

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fifth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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## CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XIII, Fifth Session, 2005/1927(Saka))

No. 24, Tuesday, August 30, 2005/ Bhadrapada 08, 1927 (Saka)

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>COLUMNS</b>
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA . . . . .	1
ASSENT TO BILLS . . . . .	1
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE	
Minutes . . . . .	2
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	
Statement . . . . .	2
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS	
Statement . . . . .	2-3
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS	
Fourteenth Report . . . . .	3
PRESENTATION OF PETITION . . . . .	3
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS . . . . .	3-19
(i) Re: Reported discontinuation of construction work of Nalanda Ordnance Factory at Rajgir, Bihar . . . . .	3-9
(ii) Re: Alleged appointment of wife of the Union Finance Minister as a counsel by the Central Board of Direct Taxes . . . . .	9-19
PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357 . . . . .	20-22
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 . . . . .	55
(i) Need to start work on rope-way at Glimath Parvat in Junagarh district of Gujarat Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad . . . . .	55
(ii) Need to widen run-way at G.N.B. Airport, Guwahati for resuming operations of international flights Shri Anwar Hussain . . . . .	56
(iii) Need to construct a flyover at the crossing in Bulsar, Gujarat linking National Highway No.8 with Bhallad- Narol-Selvas-Daman Road Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel . . . . .	56

(iv)	Need to clear the pending proposal for doubling and electrification of railway line from Bibinagar to Nadikudi and construct a railway line between Obulavaripilli and Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh	
	Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao . . . . .	57
(v)	Need to take steps for providing accommodation to the employees of Bokaro Steel Plant, Jharkhand	
	Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey . . . . .	57-58
(vi)	Need to review the decision for delimitation of seats in the legislature of Uttaranchal based on Census of 2001	
	Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' . . . . .	58-59
(vii)	Need to run Bhubaneshwar Rajdhani Express daily and also introduce a pair of Rajdhani Express trains between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bhubaneshwar via Cuttack	
	Shri Jua! Oram . . . . .	59
(viii)	Need to withdraw move to impose anti-dumping duty on viscose and filament yarn besides abolishing duty on man-made yarn	
	Shri Kashiram Rana . . . . .	59-60
(ix)	Need to start work on Jodhpur-Barmer and Jodhpur-Jaisalmer National Highway and also clear the proposals for construction of roads under Central Road Fund for Jodhpur district	
	Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi . . . . .	60
(x)	Need to review the procedure being followed for awarding contract of Pantry car in trains by IRCTC Limited	
	Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi . . . . .	60-61
(xi)	Need to review allocation of slots for programmes being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata, with a view to maximising revenue earnings by the Kendra	
	Shri Sunil Khan . . . . .	61
(xii)	Need to expedite the setting up of Kayamkulam Fishery Harbour in Kerala	
	Shrimati C. S. Sujatha . . . . .	61-62
(xiii)	Need to probe into the continuous depletion of Gangotri glacier in Himalayas	
	Shri Rewati Raman Singh . . . . .	62
(xiv)	Need to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh	
	Shri Rajnarayan Budholla . . . . .	62-63

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>COLUMNS</b>
(xv) Need for proper repair and maintenance of National Highway No.83 between Podhahi and Nadaul in Bihar	
Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh . . . . .	63
(xvi) Need to provide basic amenities at Naimisaranya in Mirikh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh with a view to promote tourism and pilgrimage in the year	
Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat . . . . .	63
(xvii) Need to include all the villages in Parbhani district, Maharashtra under the jurisdiction of Parbhani Postal district for the convenience of the people	
Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil . . . . .	63-64
(xviii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for providing relief to the people affected by floods in the State	
Shrimati Nivedita Mane . . . . .	64
(xix) Need to declare Sunderbans Waterways as National Waterways	
Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal . . . . .	64-65
(xx) Need to amend Environment and Forest Conservation Act with a view to disburse surplus land to landless Scheduled Caste and poor people in the country	
Shri Ramdas Athawale . . . . .	65
(xxi) Need to grant Rs.800 crore for urban renewal programmes in Mumbai, Maharashtra	
Shri Milind Deora . . . . .	65-66
<b>RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SECOND REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>AND</b>	
<b>RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005 . . . . .</b>	<b>66-86</b>
<b>Motion to consider</b>	
Dr. Sujan Chakraborty . . . . .	68-70
Shri Shailendra Kumar . . . . .	71
Shri Nikhil Kumar . . . . .	72-75
Shri Prakash Paranjpe . . . . .	75
Shri Prasanna Acharya . . . . .	76-77
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav . . . . .	77-79

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>COLUMNS</b>
Shri C. K. Chandrappan . . . . .	79-80
Shri A. Krishnaswamy . . . . .	80
Shri Mitrasen Yadav . . . . .	80-81
Shri Lalu Prasad . . . . .	81-85
Clauses 2 to 4 . . . . .	86
Motion to Pass . . . . .	86
<b>VALEDICTORY REFERENCES . . . . .</b>	<b>86-92</b>
<b>Mr. Speaker</b>	
<b>Dr. Manmohan Singh</b>	
<b>Shri L.K. Advani</b>	
<b>NATIONAL SONG . . . . .</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>National Song - played</b>	

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 30, 2005/Bhadrapada 08, 1927 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the papers be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

11.00% hrs.

### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[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 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th August, 2005, agreed without any amendment to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th August, 2005."

11.00% hrs.

### ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 26th July, 2005:-

- (i) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2005;
- (ii) The Bihar Appropriation (Vote on Account) No.2 Bill, 2005;
- (iii) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2005;
- (iv) The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2005;
- (v) The Appropriation (Railways) No.3 Bill, 2005; and
- (vi) The Appropriation (Railways) No.4 Bill, 2005

11.00% hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 4th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on 13 May, 2005.

11.01 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Statement

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to lay a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Statement showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter III of the 5th Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 1st Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2004-2005.

11.00% hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Statements

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas:

- (1) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendation contained in Chapter I of the 49th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their 38th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Non-observance of Guidelines Laid Down



by the Government in Allotting Retail Outlets and LPG Distributorships by Dealer Selection Boards'; and

- (2) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the 3rd Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 46th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on 'Marketing Plans of Public Sector Oil Companies and their Implementation'.

11.02 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

#### Fourteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, I beg to present Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways – (2005-06) on 'Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation'.

11.02½ hrs.

### PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Sarvashri Kalindi Samal and Chittaranjan Pradhan from Talcher, District Angul, Orissa regarding Non-implementation of Rehabilitation Policy - 1989 of Government of Orissa by Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL) and other related issues.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 2832/05]

11.03 hrs.

### SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (i) **Re: Reported discontinuation of construction work of Nalanda Ordnance Factory of Rajgir, Bihar**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will try to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible, specially because

of the wonderful cooperation I and the entire Panel of Chairmen, all of us, have received throughout this Session. You can take it from me, I am extremely anxious to permit as many hon. Members as possible on the last day to raise important issues.

I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion from Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Prabhunath Singh. I cannot admit it as an Adjournment Motion. But I will allow you to raise it. Please be brief so that other hon. Members can take up other issues.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, approval was given in 2001 for setting up Nalanda Ordnance factory at Rajgir in Nalanda district of Bihar. The then Minister of Defence Shri George Fernandes had laid the foundation stone for the said factory. Since then the construction work is going on. As far as civil work of the said factory is concerned, it is almost complete. The construction work of colony, workshops and the houses for the displaced persons is almost complete and remaining minor works like electrification are in progress. However, recently I got the information that the factory work is being stalled. The setting up work for the plant is not being started and it is being stalled.

Meanwhile, a Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Defence and the Committee was assigned the task to see as to how the facilities that have been set up for the Nalanda ordnance Factory, Rajgir can be further used. Bi-Modular Charge System (B.M.C.S.) was to be manufactured in that factory. I have come to know that the Committee was also asked to find out as to in which other ordnance factories B.M.C.S. can be manufactured. The technology meant for B.M.C.S. has been imported. Now only plant is to be set up. But now the work has been stalled. It is on account of this that there is much discontentment among people. Probably there are 49 ordnance factories in the country but there is none in Bihar. There are 4 factories in West Bengal, 10 in Uttar Pradesh, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 7 in Maharashtra and 6 in Tamil Nadu. Besides, ordnance factories are also located in other states, however, there is not a single factory in Bihar. The lone ordnance factory was being set up and the work in this regard was being done expeditiously. It is also to be noted here that the hon'ble President have also visited there in 2003. Despite all these factors one fails to understand as to why the conspiracy is being hatched to discontinue the construction work of this ordnance factory even through the technology and know how for this is available in India. In this situation, I fail to understand the reasons for shifting this work in any other ordnance factory. It has been published in the newspaper that it is being planned to shift the plant to Panagarh. It is on

