are laid down in the Indian Evidence Act. The criminal or the accused should be given the opportunity to present his case or witnesses under the Indian Evidence Act. A clear cut provision should be made in this regard.

As some hon'ble Members said that Nepal is our neighbouring country. Now, Maoists are sharing power in Nepal, but they are creating unrest in Bihar. They are inciting the people of Bihar. Similarly, people are infiltrating from Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Assam and inciting the people. Since, India has vast boundaries, therefore, in the present situation, this Bill is the need of the hour. The Government have done a commendable job by bringing this Bill which will help in guarding the borders of the country and boost the morale of the soldiers deployed on borders and also create a sense of security among them. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cutback): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

This force has been in existence for the last 40 years. It

has projected a benign face of the Government to the border populace of our country. This special service bureau, as has been said, was established in 1963 after the Indo-China war. The basic purpose of that force was to build morale and inculcate spirit of resistance in the border population against threats of subversion, infiltration and sabotage from across the border. These were the three major problems which were faced during that time.

Today we have Border Security Force, we have Indo-Tibetan Border Police and since 2004 this new name - Sashastra Seema Bal - has come into effect. These are the three border guarding Forces which we have. There are three problems that are to be tackled by this Force because it will be deployed in the open borders - Indo-Nepal border and Indo-Bhutan border and it covers about seven provinces of our country and around 3,000 to 4,000 kilometres of open border. So, as far as I understand, the problems can be confined to three. These are to tackle large-scale smuggling at Indo-Nepal border, to check criminals and the criminal activities which take place in the open borders and to tackle the Maoists' problem which is becoming a nuisance in our country. This Force is going to work on the Himalayan region which is considered to be one of the most troublesome terrains in the world. So, it is definitely a very difficult task for the Force to work there as there are gorgeous rivers, difficult terrains and inclement weather. So, when we consider the strength of the Force, we have to consider the ravages of nature which are prevalent there.

As has also been mentioned by the previous speaker, there are 156 Sections in this Bill and it is very exhaustive. In the previous provisions which were there, other than guarding the border, the Intelligence Wing also was strengthened. I went through the Bill. So, I would like to be educated by the hon. Minister as to how you strengthen the Intelligence Wing of this force because for guarding the border by a Force, especially a paramilitary force, the Intelligence Wing needs to be strengthened. In this regard, the first speaker, Shri Tapir Gao had mentioned that it was there earlier and since 1963 till 2003, it was being maintained by the people and a number of people were engaged.

Another aspect is recruitment, as I understand. I went through the report. The attrition aspect was also mentioned by Shri Nikhil Kumar. I would say that there is a sanctioned strength of around 47,000 and odd for this force, but now with respect to both combatised and non-combatised personnel, who are recruited, there are still around 15,000 vacancies. That means around one third of the sanctioned posts are still lying vacant. I would like to understand, because this is the report which I went through, why there are so many vacancies. This is one aspect.

The second thing is the recruitment. As has been mentioned, the recruitment is done as follows – 20 per cent from local area, 20 per cent from militancy affected areas and 60 per cent from the rest of country. As far as I understand, there are certain specifications for certain States. Their height is measured, their weight is measured and things like that are there. There are large tracts which form Orissa, especially the tribal districts. Due to these specifications, though the local people of these districts want to join the Armed Forces and paramilitary forces, they cannot join it. Because their height is at par with Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, they are unable to cope up. I am talking about Kalahandi district. The next to the border of Orissa is Andhra Pradesh where the height is a bit less. So, Orissa people are denied entry into the service. They are the people of the same tribe, who are there in Andhra Pradesh, get into the service. I think, the Minister should look into it. The specifications of height, weight and other various measurements should be looked into so that more people can get recruited to this Force. Another aspect that was discussed is about the term 'enemy'. It has been mentioned in Clause 2 (1) (a) (i) that their duty is "which is engaged in operations against any enemy, or". The 'enemy' is further explained in section (i), which states that:

"(i) 'enemy' includes all mutineers, armed rebels, armed rioters, pirates, terrorists and any person in arms against whom it is the duty of any person subject to this Act to take action;"

As we understand, this force is being deployed in the open borders. We have come across a number of instances of how terrorist activities and Maoist activities are taking place by taking the liberty of crossing the open border and coming to our country. Therefore, I do not know the reason why the word 'infiltration' not being included in this Bill. 'Infiltration' needs to be included in it, and the persons who illegally come into our country for a very different purpose of creating trouble in our country. We have come across instances of explosions that have occurred in Hyderabad, Ajmer, Malegaon, or even in Uttar Pradesh. These are instances where people from the neighbouring country have taken advantage of the open border; have come into our country; and have done this type of explosion. Therefore, infiltrators and illegal immigrants should also be treated as enemies. I think that we can control the problem of infiltration in our country in this manner.