account of this that there is discontent among people. Already there is dearth of industries in Bihar. The Central Government had set up an industry there. Now that industry is also being shifted elsewhere. Last week, I along with some Members, including Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Ajit Kumar Singh and some people of that area had met the hon'ble Minister of Defence and also given him a memorandum and requested him to clarify the entire position in this regard. The situation there is deteriorating day by day. It has become a common perception in Bihar that Bihar is being deliberately ignored. Since, there is no one to raise the voice of Bihar so Bihar is being sidelined. It is a conspiracy to close down the project which has been sanctioned and completed. The leader of the House and the hon'ble Minister of Defence, Shri Pranab Mukherjee is sitting here. I would like to request him that such thing should not be done and the construction work of the factory should be completed within stipulated time limit. If the hon'ble minister gives clarification in this regard, it will remove the apprehension from the mind of the people of Bihar that the factory is being shifted. Otherwise, there is confusion among the people there that the factory is being shifted. If this factory is shifted elsewhere then the Government will have to face a stiff opposition. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that such step should not be taken and the Committee, which has been constituted for the said purpose should be dissolved because as long as the Committee is in existence the people will be apprehensive. So, the Committee should be dissolved with immediate effect and the installation work of the plant should be started. The civil works are being done by the DRDO and it is not my business to know as to which is the agency to do rest of the works. The hon'ble Minister knows it well. My interest is that the factory should be established there. It is the only ordnance factory of Bihar. Regarding the factory it was said that it will be only the second in the world and the first most sophisticated ordnance factory of the country. So, I would like to request that the said factory should not be shifted elsewhere. A time limit should be fixed for the establishment of the said factory and it would be better if the hon'ble Minister of Defence gives clarification in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunathji now you please speak. You have one minute and fifteen second.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised my question through adjournment motion. However, the objective of my adjournment motion is not to adjourn the House rather my purpose is to bring it to the notice of the Government. Shri Nitish Kumarji has given full details in this regard. I would not like to give long speech, rather I want to point out only two things in this regard. Whenever, it comes to the development of Bihar, it is opposed in the entire country. When Hajipur zone was created in Bihar, processions were held in Bengal. Ordnance factory is being set up in Bihar. The said work was started during

the NDA regime. Now, it is being published in the newspapers that the said factory will be shifted to Panagarh, that means it will be shifted to Bengal. Due to this there is apprehension and confusion in the minds of the people. When the hon'ble President had visited there he had said that the said factory will be second in the world and first most sophisticated factory of the country. In such a situation he felt that the early construction of this factory is required.

Sir, I promised you I would not take more than 1 minute and 15 seconds. I do not want to speak for long.

I have met the hon. Minister and he is present in the House also. I request the hon. Minister to express his views in the House to end the state of confusion that has emerged in Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You are an ideal Member today. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, but only on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Nitishji has explained the things in detail. I want to focus on just one point. I have received information that a South African firm namely Denel was given the task of supplying plant and machinery and CBI is looking into the matter because perhaps that company is not capable of supplying plant and machinery. I request the hon. Minister of Defence that as the contract of supplying plant and machinery awarded to Denel has been cancelled due to CBI enquiry, fresh negotiations should be held with some other company for allotting the contract of supplying plant and machinery for the ordnance factory in Rajgir because more than Rs. 400 crores have been spent on it and more than 2000 acre land has been acquired in this regard. It is also my request that Union Government has already spent so much on this project and now it should not be shifted to Panagarh, Bengal and arrangements should be made to establish it in Bihar itself.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav please be brief. But I will not then allow you to speak on your own matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would rather sit then. I have hardly spoken for one minute.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right. I am allowing it as I am a little lax today.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I always obey you. My submission is that a very modern ordnance factory which would be only one of its kinds in India was proposed to be set up in Bihar and now confusion has been created about shifting it from Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): The factory has not yet been established.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The factory has not been opened but a lot of confusion has been created about shifting its site.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Quarters have already been constructed there.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Quarters have already been constructed and some civil work has also begun. I request the hon. Minister of Defence to give a clarification in this regard so as to dispel the confusion about the site of the factory. It is a very important issue relating to Bihar.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the point being raised by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav should be recorded. ...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Next, Shri Ananth Kumar to raise his issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Laluji is speaking while sitting down. I would request him to rise in his seat and express his views for the benefit of the public of Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Several hon. Members leave when he rises that is why he is not rising.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, please be seated. I would come to you also.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): No, Sir. There is no question of coming to me as something very serious has happened. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, the hon. Minister wishes to respond first.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, normally it is not the practice to respond to it. I understand that it came in the form of an Adjournment Motion, but I have not received any such notice.

MR. SPEAKER: It is because I have not admitted it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: First of all I would like to clarify what I told both Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Prabhunath Singh when they met me, and I clarified the position to them. I do not know whose imagination it is that the factory is going to be shifted to Panagarh. They do not know what is in Panagarh. There is no Ordnance Factory in Panagarh. There is simply one air base. There are some Ordnance Factories in Bengal, but it is not there in Panagarh.

Kashipur is the oldest factory, which was established by the East India Company 200 years ago. Therefore, it is absolutely somebody's imagination. The problem has arisen because we recently found that the Denel company engaged an agent to supply the plant and machinery that were to be supplied by Denel, and which was against the contractual obligation. As a consequence, all transactions with Denel company have been suspended. Thereafter, there have been some developments in this issue. These developments too were shared with these two hon. Members who met me, namely, that one Minister of the South African Government came and tried to resolve the issue. Therefore, the issue is under the consideration of the Government.

There is no such proposal that the factory is going to be shifted from Bihar to Panagarh or some other place. There is no such proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: It is bad news for West Bengal and good news for Bihar!

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Member has given such a statement in the House which might provoke the public of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I repeat all the charges that I levelled. I reiterate all the charges that I made. I will repeat all the charges that I made yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

- (II) **Re. Alleged appointment of the wife of the Union Finance Minister as counsel by the Central Board of Direct Taxes**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs, Mr. Madan Lal Sharma. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[Translation]

Please sit down for a second. I am not asking you to sit down permanently.

[English]

Hon. Member Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra feels very strongly about some matter. He can raise it. All I wish to say is that let it be discussed in a manner which brings credit to this House. There should be proper decorum and dignity. I will allow you to raise the issue.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): A very serious incident has taken place. The wife of the Finance Minister of India, Shri Chidambaramji. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You also have a wife.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: She appeared in court on behalf of Central Board of Direct Taxes which falls under the Ministry of Finance that he is heading. She charged her fees from the Department and she is appearing in other cases also. Shri Chidambaram made a statement in Rajya Sabha yesterday but he has not made any statement in Lok Sabha. The hon'ble Minister stated in Rajya Sabha that he was not aware of any such incident. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not refer to the details because the Minister is prepared to make a statement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It was a public statement. It was made not only in the other House but also outside that he did not know that this thing was happening.

[Translation]

That means he has accepted that it was wrong, improper, immoral and objectionable. He has admitted that he did not know that such an incident had happened.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly he has accepted that it is objectionable. Can any Minister claim that a wrong act, or an act of partiality or an objectionable act has been committed right under his nose and he is not aware of that. Whether he can give excuse like ignorance of law and whether any Minister in a democracy. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): He is attributing to the hon. Minister what he has not said.

[English]

He is attributing to him what he has not said. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will make a statement. I will allow the hon. Minister to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping the Minister. Please sit down. I am trying to control the House, Mr. Annasaheb M.K. Patil. This is not the way; you are a senior Member.

[Translation]

I am trying to control. Please come here and do it.

[English]

You can control your own Members also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping the Minister. You are not helping your cause or the Minister's cause by doing this. Let him make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): She is a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court. She has appeared a number of times in the Supreme Court on such issues. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is competent enough to look after himself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This issue is not about the Minister's cause. It is about democracy. It is an issue of morality. It is not about the hon. Minister only ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will start naming people. On the last day, I will have to name some Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, we are discussing about somebody who is not present in the House. It is really her conduct which is being put into question. She is not present in the House. Therefore, she cannot answer these questions. There are professional bodies to look into the breach of professional etiquette by members of different professions like doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. It is for them to really look into this matter: if there is a breach of etiquette on the part of that hon. member of the profession.

However, he wanted to raise it and I allowed him. Shri Malhotra, you have made your point. I will now ask the hon. Minister to reply.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let me complete, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have neither said anything against anybody who is not a Member of the House nor can I say such things. I just want to know whether any Minister can claim that he was not aware of the corruption and nepotism prevailing in his department. Whether any Minister can say that he was not aware of what is happening in his department? Can he offer this plea that he did not know what was happening in his department?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving his views. How are you bound by that Mr. Bansal?

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, between department and home. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

You are not helping your leader.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister could have replied in this regard because there might be a number of cases, in which she would have appeared as counsel of the department. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give him an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: She would have appeared as a counsel for many industrialists, in the said department only and how is it possible that he should be unaware of all this? It is his responsibility that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, you will only associate yourself with Shri Malhotra.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add one more thing. ...*(Interruptions)\**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Sushilji, you are a senior politician. You cannot make any allegation without prior notice to me. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, I have called your name.

Shri Modi, nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying this? I will not allow this type of allegation. It is most improper.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not made any comment about him. But he cannot do that without notice.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Shri Modi, please take your seat. Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You would have ordinarily associated.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the CBDT says the proposal for the engagement for the counsel was not submitted to the Finance Ministry. My point is, after all why did the CBDT appoint Shrimati Nalini Chidambaram at all in the first place? Is it just to curry favour with the Finance Minister under whom the CBDT also works?

My second point is, the hon. Finance Minister has said that since 1996 his wife has voluntarily refrained from appearing for and against in any Income Tax Department cases. If that be the case, why did she appear in this case at all.

MR. SPEAKER: She cannot answer your allegation against her.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The king should be above board. This is a case of impropriety.

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking why did she ask appear. Can she answer here?

*[Translation]*

Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, please tell your Member to sit down. At that time you were telling me to control the situation.

*[English]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Let me complete, Sir. I will speak only one sentence.

The last point I would like to make is, it is always said that in Uttar Pradesh most of the cases, Income Tax cases, are being given to Shrimati Chidambaram. *...(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, you are only to associate. Please sit down. Thank you very much.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I will give an opportunity.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very wrong that unnecessarily. *...(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You may sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopa Yadav, you address the Chair.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, nobody disturbed you. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav did not disturb you.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask whether a person is disqualified for a post if he/she is related to a political person or a Minister. You are aware that many senior lawyers are present here. If any client goes to a lawyer, as per law he cannot deny him his services provided he is not a lawyer of the opposite party. If I want to engage Shri Kapil Sibal and he is not a lawyer of my opponent, he will have to accept my request. Therefore, I would like to say that politicians do not gain anything by leveling allegation against each other. On the contrary, it might be harmful. Therefore, permission to raise such issues should not be granted here. I do not agree with his views.

*[English]*

If a lawyer is very competent, she may be engaged.

*[Translation]*

There is nothing wrong in it.

*[English]*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is against the constitutional propriety. When the Minister takes oath, he takes oath stating that knowingly or unknowingly he would not give favours to anybody. It may be unknowingly done but it is also unethical and immoral. Hence, the Minister should admit it and resign on this issue because this is most immoral. He has taken oath not to give favours to anybody. This is a favour to his wife. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion on dignity, self-respect and empowerment of women was held in this House during this session and all hon'ble Members agreed that dignity of women should be

protected, it is not becoming and proper to drag the name of a lady in this way who is not even a Member of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. M. Ramadass, you shall express your views in one sentence.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let us hear. He has raised an issue which he thinks is important. Hon. Member was entitled to raise it. Some other hon. Leaders are also giving their views. I have also called Shri Tripathy, who has very forcefully given his views. Others have also given their views. I shall call the Minister. We can sort it out.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, in my view this is an unwarranted issue that is being debated in Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, be quick. Conclude in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will speak for only a minute. Say 'Yes' or 'No' and sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is making his position more awakened. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

The Minister has said that he does not approve of it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to the hon. Minister just now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain calm. If the House would remain calm, then only the proceedings can be carried on properly.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I would like to submit that Mrs. Nalini Chidambaram is one of the outstanding lawyers of the country. She is a very competent lawyer, who can be utilised by the Ministry of Finance or by any other Ministry,

where her skills and abilities are required. Just because she happens to be the wife of a Minister, her talent should not be wasted. In that case, no politician should have a competent person as a son or a daughter or a daughter-in-law or a wife.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, conclude your speech in one minute.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, I feel that the Minister's name should not be unnecessarily dragged into this issue. Nothing improper has happened. ...(Interruptions) Nothing unconstitutional has happened. ...(Interruptions) and the Finance Minister, whose image is intact, should not be dragged in this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister owes an explanation to this House regarding what has come out about the engagement of a lawyer. Of course, she is a competent professional for a definite purpose. Still, because she happens to be a very close relative of the hon. Finance Minister, he owes an explanation to this House.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, double standards should not be adopted in the House. These people are adopting double standards. ...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

11.32 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed those remarks. I have deleted it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it. You are making the case here. You are complicating it.

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\*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it. It is not on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is not on record. I have deleted it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Go on, let the country see your behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I allow Shri P. Chidambaram to make a statement under Rule 357.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: I now permit Shri P. Chidambaram to make a personal explanation under Rule 357.

Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. The hon. Finance Minister is going to make a statement. He is entitled to have a hearing.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say so.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Allright, that is why, it has been expunged from the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I cannot take note of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister will speak. I will request all hon. Members of this side to go back to their seats. I have deleted that. Nothing is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, their behaviour is not appropriate.

MR. SPEAKER: I too said that it is not right.

[English]

That is why, I have deleted it. That is not admissible. It was wrong to say that. I have deleted it. I said, it was wrong to say that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do in this regard. This will not go in proceedings. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have made my observation that it was not proper. Now, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Till now you have been cooperating a lot, but why are you spoiling your record on the last day.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

11.34 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not shout. I will not permit such



behaviour, Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav. You are not doing any justice to yourself or to the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you had taken objection to something, and I have not allowed it to be recorded. I have made my observation that it should not have been said. What more do you want?

Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, you had called my name, but due to pandemonium, I could not speak. Now, please allow me to make my point.

MR. SPEAKER: All right; kindly make your point in just one sentence.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, may I most respectfully submit that it was not. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is respectful to the Chair. The country is seeing what respect is being shown to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, may I say that it was not proper on the part of Shrimati Chidambaram to have taken up this case; it was proper on the part of Shri Chidambaram to know what was happening. But, at the same time, I must say that this issue is being unnecessarily politicised to malign the Government. I should tell them: "Please do not pelt stones from a glass box; there are many complaints against. ..."

MR. SPEAKER: No. It is not being recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir please expunge it from the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already expunged it.

[English]

That is deleted. Thank you for your suggestion. Why are you saying this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen, I do not require your help. I will ask you when I need your help.

11.37 hrs.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear him. You have raised an important matter. According to you, he is in the dock. He is entitled to a hearing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in response to the observations made by hon. Members and in obedience to your direction, I wish to offer an explanation under Rule 357 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

Reports have appeared in the media on a matter relating to the engagement of Shrimati Nalini Chidambaram as Special Counsel. The Central Board of Direct Taxes issued a statement dated 26th August, 2005 on the circumstances under which Shrimati Pushya Sitaraman, Senior Standing Counsel of the IT Department, Chennai, had engaged Shrimati Nalini Chidambaram as Special Counsel in the matter with the approval of the Board. The CBDT has stated that proposals for engagement of counsel are not submitted to the Finance Minister and in this case also, the file was not put up to the Finance Minister. I may add that when the CBDT engaged me in January, 2004, in the same case, the file was not put up to the then Finance Minister. The CBDT has admitted that it was a lapse on their part not to have informed me of the proposed engagement of Shrimati Chidambaram before they granted approval for the same. The Board has also expressed regret.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): You are justifying it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Shri Nalini Chidambaram also issued a statement dated 26th August 2005 narrating the circumstances under which Shrimati Pushya Sitaraman persuaded her to accept the engagement. She said that she had done so out of a sense of obligation to a sister lawyer. She also pointed out that since 1996, she has voluntarily refrained from appearing for or against the Department, and that this was the sole case in which she had been engaged as a Special Counsel.

Shrimati Pushya Sitaraman, in her statement dated 26th August 2005, confirmed that it was she who had persuaded Shrimati Chidambaram to accept the engagement.

Sir, these statements, I submit, contain the entire facts.

Some remarks have been made through the media on the merits of the case. The case involved a pure question of law – whether expenditure on replacement of machinery would be accounted as revenue expenditure or capital expenditure. The question was decided by the Supreme Court as early as in 1967. The Department seems to have decided to re-agitate the matter. The Department lost the case before the Commissioners' of Income Tax (Appeal), again before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in 1997 and now before the Madras High Court.

A few weeks ago, the Department has sent the papers to the Ministry of Law for filing an appeal to the Supreme Court and appeals are being filed. The principle of law laid down in the case does not apply to textile mills alone, but to all companies and firms, for example, paper mills, steel mills, sugar mills etc. which replace machinery.

An insinuation has been made that one Sri Karpagambal Mills Limited, Cholapuram was also a party to the case in issue. The insinuation is totally false. Forty-three mills were involved in the case before the Madras High Court and Sri Karpagambal Mills does not figure in the list of 43 mills disposed of by the Madras High Court. The CBDT has clarified this point also.

I wish to make it clear that I had no knowledge of the matter at any stage during the relevant period. It came to my notice, for the first time, only after the matter was attempted to be raised in the Rajya Sabha. I believe that none of my respected colleagues in the House would seriously think. ...*(Interruptions)* I believe that none of my respected colleagues in the House would seriously think that had the matter been brought to my notice, I would have allowed it to proceed an inch further. Let me make it clear, categorically and respectfully, that had the matter been brought to my notice at any time earlier, I would have ensured that the proposal to engage Shrimati Chidambaram was nipped in the bud and not processed any further. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, now Shri Ananth Kumar.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I will take a minute.