I have nothing more to say. But at the end, I would only like to remind about the Padmanabhalah Committee's Report. The Committee has given its recommendations, and one of the recommendations is that there is a need to motivate the forces that are deployed on the border. We would be happy if necessary steps are taken to motivate the forces that are deployed in these difficult terrains to protect our borders.

With these words, I support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri C. K. Chandrappan. Please be very brief while making your speech.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I will be very brief. I support this Bill. Please do not take it otherwise, but I do not know why this Sanskritized-Hindi has been used in the name. The name could have at least been mentioned in brackets in English. I am saying this because I cannot understand the name Sashastra Seema Bal. It is not that I am against Hindi or anything.

The Bill envisages that the Special Services Bureau is now being provided with a Statute. It is good, but I would like to ask one thing from the hon. Minister. We have several Border Security Forces that are doing distinctly different jobs. Is it not advisable that we have a joint command, and all of these are kept as separate divisions under them? Everyone having an independent entity with its own command probably will add to our defence expenditure. I am saying this because you need top officials for all these arrangements at the top level. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten us on this aspect, namely, whether this could be rationalized.

Secondly, Clause 13 of this Bill says that the men of this force are not supposed to join any organization, trade unions, etc. It is understandable that in a force like this such organisations may not be permitted. But then, who will take care of their welfare? I do not find any special arrangement for taking care of their welfare. Welfare means housing, travel, leave and other facilities. Sixty per cent of the Forces, if I understood correctly, will be recruited from all over the country. Suppose a man from Kerala has to travel all the distance over three days in train. If leave is sanctioned to him but no special arrangement for train reservation is made, that man will have to travel unreserved which might lead to a situation where he may get wild. There are cases in which they occupied others' seats and clashed with people. Things like that have happened. So, there should be a definite welfare programme. Officers should be assigned with statutory powers to ensure better housing, food, leave, travel and other facilities. I do not think this Bill provides such an arrangement.

I understand they have to deal with all kinds of enemies. But we should take note of the fact that in the recent period, especially in Kashmir and Punjab, our forces have been accused of killing people and terming those people as killed in action. There are Human Rights Commission reports about it. There were many complaints also. How will this problem be tackled? They should be given some protection. At the same time, it should be seen that they do not cross the limits beyond which they are not supposed to go. How that will be ensured, I would like to know.



[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

These are some of the queries which I would like the hon. Minister to answer. We support the Bill.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I will very briefly submit a few points in order to invite the attention of the hon. Minister towards them.

This Bill has ultimately come before the Parliament for becoming a law. There was a need for this Bill so that we have some legal command over the forces in order to put them in discipline. I can see that in the Sections of this Bill, there are disciplinary actions, special court, etc. That is a necessity of course but I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the people who are guarding our borders, laying down their lives to do a greater job, are sometimes in a difficult situation. On a tour of one of the Committees I was in Ladakh when some people represented to me that they did not have many facilities and that was why they were put in a difficult situation. Some of them even wanted to leave the forces. So, we must first take care of our forces. An unhappy force can never be loyal to the best extent, cannot be up to date. If the forces have personal problems, that will certainly reflect upon their actions.

Secondly, we need some sort of training for these forces as we have made a special force to look after the Nepal border. We have the problem of naxalite movement, Leftists, etc. There are probably special situations for which we need to train the personnel with some knowledge input, where they must understand what they are going to tackle. Unfortunately, in spite of all the sacrifices made and the great service which the paramilitary forces have done in Kashmir and other places, there were some allegations and aberrations which unfortunately have led to a big upheaval in the people. Their achievements were shadowed by those smaller incidents which took place. I can understand, because of psychological pressures and other difficulties of the forces such things happen.

In case, we take care of them by giving them some knowledge and input or provide some sort of courses for them during the time so that we educate them about the specialities of the areas, where are placed, things can go better. I would request the Minister to kindly look into the problems of leave and other facilities to the Forces so that they keep themselves happy and do their duty well.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly support the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007 moved by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. As we all know that earlier we were not bothered about our