*[Translation]*

Hon'ble Minister has said that he was not aware of it and it was not in his knowledge. I understand that any elected

Minister owes some kind of responsibility. I am not at all satisfied with it. He should submit his resignation on this issue in protest, we stage walk out. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.42 hrs.

*(At this stage, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down quietly. You too would be called to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sarbananda Sonowal – he has joined the walk out!

Dr. Manoj.

DR. K. S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is regarding the need to ensure minimum support price for fish and marine products and the right to first sale of catch to the fishermen.

There are about 1.5 to 2 million fishermen in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be silence in the House please.

DR. K. S. MANOJ: I am one among them. Our country is earning nearly Rs.6,300 crore from export of marine products. The estimated first sale value of the marine fish landing per year is nearly Rs.12,000 crore. But the plight of the fishermen who work for this is still backward. They belong to the most backward class of people. Even though they are earning crores of rupees for the country, their personal earnings are very meagre.

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here? I am requesting the hon. leaders also to see that the Members keep silence.

DR. K. S. MANOJ: One of the reasons for this is that the fishermen are not getting remunerative price for their catch. ...*(Interruptions)* Even though the right to first sale of the catch is given to the fishermen, this is taken away by the middlemen who exploit them. Also, the marketing economy is that of buyers' market and not that of sellers' market.

MR. SPEAKER: You may have to condense your speech.

DR. K. S. MANOJ: In order to empower these backward classes, remunerative price for their catch should be ensured; exploitation by the middlemen should be stopped;

and to control the market economy, cooperative movement in this sector should be strengthened and extended to areas where it is non-existent and a nationwide cooperative network should be established.

MR. SPEAKER: Too much whisper is going on in this House. Please maintain silence. It applies to the Treasury Benches also!

Shri Rajaram Pal.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaar): Sir, all the states of the country are suffering from electricity problem. Till now the Central Government have not formulated any power policy that may ensure the generation of power as per the existing and future demand. The Planning Commission, in the Tenth Five Year plan, had fixed a target for the generation of 41 thousand megawatt electricity, however, as on date the Ministry of Power, the Government of India has been able to achieve the target of generation of only 10 thousand megawatt power.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I request the hon'ble Members, please do not talk amongst yourselves. You are all hon'ble Members of Parliament.

...

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Three and half years have elapsed since then and it seems very difficult to achieve the target in remaining one and half year.

Sir,...\* who is presently holding the post of power secretary in the Ministry of Power and who is an IAS officer was appointed on this post in 2002 with the objective to achieve this goal.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. Please speak in brief. This is not the time to deliver a speech.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, the House will be amazed to know that ...\* policy framework and directives of the Power Secretary of the Government of India are proving to be more beneficial for the private sector and less beneficial for the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER: You please cooperate. Please be brief. This is not the time to deliver speech.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: He has not done anything not only for power companies but have also not done anything for the betterment of public sector undertaking. Now the situation has deteriorated to the extent during the last few years that power companies will be on the verge of auction.

Sir, while functioning as Power Secretary, the Government of India he selected such a person for the appointment on the post of Chairman of NHPC that the Government is in dock. He has recommended for the appointment of a corrupt officer in the undertaking.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have expressed your views. Rajaramji it is not the occasion to deliver speech.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, the Central Vigilance Commission has given report against that person. Through you, I would like to demand the Government that a thorough inquiry should be held against him and the Power Secretary should be removed from his post at the earliest for making attempt to appoint a corrupt officers by way of suppressing the recommendation made the against him. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India and the hon'ble Prime Minister that the inquiry should be held and the action should be taken against the said secretary.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): With your permission, I am raising a very important issue of having a mass transport system for Bangalore.

In 1971 Bangalore had only 16 and odd lakh population and now the population is about 70 lakh. It is expected that within a few years it is going to cross one crore population. As far as the vehicular population is concerned, the Bangalore roads were planned for four lakh vehicles. Now, according to March 2005 statistics, the vehicular traffic is 25.6 lakh. Every day, 900 new vehicles are being registered and there is a great incidence of air pollution and noise pollution. Every day three persons are getting killed and 18 are getting injured because of traffic related accidents. Due to the increase in air pollution, every family is suffering from various respiratory and ophthalmic problems.

Therefore, in 2003 the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had commissioned one Detailed Project Report for Bangalore Metro, which was concluded. Later, in 2004 the Planning Commission of India had also given in principle approval. The hon. Prime Minister when he visited on 11th February, 2005, supported the proposal. Hon. Urban Development Minister visited Bangalore on 16th February and he also supported it. The hon.

Finance Minister during his Budget speech had said that Bangalore Metro would be supported by the Union Government. The Public Investment Board had approved the Bangalore Metro Project on 6th August, 2005. Now, the Bangalore Metro Project is pending before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Many times, myself and other hon. Members, Dr. Sangliana and others, have met the hon. Urban Development Minister with the request to implement the Bangalore Metro Rail Project forthwith. But I do not know why it is being procrastinated.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Urban Development to expedite the clearance. The Union Government should give clearance and the Bangalore Metro should start rolling.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker Sir, it is on account of the rivers originating from Nepal that the condition of nearly two dozens districts of North Bihar is very serious. It is on account of the flood in Kosi, Kamla, Bhutahi Balan, Bagmati and Adabara group of rivers that the condition is very grave. The embankments of Bhutaha Balan and Kamala Balan rivers, under the Madhubani districts and many other districts of North Bihar have been broken and water has entered in hundreds of villages. The crops of crores of rupees of the farmers have been destroyed. It is on account of flood water in Pipra-Kamalpur village that one person has died. It is on account of breaking of Kamala Balan embankment and the embankment ahead of Oilpur Kheda and Madanpur Rataula that there is damage to life and property and the crops worth crores of rupees have been destroyed. The necessary steps should be taken for the damaged embankments. The UPA Government has set up joint project offices at seven places in Nepal. I would like to demand that survey should be conducted at the earliest and after making DPR multi-purpose dam should be constructed for the permanent solution to this problem. ... (Interruptions) There are six months flood situation and six months drought condition in Bihar and everywhere there is destruction due to flood. I would like to demand the Government that action should be taken in this regard within stipulated time limit.

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Minister for Agriculture that the people of Karnataka have suffered from heavy rainfall and the consequent floods in many regions. The maximum damage has been caused in Belgaum, Bijapur, and in many parts of North Karnataka. About 13000 villages have been affected and 130 people have lost their precious lives in the floods. Over 11,000 cattle

have been killed. Over 90,000 houses got damaged and standing crops spreading over four lakh acres have been washed away. Public property including roads, buildings and bridges have also been damaged. The natural calamity has caused a huge loss of over Rs. 3500 crore.

In Haveri District of my parliamentary constituency, due to heavy rainfall and floods in many talukas, maize, chillies, groundnut, jawar and other crops have been damaged. I would request that an amount of Rs.10,000 per acre may please be given by the Government of India.

Under the circumstances, I urge upon the Government of India to release a further sum of Rs.3500 crore and also announce a special package for the State of Karnataka, as was done for the Tsunami affected coastal areas of the country. Crop loan and interest burden of the farmers for the current year may also please be waived, which would help the farmers to tide over the crisis due to heavy rains and floods.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very important matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Uday Singh, you have to have patience.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker Sir, it is on account of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 that upto a capacity of 6300 megawatt power project in Pithauragarh district has been stalled and Madankot block Munsayari and Sobala phase two are pending for nearly 25 years while Botanical Survey of India and the Geological Survey of India had recommended for the said project and there is one more matter related to it. There are 115 revenue villages in it. It is on account of declaring it a muskdeer sanctuary, that the development works are not being conducted there. So, I would like to request the Government to exclude the said villages from the ambit of the Forest Conservation Act and both projects should be approved at the earliest so that power generation work may start soon.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I had submitted in the same session ten days back that famine like situation is emerging in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. Presently the situation is such that the Kharif crops in most of the areas were not sown and where the sowing was done, the crops are getting dried in the absence of subsequent rainfall. Mr. Speaker, Sir, so the farmers are suffering on both the counts as their expense on sowing has wasted. Herds men from the entire area are migrating and the farmers are dying due to starvation. Some crops

like cotton could have been protected by irrigation but there is no regular power supply as the power generation in the state is not sufficient for the state. I had talked to the Minister of power to set up thermal power plant in Nagaur district as coal is available there. However, he did not reply clearly and said casually that that will be done. Sir, it will be better if the Government pay attention towards this.