security from the northern side since we were well guarded by the invincible Himalayas. However, our belief got belied when we were attacked by the Chinese in 1962 who used to call themselves our brothers. Thereafter, this force was raised in 1963 under the name Special Service Bureau. The responsibility of the Special Service Bureau, now Sashastra Seema Bal has undergone a considerable change. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs whether it is true that earlier it used to be under the Cabinet Secretariat, however, now it is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Earlier it used to be deployed in the hilly regions, from Jammu to Himachal to Northern Assam to Manipur, Tripura and its task was exchange of information in regard to intelligence i.e. its role was that of a spy. This force was not in uniform in the past, however, now it remains in uniform and its scope also has increased. Now, it is being formally organized by providing them proper training. However, I have certain apprehensions lest this force should lag behind in its activities like spying or gathering information about the activities in other areas on account of expanding its sphere of work. The Border Guarding Force would remain restricted to the Indo Nepal and Indo-Bhutan border as the important task of safeguarding the borders has been entrusted to the Sashastra Seema Bal. It would definitely prove its mettle. We are extremely proud of the tasks performed by our Indian Forces and para military forces. We feel proud when without bothering about their families they show their indomitable courage while combating the enemies, in the most difficult conditions, be it the security of the borders, or internal or external security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to state that specialized training should be provided to CRPF, CISF, ITBP, BSF and Seema Suraksha Bal. They should be equipped with state-of-the art weapons and modern equipments of communications. Though, I have gone through the entire Bill, I could not notice where the group headquarters of SSB would be set up. He has given this much information that it would have 31 battalions. We know that ITBP has its headquarters and training centres located at such and such place. We also know where the CRPF has its headquarters located. Besides, there are different group headquarters across the country. Similarly, it would have Guarding Force on Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders. It would be better if he gives information on where its headquarters would be located.

Special efforts will be made to ensure and improve efficiency and discipline. Reports of indiscipline and unrest in jawans are frequently reported by the newspapers these days like an officer is killed by a jawan. At times, there is a brawl amongst the jawans or when they happen to meet any civilian such incidents occur. In such cases, I feel that officers

should behave more sensibly. As pointed out by my friends that they should be more considerate while granting sick leave. I, myself belong to a family of jawans. My father was a jawan in the armed forces. Two of my paternal cousins are still serving in the CRPF. I know that when there is a wedding in the home or any causality occurs in the home and the jawan applies for leave on receiving a telegram, he never gets leave to attend such occasions. As a result, it creates ill-will in him. The Hon'ble Minister has taken a good measure that in case of such disputes, they get settled in Force Court, General Force Court, Petty Force Court, Summary Force Court, etc. and the need to move the Court may not arise, not at least for such cases. Efforts should be made to develop good coordination between the jawans and the officers. If they are provided with best of the facilities like education for their children, housing and their welfare is taken care of, then it would further boost their morale. I am sure and there is no doubt that he will take care of all these things.

Sir, I would like to raise another point that the Jawans should be given training about how to tackle the people with Maoist and Naxalite inclinations, about how they are infiltrating into India since the situation is critical in Nepal these days. Earlier it was our friendly country. Their citizens would travel to India. Likewise, our citizens would also travel to Nepal without any passport as it was not a requirement, however, now any terrorist from Pakistan or anywhere else infiltrates into India via Nepal. Fake currency notes minded in Pakistan get circulated in the country via Nepal.

Bhutan is also our friendly country, if Nepal and Bhutan do not become a breeding ground or base camps for Maoist and naxalite activities, then such terrorist elements would not be able to infiltrate into our country. Specialised training needs to be given to our jawans in this regard.

Madheshis living in the foothills talk about their rights. At times such situations are created that one needs to tackle them a bit diplomatically so that no new problems crop up. The hon'ble Minister should pay special attention to it. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH (Rajnandgaon) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has presented a very historical and important Bill in the House. I rise to support this Bill. When we talk of security of geographical boundaries, be it maritime boundary, or desert of Rajasthan, Kashmir valley or the North Eastern boundaries, we find that our security forces shoulder a great responsibility. Our security forces – be it the coast guards on the maritime boundary or BSF jawans posted on Rajasthan border or the Indo-Pak border, particularly in Jammu-Kashmir, Sashastra Seema Bal personnel deployed along the Indo-Nepal and

Indo-Bhutan border, on snow clad mountains, deserts or maritime boundaries, in all these conditions, our para military forces and the forces guarding our borders are slogging themselves hard. Their services and responsibilities cannot be reckoned as second to the armed forces.

When Sashastra Seema Bal Bill presented by the Hon'ble Minister in the House, would take the shape of an Act, it will not only provide Sashastra Seema Bal the shape of a national organization but it will also function as a full-fledged national para military force. In view of its earlier background, it used to function behind the scene, but this Act would rather define its role as an autonomous body providing for its functions in an independent and Constitutional manner and also clearly define its internal rules like appointment, dismissal, reinstatement, penalties, conditions of services, powers, courts, etc.

Sir, I would like to add here that this Sashastra Seema Bal which earlier used to be governed by the CRPF laws would now come at par with other para military forces like IDF and others deployed on the borders. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to Sections 21 and 74 which have provisions for leave to personnel of SSB.

As submitted by several Hon'ble Members and often reported by the newspapers. I would like to request that at times jawans are compelled to commit suicide owing to absence of clear cut provisions relating to sanction of leave and also owing to pressure of senior officers. I feel it has a deep impact on the psyche of a jawan. It is requested that clear cut provisions should be made in this Bill in respect of leave for jawans. Besides, no clear provisions have been made in respect of salary and welfare activities of jawans in this Bill. I hope that in the near future, he would make such provision through an amendment. It would have been better if this Bill made a provision for appointment on compassionate grounds of the dependents of families of jawans of para-military forces martyred in encounters. It would have boosted the morale of soldiers and officers of the armed forces.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, powers, duties and protection has been mentioned under clause 153 in Chapter 11 of the Bill. The Bill has provisions regarding powers, duties and protection. Since Sashastra Seema Bal is deployed on Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan Border, the biggest challenge before them is that Maoist have taken over Nepal and infiltrate into our country whereas there is a proposal to set up a red corridor. As far as the issue of identifying illegal infiltration or checking their documents is concerned, the intelligence services cannot succeed without the cooperation of local state police. It has also not been clearly mentioned that their officers would be armed with the powers at par with those of the

[Shri Devwrat Singh]

police officers. If it were clearly mentioned then Shashtra Seema Bal Officers would have been able to perform more efficiently.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a historic bill and I strongly support it.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): I will be very brief, Sir. The Special Services Bureau, which was formed during the time of Pandit ji, is being reorganized into this Sashastra Seema Bal very ably by the hon. Home Minister and the Ministry.

The basic duty of this Force is going to look after the border between India and Bhutan and India and Nepal. Indo-Nepal border has become very sensitive of late with problems in Nepal which are spilling over to our border States like Bihar and parts of Uttar Pradesh. We have a host of paramilitary forces; the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF, the National Security Guards, the Assam Rifles and the Rapid Action Force. To that set we are now forming this SSB. I would request the Home Minister to see that this is a very well modern trained Force, well equipped to perform its duty especially in these very sensitive border areas.

Today, a report has come that the Defence Minister is visiting Nathula, our border with China, amidst reports that there have been incursions from China into our territory. These people are going to be deployed in very sensitive areas. Naturally, there is going to be lot of tension amongst them. Almost all the Members who spoke before me mentioned about the various kinds of indiscipline that is prevalent in the Forces that are deployed in border areas. Naturally, because tension is bound to be there amongst our personnel however trained they are. So, a lot of caution, a lot of training is required while we raise Special Forces.

Recently there has been an incident in Kashmir area where one of the officers belonging to my constituency has been shot dead by his own men over a minor argument. All this points to lack of proper training in our Forces.

Sir, it has been said that out of two lakh personnel in the BSF, in the last 30 months, 41,000 men have quit and from other para-military forces also, people are quitting. On the one side, when you hold recruitment rallies, for example, in a State like Kerala, police has to resort to lathi charge to control the mob of young men and aspirants who want to get into the forces. But on the other side, after getting into it, if they feel dissatisfied and if they feel uneasy about continuing in the forces, there is something wrong in our training or in our running of these forces.

So, I think the personnel have to feel at home because they are far away from their families. Naturally, they will be worried about their families. They will be having old parents. Their wives or children may be sick. They will be worried about the education of their children. If the officer community is not able to instil confidence and make them feel at home, naturally, there will be dissatisfaction and problems. Of late, the suicide rate has also been going up among the forces.

So, I would request the hon. Home Minister to raise it as a model force. Let us provide our men with the most modern facilities to communicate with their family members. Now we have all kinds of facilities. We have mobile services, visual communication facilities, etc. All these facilities have to be provided to them.

As part of the Standing Committee on Defence, I had gone to Nathula Pass, which is located at about 50,000 to 60,000 feet above sea level. One cannot even breathe properly there. When our men perform their duties under such hazardous and difficult conditions to protect our borders and our country, they should be provided with proper facilities. They should be taken proper care to see that it is a satisfied force. Then only they can serve and do their duties to our expectations.

There have been a lot of provisions but I do not want to go into all those details. The Ministry has prepared a very detailed and thorough Bill. I hope that this Force will fulfil its duties and it will be come up to the expectations of the nation.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, at the outset, I regret my inability to pronounce correctly the title of the Bill as well as the name of the Force. This Sashastra Seema Bal is intended to protect our borders but in Clause 4, it is seen that the Force can be given other duties also including perhaps foreign assignments. In that context, a more simple instead of this stuttering and tongue twisting nomenclature could have been given to this Force.

We have so many forces to guard our borders. I do not know the exact number but I wonder how coordination can be effected amongst these Forces. It would have been better if a comprehensive legislation has been brought for a common force or a joint command. Although, the primary duty of this force is to guard our borders, it will definitely come into contact with the civil society. Our experience in the North-East as well as in Kashmir and other States where our jawans are in contact with the civil society, is that there are always conflicts, turbulence and complaints. Even in the airports and other public places where these forces are guarding, our experience is not much satisfactory. So, training should be given to these jawans about the need for protecting the constitutional rights of the civil society. That is very important

in this area because in the name of security and countering terrorism, more and more restrictions are being imposed and members of these forces should be properly trained and they should be given proper instructions for dealing with the civil society.

14.00 hrs.