Rajasthan should be among the states benefitting from the river linking project. I would like to request that the relief work should be started in famine affected areas and the Government should protect the people who are forced to commit suicide because of drought and famine. The financial assistance should be provided to the state as the special package was given in the event of Tsunami and flood in Mumbai.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, you are allowed to raise only one matter and that is about the BBUNL.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the BBUNL is the holding company of M/s BSCL, Bumpur and M/s Braithwaite. Now, on the one hand, the closure of M/s BSCL, Bumpur has been recommended, but on the other hand, twenty executives, including supervisors are being recruited. BBUNL is taking an undue advantage. The holding company is also collecting some amount of money from the subsidiary companies to run other companies. I would urge upon the Government to look into this matter. This is a strange situation where on the one hand twenty executives, including supervisors are being recruited, on the other, this unit is being recommended for closure. I do not know as to what is happening in this country. So, I condemn this recommendation and the BBUNL Burnpur unit should be revived.

Sir, secondly, I would like to make a submission

*[Translation]*

that the entire House is concerned that ...\* incited riots.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing this. This will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arun Kumar Sarma: Absent

Shri Mohan Rawle: Absent.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the existing ceiling in respect of payment of bonus has become a matter

of concern because the ceiling was fixed a long time back. Meanwhile, there has been a hike in wages, particularly in the jute industry and in many other industries as well. It has become a cause of tension amongst the workers that even during the festival days they are being deprived of what they used to get earlier.

Sir, in such a situation, I would like to urge upon the Government to bring about the necessary changes in the Payment of Bonus Act so that the ceiling could be raised from Rs. 3500/- to at least Rs. 7500/- as is the case in respect of ESI.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, I also want to make a submission on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate yourself with what has been said by Shri Rupchand Pal.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You may associate with it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): I gave a notice at 8 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: You may give notice at 6 of 8 o'clock. I have to take a decision on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Every matter is important. There are about 55 matters to be raised.

*[Translation]*

You have mentioned two matters.

*[English]*

You have to be patient. I have already called on hon. Members from your Party.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I give a notice that\*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is an unfair charge. This is not going to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

**12.00 hrs.**

MR. SPEAKER: You should know that by making allegations against the Chair, you cannot benefit and I would tell you that this is breach of privilege. You will feel it one day.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to give you an opportunity to speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the way you are behaving. I am calling a Member of your Party to speak on an important matter. You do not try to browbeat me.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You learn from Shri Bhargava. He gives notice specially and gets an opportunity to speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a three storey building collapsed in country's economic capital, Mumbai. *...(Interruptions)* killing 6 people and seriously injuring 20. Three similar incidents occurred last week wherein over 20 persons have died. 20700 old buildings in Mumbai are proposed to be repaired through a board. *...(Interruptions)* Recently heavy rains caused flood in Mumbai and consequently many a buildings collapsed. Over 100 building are in a dilapidated condition. Any of these building may collapse any time. Building collapse is leading to tragedy over there. Recent floods in Mumbai have further worsened the condition. Recently constituted board is not capable of repairing or redeveloping as many as 20700 buildings. The Central Government should extend help to the State Government in this regard. Said buildings should be repaired. The Central Government should help the Government of Maharashtra in reconstruction of said buildings. Their renovation can be done with combined efforts of Central and State Government. Development work of these buildings can be taken through old tenants and the house-owners. Said buildings should be given a face-lift.

MR. SPEAKER: Speaking for more time won't strengthen your case.

\*Not recorded.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Proper housing facilities should be provided to all. Mumbai does not have adequate transit camps. As I had been a Minister dealing with this department so I would urge the Central Government to play major role in it.

SHRI D. P. SAROJ (Lalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your leave I would draw attention of the Central Government to eastern district Azamgarh of U.P.

MR. SPEAKER: If each one of you speak in brief all can be given an opportunity to speak.

SHRI D. P. SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, district Azamgarh have had heavy rains from 21 August to 24 August. It affected Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau and Ballia. The tragedy that struck Mumbai resulted in death of hundreds and unfortunately many a persons out of it were from Azamgarh. It rained for 72 hours continuously in Azamgarh from 21 August onwards. The loss of life and livestock and loss to the farmers was irreparable. I toured the affected area in a boat. People staying on ground floor were swept away and water level touched first floor. They have nothing to survive on. The State Government has provided adequate relief to the affected people. I would like to congratulate Shri Mulayam Singhji who made arrangements for everything from potato to salt. My submission is that the Government should provide special package to Uttar Pradesh on the lines of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government and Minister of Health towards an issue of national interest. During, 2003 it was envisaged to set up 6 AIIMS like hospitals in various States in the country. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal were identified for this purpose. Though, the work had started earlier, yet it was stalled later on. I had raised this issue through calling attention on 21.12. 2004.

Hon. Minister of Health on that very day had expressed his assent to it and desired that it should be done expeditiously. But processing and approval has been taking some time. In December, he told that EEC has cleared the said proposal and the approval from the Government is awaited. Said hospital was to be opened in Rishikesh, Uttaranchal. Initially a grant of rupees one crore was allocated and boundary wall was constructed but further no progress was made. Now, I had asked for its latest position vide Question No. 3398 dated 17 August. The Government replied that it is in progress. I would like to urge Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Leader of the House to expedite approval of the Government, the Cabinet or of any other body as the need may arise for setting up of said 6 institutions for it is a very difficult but important task. I would request the

Government to expedite the approval of the Cabinet. One and a half year has elapsed since UPA came to power, but approval to said proposal is still pending. It should be expedited.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to bring one very important issue to the notice of the Government. First of all, I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister for having provided a package of Rupees twenty-four thousand crore to the State of Jammu and Kashmir under which several different departments were covered. For the first time, all the three areas of Jammu and Kashmir, viz, Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu region were treated at par. I would like to tell the Union Government that the package, as announced, is yet to be implemented. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have yet to submit the project proposals be they belong to the tourism sector, RLB sector, transport or power sector. With the permission of the House and you I urge the Government to pursue it expeditiously and instruct the State Government to forward the proposals to the Centre so that the relief being provided by the UPA Government to the State of Jammu and Kashmir reaches in time and projects can be taken up as per the schedule.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious situation is prevailing in my State, Arunachal Pradesh. In public distribution system, bogus bills are being prepared in regard to hill transport subsidies, with the nexus of Ultra, FCI and PDS contractors in the State. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament has identified this misappropriation. Hon. Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State have also identified the gross scams of the public distribution system in Arunachal Pradesh. The main and leading newspapers have identified and highlighted the scams that are taking place in the hill transport subsidies of the PDS in Arunachal Pradesh.

In reality, the PDS items do not reach the State, but bogus bills run into crores of rupees. For your information, I would like to say that in 2001-02 it was Rs. 53 lakh; in 2002-03 it went up to Rs. 63 lakh; and now in 2003-04 it has reached Rs. 900 crore.

I would like to urge upon this Government to look into it in detail and if possible, the matter may kindly be handed over to the CBI.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, the people of Assam and the North-East have given a popular mandate to the Government of India and demanded it to negotiate peace talks with the ULFA, the NSCN (I-M), the

NDFB and other groups in order to restore peace in the region. It is our firm belief that only peaceful dialogue with strong political goodwill can bring out a lasting solution to the issues of insurgency in the region.

So, as a mark of goodwill gesture on the part of the Indian Government, I strongly demand the withdrawal of the repressive law, that is the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.

The Indian Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy to examine the law and submit a report on Armed Forces Special Powers Act of 1958, which will advise the Government for the future course of action. So far, we have come to know that the Committee has already submitted a report in favour of the repeal of the Act. So, I strongly demand the Government to immediately clarify their standpoint in this regard. There seems to be no policy regarding talks in the case of ULFA because it has failed to speak out any timetable or aims regarding this talk. It appears that the Government is going slow in the matter of holding the talks, and they are not sincere at all. In the case of talks with NSCN (I-M), the Government has failed to address the question of sentiments of Manipur. It has failed to maintain the lifeline of the National Highways, and its failure is leading to a situation of dismemberment of Manipur. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: In the case of NDFB also, the Government is showing lack of policy direction. So, the peace talk is not advancing at all.

Sir, for lasting peace initiative in the region" the Government should encourage dialogue and talks with ULFA, NSCN, NDFB and other groups. This is the most important thing to do. I call upon you to direct the Government to take such transparent and multi-pronged efforts so that a lasting solution can be found out.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I associate with this.

MR. SPEAKER: Both of you were absent.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Narora Power Plant. I would like to congratulate Chairperson of the UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Unabated increase in the population of our country has created many a problems. Electricity is the life line for our population for every body needs electricity today.