I am not going into the other aspects of the Bill which is very comprehensive. One thing which is evident from one of the clauses of the Bill is that members of this Force would be prevented from joining any organisation or union. However, they are permitted to associate themselves with any society that is purely social, recreational or religious in nature. There is bound to be difficulty in interpreting this clause because every organisation has a political leaning, for example, the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh which claims to be a social organisation. It is a very dangerous provision and therefore, it needs a very specific definition and interpretation. With these words I support the Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. It is a very good piece of legislation. The Bill seeks to transform a special Service Bureau into an active armed unit or armed force in order to secure our borders more effectively. Presently our borders are quite volatile. We do not have very friendly relations with our neighbours on either side, be it the East or the West. It has been reported in today's newspaper that the Chinese have blown up two bunkers in the Indian territory. They came within the territory of Arunachal Pradesh and had blown up two of their bunkers. So, under such circumstances we cannot call our borders as fully secure and safe. Keeping in view the perspective the hon. Minister has done the right thing by bringing forward this Bill on the same lines as that of the ITBP. I think, the provisions, as contained in this Bill, will prove to be effective in controlling our borders.

Sir, I would like to ask two specific questions to the hon. Minister. This organization has so far been considered as a second line of defence to the Armed Forces. They were mainly engaged in providing intelligence service to the Armed Forces and to the Government of India. Now, it has come under the Ministry of Home. Now, after this Bill is passed, is there enough infrastructure for the welfare of those people who are going to be converted into 41 battalions in seven coys. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he could assure these people—who work under adverse conditions, like the people working in the Siachin glaciers, and suffer from mental depression resulting even in suicides - about the proper infrastructure which could ensure for them a good mental health. Proper provisions should be made for education of their children, adequate staff quarters and proper medical facilities and medical facilities.

Sir, it has been mentioned here that the non-uniform civil component of the Force will continue to be dealt with under CCS and CCA rules of 1965 and other Central Civil rules will be completely phased out. I do not know why this is proposed to be phased out. In any kingdom, in any empire, in any sovereign country or State, there should be a strong spying network. Proper intelligence service is necessary because so many terrorist related incidents are taking place in this country because of intelligence failure. Again, narcotics smuggling is going on through our Western Borders.

It is going on through the Indo-Nepal border, through the Burma border and through the Myanmar border. So, this Intelligence Service is very vital for any police force or any armed force to work properly and strike at the nerve centre to stop the crime. I would like to quote Kautilya's Artha Shastra. He has advised Chandragupta that he must increase his spy system. And in all the great empires, right from centuries immemorial, existed a good spy system. It may be in the Mughal Empire or the Maurya Empire or the Gupta Empire or afterwards also. But I do not know why the spy system among our forces is being withdrawn. They play a vital link to information on crime along the borders.

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, I stand to support the Bill which constitutes and regulates an Armed Force for providing security on our borders.

On the question of clause 4 of the Bill with regard to its constitution, I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Home Minister and also to the hon. Speaker. After the 1962 War, guerilla warfare training was given to the youths of the border States. It was given in the hilly region of Uttar Pradesh which is now called as Uttarakhand. Now, several youths have been given training in guerilla warfare. Some of these youths have filed writ petition in the Guwahati High Court. The High Court directed their absorption in the SSB services.

With regard to the men and women who are from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, they have been agitating since long that they should be absorbed or they should be given some benefit.

Now, I appeal to the hon. Home Minister that in constituting this force under clause 4, preference can be given to these men and women who have undergone the guerilla armed training in Uttarakhand. It is a border State to Nepal and the growing Maoism is a threat to our country. These youths who have undergone the guerilla warfare training for years together and have become over-aged may be given some preference in absorption. This Service will have an Intelligence Wing and a Civilian Wing. So, those armed trained men and women who have now become over-aged could be given civilian nature of work or they could be put

[Shri Vijay Bahuguna]

under the Intelligence network by which we would be doing justice to such patriotic people of hilly areas which are border States, as they have undergone training.

So, my appeal to the hon. Home Minister is this. These people have got their records. This was continued right upto 2003 when the NDA Government abolished it. If these things are kept in mind and if their interests are protected, the people of Uttarakhand would be thankful to the present Government.

DR. H.T. SANGLIANA (Bangalore North): Sir, I rise to strongly support the Bill and also thank the hon. Home Minister on behalf of myself and all the SSB officers who have served in this organization in the past for the reason, especially, that the SSB was threatened to be disbanded on many occasions in 1990s. Having served, in fact, in this organization for ten long years, I am perhaps the most eligible Member today to speak on this subject.

First of all, my recommendation would be in regard to deployment. Instead of restricting the SSB to Nepal and Bhutan borders alone, place of deployment should be interchangeable with ITBP and BSF. Keeping one unit in a particular place for a long time can breed undesirable things like over familiarity with the local people, connivance with agents of our adversaries, smugglers, etc. as seen in the past. Therefore, deployment aspect should be reconsidered and made interchangeable with the other two organizations.