Foundation stone for said power plant was laid by Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1973. Initially, it was envisaged to set up 6 units. Thousands of acres of land of farmers was acquired. After utilizing all possible resources and thousands of crores of rupees, only three units could be set up. Now, since adequate resources are available for setting up remaining three units and rupees thousands of crores have been spent on digging of canal and land also have been acquired, then why there is delay in execution of work. Shifting of said plant elsewhere will pose several problems. Therefore, my submission is that the remaining 3 units be set up here only.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have entered into agreement with a foreign country for generating power from nuclear energy. If the Government are committed for generating power at this plant then the Government should take action to set up these three units urgently.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while addressing the nation from ramparts of Red Fort, hon. Prime Minister on 15 August, 2005 had announced that by the end of 10th Five Year Plan each district in the country will have a Krishi Vigyan Kendra. My parliamentary constituency is very large wherein no such centre has been opened so far. A writ has been filed in the Mumbai High Court in this regard. A Mumbai based reputed organization has recommended after a study that the farmers should be trained about the selection of right crop to be cultivated. Hon'ble. Prime Minister had made a good announcement with regard to setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras but farmers in Vidharbha region are committing suicide. Therefore, I urge the Government to open 2 said centres in my district so that farmers can be prevented from committing suicide.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, I am allowing you because you are a sportsman.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Thank you Sir.

[Translation]

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the House that.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I won't call the Members who raise their hands.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Two days ago, a building collapsed in Marine Lines killing six persons. Last week, a building collapsed in Temkar lane under my constituency Nagpara, killing 11 persons. It has been caused by heavy down pour. 19642 buildings in Mumbai are in dilapidated

state and 500 buildings need immediate repair. The Government collects Rs. 57723 crore as revenue from Mumbai city, so, I would urge hon. Prime Minister to release Rs 5 thousand crore immediately for repair of said dilapidated buildings. Therefore, my submission is that funds should urgently be allocated to the Government of Maharashtra for undertaking said repair work. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad is not present now. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge you to request the Government to release the money urgently.

MR. SPEAKER: Since I have no money, so how can I release.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Since Mumbai city gives Rs. 57723 crore as taxes to the Centre, So can't the Central Government provide Rs. 5000 crore for immediate repair of dilapidated buildings in the city. I would urge the Central Government to take immediate action with regard thereto.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have very ably raised it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anant Gudhe, I am allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

[Translation]

You have given two matters.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is also not permitted. You have given notice for raising two matters. I cannot allow you to raise two matters. You are a senior Member. You are not a first-timer. You should cooperate with the chair.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, junior Members are standing, please give them a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: I give more chances to junior Members to speak, however, at times, senior Members get annoyed when opportunity is provided to the junior Members.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should mention about the telephone services.



[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: The condition of BSNL is worsening in the country. People have been demanding for telephone connection, but they are not getting. BSNL introduced a One-Rupee telephone scheme. But the condition has become such that even people in waiting list are not being provided telephone connections. The condition of landline is no better than that of WLL.

Maharashtra is a developed State where very large number of people own telephones. Still, 1,86,250 people are in waiting list for telephone connection. It is the figure of 31 May, 2005. Last March, 4 lakh 50 thousand Mobile simcards were used in Maharashtra. Since March, sale of simcards has come to a halt and private companies are making hey. They are providing telephone facilities. BSNL is neither providing telephone connections nor simcards. It has been so for the last six months. The Members of Parliament from Gujarat and Maharashtra had meeting with Chief General Manager, Mumbai on 24, 29 November and then on 30th July and expressed the problems. But not a single problem has been solved so far. Numbers in the waiting list are piling up and they are demanding telephones. At several places WLL does not function because of battery problem. It is due to the shortage of power that battery is not charged and in that case telephone services are not provided to the people which ought to have been provided.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of SIM cards and the waiting lists of telephones in Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no mere repetition.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: There is no prepaid mobile there, or prepaid mobile cards. The rest of the companies are daily providing everything there. It is on account of all these things that there is a big problem. Whatever is required in CDA should be available in every Taluka. However, it is on account of absence in CDA that the telephone services are not being provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shankhlal Majhi, you please speak.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: On the one hand while there is no telephone connectivity and on the other hand UPA Government is telling. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Majhi, you please speak on soil erosion.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: On the other hand more than 2 lakh people are in the waiting list. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed 24 hon. Members today.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I would like to request the Central Government to clear the waiting lists of nearly two lakh people for telephone connection in rural areas of Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow other hon'ble Members to speak. They are new Members. Shri Shankhlal Majhi, you please speak on soil erosion.

[English]

After I call the next Member, please do not record the other Members.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MANJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh are in the grip of floods. Even military has been called in Ajamgarh district. There is severe soil erosion at Duhia, Phulpur, Nyorhani Chaughuta ghat under Thanda Tehsil which is the eastern part of Ambedkar Nagar town and is located along the border of Azamgarh district. The precious agricultural lands of farmers have been eroded and the residential areas of the villages have come under threat of erosion. The existence of these villages has been threatened. I had asked an unstarred question dated 22.8.2005 in this regard and in reply to that it was said that the flood control comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government. The rivers flowing in Uttar Pradesh originate in other States and it is on account of severe erosion, there is threat of devastating flood. In this situation it is not appropriate on the part of the Central Government to say that flood control is the responsibility of the State. In this regard, I would like to say that as the State has limited resources and the State cannot take preventive measures to tackle the devastating flood with their limited resources. So, it will not be good if the Central Government pass the back to the State by saying that the flood control comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government. I would like to submit that this kind of devastating floods are perennial in nature and cause devastation especially in eastern Uttar Pradesh and the fertile land is destroyed. So, I would like to request the Central Government that it should pay compensation to the farmers for their land and should take preventive measures to check the soil erosion.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of the House through you, particularly, to the notice of our Railway Minister, Shri Lajuji.

Sir, as you are aware, the historic August Movement of 1942 is a glorious part of freedom movement of our country. The people from all sections of society of Bolpur Shantiniketan area of Birbhum district of West Bengal had actively participated in the Movement. They had launched an all out Civil Disobedience Movement on 29th August, 1942 which has been marked in the history with golden letters. Several freedom fighters had laid their lives by the bullets of the British Police leaving hundreds injured on that day in and around the Bolpur Railway Station area. The demand of the people of Birbhum, specially, of Bolpur under the platform of 1942 Shahid Samarak Committee is for setting up of a Martyr's column at the Bolpur-Station area to commemorate the heroes of the historic August Movement.

Sir, I urge upon the Government, particularly, the Railway Minister to look into the matter to meet this demand.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, No. 26. How many can I allow today?

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I accept the notice of the hon'ble Member. The Railway will take necessary steps regarding the suggestions of the hon'ble Member for honouring the freedom fighters and will honour them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I should thank you. It is my constituency. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Sir, Geographically Rajasthan is the biggest state of the country. The major parts of the State are either desert or are covered by the Aravali hills. It is a border state which shares 700 k.m. long boundary with Pakistan. There are several problems like, prevention of infiltration, maintaining law and order situation, traffic, administration and management in desert areas along the Pakistan border. Indira Gandhi canal is also not getting sufficient water from Punjab as per the agreement. It is on account of this that the farmers are agitated. Presently, there is famine like condition in Rajasthan. Most of the districts are suffering from drought and there is famine. Ponds and hand pumps have dried up and under ground water level has gone down. Through you, I would like to request the

Central Government to give special package to the State in view of its peculiar geographical conditions and boundary locations and reoccurrence of drought and famine for last five years.

Sir, economic packages have been given, to several states like Bihar. Rajasthan has been in the grip of drought and famine continuously for five years and it is demanding for economic package. We are making efforts to rescue the State from the morass of backwardness. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to assist the Rajasthan Government in overcoming the problem of famine by way of providing special economic package to the State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your number was 28th. Now, No. 29 Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazari-bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is famine in Jharkhand due to lack of rainfall. Not even 25 percent paddy has been planted in dozens of districts in Jharkhand including Hazaribagh, Garwa, Daltonganj, Chatra, Giridih, Polarma Bokaro due to the absence of rainfall.

[English]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAY (Patna): What about me?

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has asked not give more opportunity to senior Members. You are such a senior Member, and he is a new Member.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: More than half of the population of Jharkhand depends on 'Bhadai' crop. This year Bhadaï crop also failed in Jharkhand and previous year also there was famine. More than two hundred people have died due to starvation on account of famine and drought. This year also the situation is very grave. Lakhs of people of the state had started migrating to other states. The State Government is not able to do any thing.

Through you, I would like to submit to the Central Government that the situation in Jharkhand is very grave on account of famine and drought and lakhs of people of the state are migrating to other States. The Central Government should pay attention in this direction and start relief works so that people of the State may not migrate to other states and they may not die due to starvation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, you were

absent when I had called you earlier. You should give notice and be present.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding massive erosion caused by Brahmaputra and its tributaries in Assam since last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are the 30th Member that I have allowed.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, already more than 3000 people are on the embankment and on the roads who have yet to be rehabilitated. The recent spate of floods in Assam has affected the Kaziranga National Park. The three rivers – Singora, Ranganadi and Dikrong – have heavily affected some parts of Lakhimpur District, namely, Amtola, Madhya Nowboicha, Dolohat, Sonapur, Fulbari, Singora, Borchala, Mohghuli, Pandhowa, Pabha, etc. The massive erosion has affected people in Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Goalpara, Dhubri, Majuli Island and Kamrup in Assam. More than three lakh people have been affected by the recent spate of floods. The affected people are yet to get the required foodstuffs from the Government machinery. There is shortage of tarpaulin to build the temporary dwelling houses. Also, there is requirement of tubewells for getting the clean drinking water. So, Sir, I urge upon, through you, to the Government of India to send a special team for the medical relief and also for other relief materials to the affected people. It should also ensure monitoring of relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected and erosion-affected people of Assam.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards Kendriya Bhandar. The Ministry of Finance has restrained Kendriya Bhandar from purchasing stationery and other equipments for the government departments vide its order nos. 1/12/E11/a-94 dated. 29 July, 2005. It used to fetch approximately Rs. 6 crores to Kendriya Bhandar. It was a source of employment for 700 employees besides being a source of revenue generation for the Government. It included sale of stationery items and other equipments worth approximately Rs. 268 crores to the Ministry. If this order is not withdrawn the employees of Kendriya Bhandar would be pushed to the brink of starvation.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to withdraw

the office order dated 29th July 2005 issued by the Ministry of Finance in regard to Kendriya Bhandar restraining it from the said purchase and revive the previous order to allow Kendriya Bhandar to make the said purchase again so that employees of the Kendriya Bhandar might keep getting their salaries and are saved from being pushed to the brink of starvation.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We have to learn to be brief and specific.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alemao Churchill.

*[Translation]*

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too have given notice on a very important and serious matter.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter is not being recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't say that, Mr. Uday Singh, you are speaking without my permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat?

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down and check the rules first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I have given notice.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice has been rejected by me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is referring to allegations of misconduct without giving any proper notice to me. How can I allow it?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed 32 hon. Members so far to make their submissions.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL (Marmugao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Goa is a tourism revenue-led State and the sustenance of the State economy is dependent on tourism. Its population and skilled and semi-skilled people are entirely dependent on tourism. The tourism industry has been developed over at least two decades of sustained activity by the components of the industry and Goa is, therefore, on the international tourism map. However, despite its pre-eminence in the tourism scenario for the country, Goa is still being taken for granted and severely handicapped due to insensitive attention being given to it.

The first impression that the tourists get when they come to Goa is that India is shabby. Disastrous and the dilapidated airport terminal building makes the matter worse. Historically speaking, Dabolim Airport was handed over to the Navy to cover its maintenance cost. The volume of traffic into Goa, the status of Goa in the international context and the potential of Goa to increase its contribution to increase tourism revenue for India behoves Goa to have an exclusive international standard airport. Over the last few years, the Airports Authority of India, along with successive Governments of Goa have, in their wisdom, looked around and scouted for a suitable site to create this much-needed airport. It is amazing to see how logic has been set aside and the existing airport at Dabolim has not been given due consideration in terms of its location and proximity to Southern Goa, which is the preferred destination for international tourists.

Sir, it is natural to recommend the shifting of the Naval facilities at Dabolim to locations closer to the Western Naval Command/Sea Bird and in turn hand over the present facilities to the Airports Authority of India to create the desired international standard airport for Goa. Many points of view and many letters have been exchanged on this subject and many discussions have taken place on the merits and demerits of the case. At a lesser cost, an excellent facility can be created in the existing airport. Why, therefore, is the need for the present airport to move to Mopa and inconvenience the existing system of service that is being provided at Dabolim? The international tourists will be greatly inconvenienced if the developed Southern Goa, which has the main population of hotels, is put at a distance from the proposed site. Travel time from the airport to hotels will increase. Skilled and semi-skilled labour from the Southern part of Goa will be displaced and Dabolim, being in the centre of Goa, will become equidistant from the North and South respectively. If we want to enhance the tourism facilities for Goa and provide tourism infrastructure for international

tourists coming on vacation to Goa, then we must think of the people who are part of the service industry of Goa and not totally confuse this issue with possible personal interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate and conclude now. You cannot read out a three-page statement.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Sir, I will conclude now by making the last point.

Dabolim is the most logical choice for the civilian international airport and not any other site. If an international airport comes up at Mopa or any other site, then Maharashtra will be serviced too, but Dabolim must continue as an International Airport for Goa with better facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded further.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sports Authority of India has decided to develop sports facilities in certain parts, alternate cities of the country as a part of its preparation for the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in 2010 and the Government has selected certain cities in this regard. SAI has also elected my constituency Bareilly for this purpose. Through you I request the Minister of sports to make all those facilities available at Bareilly centre also which SAI is providing at other centres because be it astoturf or other sports, suitable grounds for all kinds of sports are available in Bareilly.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We should all learn from him. He has been brief and to the point.

*[Translation]*

A speech of three pages would not go on record.

*[English]*

Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria. Let me see how long he takes.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Khajuraho is a world famous tourist place. There was an Indian Airlines flight for this place which has been discontinued. On the other hand, there was a train, Bundelkhand Express which used to go there and the tourists

\*Not recorded.

used to travel to Khajuraho in it but its 14 stoppages have been withdrawn due to which now there are no means to reach Khajuraho easily.

The Government is saying that we will promote tourism but withdrawal of the means of transport is resulting in loss of revenue. When I approached the hon. Minister in this regard he told me that there is a shortage of pilots due to which this flight has been discontinued. It is my request to not only provide a flight but also a rail service for the tourists visiting this place.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going to speak in Bengali.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice to speak in Bengali.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no translation. You have not given notice. I will call you again after five minutes.

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Thank you very much Sir. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications towards a burning problem regarding getting telephone connections in Khadir area of my constituency, that is, Kutch, Gujarat.

Sir, this area is an island and is known as Khadir area. It is situated at the remotest end of our country and is on the border. Khadir island is spread in an area of about 200 sq. kms. and has a population of about 20,000, which is scattered in more than 15 to 20 villages. This area is at a distance of 200 kms. from the Taluka Headquarters and it is very difficult to have access to that area as there is negligible facility of telephones. The only telephone connection that is there is in Dholavira village. So, in that area, the facility of telephone connection is a must because it is on the border and is the remotest part of the country. It also has a BSF post there.

There is a long-standing demand of the people of that area for having telephone facility. So, I urge upon the Government of India, particularly the Telephone Department, to provide telephone facility in that area.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, after December 26 tsunami, frequent happenings of sea erosion and tidal waves in coastal States, especially in Kanyakumari, Chennai and Cuddalore districts, are affecting demolishing of houses, damaging the fishermen's belongings like *Kattumaram*, *vallam*, motorised boats, nets and other material. Every time people run out of their houses and seek shelter in nearby villages. Panic, fear and uncertainty is prevailing in those areas.

Sea erosion walls built by the State Governments,

spending huge amount of money, are not worthy to save the people from these strong waves. In some places, these stone walls were swallowed by sea water and in some other places they were scattered, thereby causing hardship to pull the *kattumaram*, *vallam* into the water. Accidents are also common in these places as stones are lying scattered under water.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to make comprehensive remedial measures in this regard, like providing permanent houses to those people at a safe distance; allow compensation to their damaged belongings; bring a massive scheme to form natural walls all along the sea-shore instead of putting stones; allot funds to construct groins at appropriate places as that will serve as a sea erosion wall and also help them in fishing; and take up the pending proposals of Thengapattanam, Colachel, Muttom, Rajakamangalam Thurai fishing harbours with immediate effect.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Speeches of 40 Members have been recorded till 11.40 AM and even then Members are not happy.

[English]

Shri Ansari, you have not given any notice

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given the notice earlier. You can give notice till 9.30 in the morning. I am giving you opportunity to speak since you are a new Member. Please keep this in mind in future. I would give you opportunity to speak only if you give prior notice as per the rule.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be treated as a precedent. He is a new Member and listening to Laluji, I am calling a new Member.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, would I also be given opportunity to speak like this.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow you like this.

SHRI AFZAL ANSARI (Ghazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak. The hon. Member from Azamgarh had given notice for speaking on the menace of floods in Uttar Pradesh. I have taken your permission to speak on this subject only. I am obliged to you for giving me a chance to speak along with other Members.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh and eastern region is ravaged by floods every year but the onslaught of floods has created such a grim situation at present that it is difficult to put it in words. Floods have caused massive loss of lives and property there, crops have been ruined, houses have been destroyed, livestock has been killed, people have died and erosion of embankments of river Ganga is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, through you, I want to bring it into the notice of the Government that danger is looming large over not only on Ghazipur but also on the historically important village, Sherpur due to erosion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is your maiden speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AFZAL ANSARI: Many villages in Birpur, Gaundaspur, Karanda, Bajmania etc. block are facing the danger due to erosion. ...*(Interruptions)*

I request the UPA Government to be impartial in its approach and allocate at least Rs. 1 thousand crore as assistance for the floods ravaged areas and the areas where erosion is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice in advance.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Any critical comment will be very seriously dealt with. Do not think that you are too clever, Shri Uday Singh. What are you talking? You should have the decency to accept the Speaker's ruling. If you are not satisfied, you cannot go on making observations sitting there. You should learn how to behave. Do not try to browbeat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given opportunity to 45 hon. Members. I cannot allow your matter. You have not followed the rules. You have not got the decency to understand that also. Everybody is too clever.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, kindly allow him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called six hon. Members from your Party also. It is violation of rules. He cannot make allegations like this. There is a procedure to be followed. You all know about it. I do not have any ill-will against Shri Uday Singh. I had appreciated his speech last time.