Regarding recruitment, as other speakers have said, we have so many volunteers, boys and girls who were trained in guerilla warfare and other social activities, who are not in SSB now. Many of them have been waiting for an opportunity to join the organisation which they could not do for various reasons. So, in the first wave of recruitment, my suggestion is to, look for children of ex-SSB or ex-Village Voluntary Force personnel in all the States, like Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, North-Eastern States, where SSB had been stationed, so that their life long aspirations can be fulfilled.

Regarding the role, I would further recommend that it should have intelligence component as was before. I remember having been recognised as one of the most well performed Divisional Officers of my time. I was DO in-charge of Manipur and Nagaland. A lot of actionable intelligence reports were fed to the SSB Headquarters. This suggestion may please be approved. The details of how to have intelligence component may, however, be carefully worked out.

We should also continue to have civic action rule like medical civic action, funding of construction of village dormitories or community halls or bachelors homes or some

such socially useful infrastructures. That would be a good way of making friends in the border areas as it is necessary to integrate the border people into the mainstream as it promote national integration on a firm footing.

As regards effectiveness of the force, what we need is proper fencing on the borders. The Government, in their wisdom, had already passed a Bill for fencing our international borders. But till today, implementation is wanting. In places like Mizoram-Burma borders, not even one foot fencing or planting of a single pole has been done because of absence of motorable roads along the borders.

My recommendation to the Government is that we should declare upto half a kilometer width along the international borders as border reserve. If we have such border reserve, automatically, the command and control of the international border reserve areas will be with the Central Government and putting up of Battalion Headquarters and construction of border roads for patrolling, and maintenance of border fencing, etc. will become very easy. So, declaration of border line reserve all along the international border in the country is one recommendation which I want to put across.

As regards the name, I do agree that we should have a simple name which would be easily pronounceable to the people even as and when we deploy the force abroad.

My last point is about SSB land. We have acquired or purchased lands from the State Governments for establishing SSB battallion headquarters in the past. Some State Governments are wanting to take the lands back for development of their areas. For example, in Mizoram, the SSB has taken land at Aizawl and Kolosib. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolosib district has been in correspondence with the SSB Directorate for the return of the land for construction of some Government buildings and the matter is still pending. I suggest that the SSB now may settle such matters with State Governments as early as possible.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I rise to support the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill. I am also appreciative of our hon. Minister of Home Affairs for presenting this Bill. Actually, this Bill is framed for the constitution of Force and conditions of service of the members in the Force.

Sir, this Bill elaborately discusses about the appointment, tenure of service and also offences under Chapter III. The offences are discussed under Chapter III in an elaborate manner and certainly this proposal will streamline the force and will also raise the morality of our people serving in the force.

Sir, in this Bill, there were separate provisions under clauses 14 and 15 about redressing the grievances. Section 14(1) deals with the grievances of persons other than officers. The persons other than officers working in the service can get their grievances redressed by lodging the complaint against the senior officers. In most of the cases, we have seen the persons other than officers are being ill-treated by the immediate senior officers. This proposal will certainly protect them.

Sir, under clause 15, there is a separate provision for redressal of the grievances of the officers.

Sir, I would also like to mention that in the Army or in the Air Force, young people are serving in Bangladesh border or in Pakistan border. They are not being given any leave for two years or three years and they are not able to meet their family members.

Sir, today is the International HIV/AIDS protection day. There is a recent report in which it is mentioned that some of the Army men are also affected by this disease and they are tested as positive. The reason for this is that they are not allowed to go to their homes and meet the family members for three years or so. There must be certain provisions for providing holidays at least 15 days, one month or once in a year. This is one of the important suggestions I would like to place before this august House.

Sir, the young men who are joining the Forces are not being provided adequate and proper salary. Nowadays, youngsters are getting very high salary in different fields. So, the Government has to come forward and provide good salaries and all other benefits to them. Then only the young people will come to serve in these Forces.

Sir, these are my few suggestions. I welcome the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Sarguja): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to express my views on Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007. Many of my colleagues have raised many points in this regard in their speeches. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards two-three points.

Whenever Sashastra Seema Bal or any such Force is constituted, a new family apart from the whole nation family is established. I feel that after independence, we have not been able to provide proper training to our police forces, be it the Sashastra Seema Bal or any other force. This deficiency is being felt. My colleagues have also expressed their views on the aspect of training. Training should also inculcate a sense of family belonging. The officers should be more

sensitive, righteous and efficient. The more efficient the Heads, the more dynamic would be the organization. Firstly, now-a-days, the situation along the borders is volatile. So, it has become all the more necessary that our jawans work with more dedication for the service of the nation. How this kind of situation can be created? First of all, they should be provided all facilities to maintain their physical health. They should not feel mentally depressed. My colleagues have expressed many views. One is that there should be harmonious relationship with each other in the organization. There should be coordination between various border security forces. The soldiers also become home sick rather they should made to feel at home while discharging their duties on border. Such training also be imparted.

I understand that if a sense of duty is inculcated in the mind of a soldier, he will discharge his duty with full dedication. Today, ultra modern weapons have been developed and new methods of intrusion have also been evolved. Various types of allurements are given to the jawans to entrap them. However, only the national feeling keeps them unshaken at such moments of temptation. The soldiers would not yield before any temptation so long as he feels that this mother land is like our own extended family and he has been or dained to protect it. Therefore, this kind of feeling should be inculcated among the personnel deployed on borders. Such kind of training should be imparted to them. The officers deployed there should be so efficient and command so much respect among their juniors, that they should immediately get up out of respect on seeing him. They should have this kind of feeling that their Chief is taking care of their interests. Their Chief should be righteous. If there is any wrongdoing, or any decision has to be taken or anybody has to penalized, in all circumstances if the Chief is righteous, the soldier will definitely be unshaken at the time of performing duty. We have to inculcate this kind of feeling in their mind that the entire nation is living in peace, because of them. Therefore, the Government have taken such an important decision, which contains wider legal provisions. If the Government is able to implement the practical and pragmatic provision about training them, I feel the objective with which the Sashastra Seema Bal is being set up for the protection of the nation will be fulfilled.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I rise to support the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007. In the year 1962, we fought a war against China and subsequently SSB was constituted in 1963. It mainly takes care of three things – first, boosting the sense of security among the people living near the borders, second, preventing infiltration, smuggling and other illegal activities and the third and the most important one is to provide intelligence service. These three important works have been entrusted to them. SSB is discharging its

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

duties in about 20 districts on the Indo-Nepal border covering a distance of 1751 kilometers and in the seven border States along the India-Bhutan border covering 120 kilometers of international border. SSB is manning three frontiers and it has eight regional headquarters. The hon'ble Minister has earmarked the role of border vigilance force for this organization. Modern weapons and equipments worth Rs. 444.33 crores have been made available in order to modernize and to well equip the said organization. All these works have been accomplished which is definitely a commendable act. I am aware of their responsibilities, I am not saying that they are not discharging their duties but definitely it is true that there are some lacunae in both the border areas, as a result of which smugglers are very active over there. They are involved in illegal smuggling of weapons or drugs. The process of influx of Maoists in our country is also in full swing. Especially, I would like to talk about two regions where the SSB has been deployed. The first is the Bhutan border and the second is the area of Bihar adjoining Nepal. Hectic Maoist activities are going on in both those areas. I feel that these jawans are somehow failing to fulfil their obligation which is leading to a rise in such activities in our country. I would like to say that the SSB is definitely a very useful and disciplined armed force. But I would like to talk about its activities especially in the bordering areas of Bihar so that the hon'ble Minister may pay a little attention towards it.

Sir, the said armed force has very limited work, but its personnel do not mind their own business as pointed out earlier. They often go out of bounds and intrude into the lives of common civilians. They interfere into the internal family quarrels of the civilians i.e. they misuse their authority. It is strictly stipulated that they cannot enter more than ten kilometers into any civilian area. But these personnel go as far as twenty kilometers into the civilian areas and intimidate the people there by interfering into their internal domestic quarrels. They also extort money from them. I am not at all maligning the entire force but I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards some sporadic incidents.

Sir, I would like to say that the Madhubani area lies adjacent to Nepal. If you permit, I would like to discuss the matters regarding the villages also. The SSB personnel interfere into the domestic quarrels of the people living there. They entrap the people in cases of illegal possession of weapons and by taking Rs. ten or twelve thousand from them, they harass the people. I would like to say that they should be imparted training for making them conscious of their responsibilities. There is a need to impose strict control over them. They should be told that they should discharge their responsibilities. They should refrain from such activities like

misusing the authority of their post, forces and arms for creating havoc in the lives of the civilians. Attention of the hon'ble Minister has been drawn many times towards this matter that the same Maoists as engaged in such activities in Nepal, are coming and causing upheaval in our country also.

Sir, you may be aware of the fact that the home of the MP Shri Sita Ram Babu was attacked by some people in Sitamarhi area. All of them were Maoists who had come from Nepal. There are many such places in our country, like the area lying adjacent to Bihar, where Maoists in large numbers come and try to create instability. Many hon'ble Members have discussed the smuggling of currency, drugs. I feel that it needs further scheduling. There is a need to make the personnel of this force conscious about their duties. They should remain disciplined while discharging the special responsibilities entrusted to them. If the intelligence wing functions properly, problems will not crop up. Generally, they inform the Government so that vigilance could be maintained. We should put a ban on those people who are involved in Maoist activities. I feel that the hon'ble Minister would definitely pay attention towards these points. There is section 156 in this Bill. This is a good Bill, therefore I welcome it. But everyone is aware that the SSB is not discharging its duties in the most efficient way. The SSB is not discharging its duties in a proper way in areas along the borders of Bhutan and Nepal, as a result of which the number of Maoists, smugglers in our country is on the rise. Owing to this fact our country is becoming unstable.

Sir, without availing more time, I would like to request the Minister that he should pay attention towards this matter and I hope that he would strictly deal with the people engaged in criminal activities along the border areas and put in place such an arrangement which will boost the image of the force and enable them to properly discharge their duties.

Once again, supporting this Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to pay homage to the memory of all the members of the para-military forces who have laid down their lives in guarding our borders.

I am indeed very happy that Members belonging to all parties from all sides of this House have supported this Bill. Almost all Members have praised the work done by the members of the para-military forces and also SSB. Members have given very good suggestions and most of the suggestions given by them relate to the welfare of the members of the para-military forces. I would like to say that

we would keep these suggestions in mind and act on them. We have already taken certain steps to help them, more steps are required to be taken and we would definitely take more steps to make their lives more comfortable and more livable in the difficult areas in which they live.

Many of the Members have said that these members are living at very high altitude. Some of them are living at an altitude of 18,000 feet. Living at an altitude of 18,000 feet is a very difficult task and yet they are living there and discharging their duties. One or two Members have said that when they want to go back to their places from the border areas, they have to travel by train and it becomes very difficult for them to travel long distances by train and then make use of the leave that is given to them in a proper manner. We have already looked into this issue and we would like to see that the facilities which are given to the members of the Defence Forces living in the border areas are given to them also. I would not like to go into all the details of the steps which have been taken and it is not necessary for me to comment on all the suggestions which have been given by the hon. Members asking the Government to take welfare measures. I would only like to say that all the suggestions given by the hon. Members are valid and we would definitely act on them.

There were one or two other points which were made. One of the questions asked was why there are some vacancies. It is a very valid question and I would like to say that we would like to fill up all the vacancies which are there in SSB. I am told that as far as Constables are concerned, the vacancies of Constables are going to be filled up fully within 4-5 months. Then, with regard to the posts of officers, there is some difficulty because of the difficult nature of duties that they have to discharge. Many people are not joining these forces and that is why it is becoming a little difficult to fill up the posts of Inspectors and other officers at higher level, but we will take steps and see that these vacancies are filled up. This is a very valid point.

One of the points raised related to the joint command. It was suggested, why should we not have a joint command. It has to be realised that BSF is standing on the borders which are between Pakistan and India and between Bangladesh and India. The SSB is on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan. The ITBP is the force which is guarding the border between Tibet and India. So, the countries are different, the situations prevailing on both sides of the borders at different places are different and these forces have come into existence at different times. Different kinds of trainings are given to them. That is why, it does not become possible to bring them together and put under one control.

We have our Defence Forces. Army is there, but Army is also divided into different commands, Eastern Command,

Western Command, Central Command, Southern Command, Northern Command and things like that. Under these commands, the forces are working.

Now, here we already have different forces. BSF is one force, SSB is another force, ITBP is third force, Assam Rifles is fourth force, which is looking after the border adjoining to Myanmar and Other States. So, I do not think that it is a good suggestion that all the forces should be brought under one command because they are dealing with different kinds of situations prevailing in those areas and it will be more useful to continue to command these forces in the manner in which they are commanded now.

Sir, one of the questions which was asked and a very pertinent question was whether the task which was performed by the SSB in the past will be continued to be performed by them. This is a very valid question. As a matter of fact, all the members of SSB were not putting uniforms and were not discharging the duties which are discharged by other forces in uniform. One other thing they were doing was to motivate the people living in those areas and help them. They were doing civil action duties. They were helping the people, motivating the people. This task will be continued to be done by SSB. The other was that in the process they were getting some information. Now, we expect our forces to get the information which will help them to discharge their duties in a proper manner. This task will also be continued to be done by them.

We are raising a few more battalions. About 21 battalions are going to be added to SSB. That is going to be an extra strength available to the SSB and they would be in a position to continue their duties as they used to do it. As a matter of fact, we would expect other forces also to continue some of the duties which these forces are doing. To some extent, they are also asked to help the civilian people living in the area where they are working in many ways so that they get the cooperation of the people living in that area.

Sir, I do not have to say anything more than this. If there are any deficiencies found in the working of this force, our endeavour would be to see that those deficiencies are removed and there is an improvement also.

I would once again like to thank the hon. Members for supporting this Bill and for giving very good suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of an armed force of the Union for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."



*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 156 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 156 were added to the Bill.*

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

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, 3rd December 2007, at 11 a.m.

14.42 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 3, 2007/Agrahayana 12, 1929 (Saka).*

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