*[Translation]*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): There has been a steep rise in the number of road accidents on Shahajapur on Rajasthan border to Behror stretch on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway No. 10 in recent years. ...*(Interruptions)* Behror has a referral hospital equipped with orthopaedic and surgery specialist but there is no trauma centre. In absence of said centre persons injured in road accidents do not get required treatment. ...*(Interruptions)* Behror is a very important place on Delhi-Jaipur road. So, I urge the Government to open a trauma centre there and also provide blood storage facility, a respirator, ventilator monitor and also set up trauma IC Unit so that lives of thousands of seriously injured persons can be saved. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would urge hon'ble Minister of Health to set up a Trauma Centre at Behror. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Accommodation should not be treated as weakness on the part of the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You go on saying, your chance is receding.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to apprise the hon. Railway Minister of the condition of the trains which are plying on narrow gauge from Pathankot to Joginder Nagar. Their condition is becoming pathetic. The passenger bogies are in a dilapidated condition. Rain water pours in the compartments, and they require immediate repair and maintenance. The toilets in the trains are not maintained properly. Seven trains are running up and down daily on this track. The condition of the engines is not satisfactory and there is frequent breakdown of engines on the way. It requires immediate replacement of old engines with new engines. These engines are functioning for the last 35 to 40 years which have completed their life term.

The Kangra Valley is famous for temple tourism. A lot of pilgrims visit Kangra Temple and Jawalamukhi Temple during *navratras* from the adjoining States of UP, Bihar and other States.

Keeping in view the difficulties of the pilgrims and tourists, the Railway authorities should take immediate steps for improvement of the Railway network from Pathankot to Joginder Nagar. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hiten Barman. If you want to speak in Bengali in future, there is no bar. You give notice. You can speak now.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, I gave the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I will find out.

\*SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): In 1950 Cooch Behar was attached to the Indian sub-continent but the Central Government failed to provide adequate economic assistance to this district. Dinhata is the area adjoining Bangladesh. In this area about 7 lakh people are divided between Shitai and Dinhata. In Shitai area, more than 1 lakh of people are cut off from Dinhata due to lack of proper communication and transport facilities. They don't have easy access to schools, colleges, hospitals, etc. the farmers are also facing difficulty in such that they are not being able to sell their crops due to the hindrance of Singimari river. There is no bridge to connect the two areas. Even the soldiers and BSF cannot reach the border areas easily. I would like to remind you that during the Indo-Pak war of 1965 just because of the absence of this bridge our soldiers could not reach the Barthar area bordering Bangladesh.

So I would like to say that the bridge should be constructed at Adabari Ghat immediately for the benefit of the people at large and for our security also. Especially the Defence Ministry should take proper steps to construct it.

I thank you for allowing me to raise this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat): I would like to draw attention of hon. Minister of Railways to gauge conversion of a very important line. The gauge conversion work on Kondila-Jabalpur line, connecting two states, is in progress. It was started in 1998. Under said project gauge of 186 kms long line was to be converted, whereas, during last 6 years, work could be completed in 42 kms stretch only. If gauge of remaining 194 kms is not changed, the scheme would remain useless. Completion of

said scheme on south eastern route will shorten the distance by 270 kms which would save a lot of money. I would like the said work to be taken on priority basis and budgetary constraints should not come in its way. I would like the work to be taken up without any delay.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a view to create a rift between tribals and non-tribals in Jharkhand, the Government of Jharkhand had made a provision of unilateral reservation in election to the Panchayat and it has created tension between tribals and non-tribals in Jharkhand. It may disturb the peace of the State any time. Election to 4558 Panchayats is scheduled to be held in the State and the State Government has made provisions for reservation for tribals in 2026 Panchayats. The Government has divided unilaterally and reserved several Panchayats for tribals. The population of tribals in said areas is very less. The Government has not acted impartially in providing reservation to women there. Women have not been allotted reserved seats. They have been provided reservation in unreserved areas. Harijans have been neglected altogether. 70 percent population comprises of Harijans, whereas Harijans have not been provided reservation in such areas. Therefore, many a disparities exist in it. All the sections of society have not been given proper representation, causing discontent amongst the people. The partisan attitude of the Government adopted for reservation has led to protests, bandhs by the people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the post of Mukhia is single like that of Prime Minister or Chief Minister, hence it should not be reserved. Today, we are of the view that the Mukhia is solely responsible for development in the village and the State Government want to decentralize the power in villages by reserving the post of Mukhia. Reserving said post will definitely lead to agitation. They are resorting to Jharkhand bandh. ...*(Interruptions)* We can not develop the nation by dividing the people rather we can develop it by uniting the people. The State Government of Jharkhand has created a condition wherein tribals and non-tribals are fighting with each other. 24 percent population is of tribals and 76 percent non-tribals. 76 percent population has been deprived of reservation. It has created tension in the State.

My submission is that the Government should interfere in it and order a stay on election.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

...*(Interruptions)*

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You spoke very well.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister can change it. The Government should amend the rules otherwise it would pose problems.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, he has raised the issue and it is good that you are helping him.

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Sir, Please give me also a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You may associate.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Instead you please give me a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice, so you can't be given a chance.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: You do not know anything of the situation prevailing there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I may not know anything, but you do not know even the rule-book.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not to be recorded. Only what Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan says will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Sir, I, too have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : If you have given the notice. Then what happened to that?

SHRI CHANDER SHEKHAR DUBEY: Sir, what he has just told about Jharkhand. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on records. Your name would be recorded if you want to associate.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Sir, I, too have given a notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, let me come to the next subject. I will come to the next subject. Almost 50 hon. Members have been called today. Even then everybody is threatening me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Fifty Members have given notice.

[English]

This is the response that I am getting.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you speak and please be brief. I have to be angry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody thinks of this House, the image of this House outside.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I take this opportunity to highlight an important issue so long as the State of Kerala is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Merely harassing the Chair does not help.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, the Trivandrum International Airport is one of the income-earning airports in India, but the passenger amenities that are available there are far below the international standards. Even the bare necessities have not been provided there. In spite of our repeated requests, the Ministry of Aviation has not taken any concrete steps towards the development of this international airport at Trivandrum. It has already been sanctioned that a second international terminal will be opened shortly. Even that announcement was made some years ago. But nothing has happened. I met the Minister several times and requested him to take immediate steps for starting work for the second international terminal. So far he has not done anything.

So, I take this opportunity to bring to this notice, through you, that immediate steps should be taken towards the commencement of work for the second international terminal at Trivandrum.

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MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the office of the Central Haj Committee is located in Mumbai. While the said Bills was being passed by the Lok Sabha in 2002, I had humbly submitted that it is not practicable to establish the office of the Haj Committee in Mumbai. Earlier the people from all over the country used to go for Haj from Mumbai by ship. Later the service of the ship was discontinued in 1995. Now plane service is available from 15 locations all over the country. The plane service is available from three locations in Maharashtra whereas 60 percent of the total Haj pilgrims are from North India. ...*(Interruptions)* Fifty Members of Parliament of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Jharkhand have submitted a memorandum to the hon'ble Prime Minister and have requested that the office of the said Committee should be located in Delhi. So, through you, I would like to request that the office of the Central Haj Committee should not be located in Mumbai. When all the important meetings are held in Delhi, there is no rationale to locate the said office in Mumbai. The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, who looks after Haj affairs, is sitting here. I would like to request him to ponder over it and in view of the inconvenience of the 122 people, the office of the Central Haj Committee should be set up in Delhi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shankhlal Manjhi, Shri Harikewal Prasad, Shri Paras Nath Yadav and Shri Tufani Saroj are associating themselves on this matter. All of them are covered and their names would be recorded.

Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey — Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told about shortcomings of BSNL telephone and post paid as well as pre paid connections all over the country. I would like to draw your attention to the shortage of telephone connections especially in Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon districts of Chhattisgarh State. There is shortage of telephone connection there and many people have applied for telephone connection. Nearly one lakh persons are on waiting list. Similarly, there is acute shortage of post paid and pre paid SIM cards of BSNL and there is waiting list for the same. Prepaid connections are being issued, however, irregularities are being committed in the matter of the post paid connection, showing the shortage of the same and post paid SIM cards are being sold at the higher price. I would like to submit to the Government that there is need to provide telephone connections in Takhtpur, Mungeli,

Patheria, Pandariya, Normi, Bilha, Gaurella, Pindra and Sakari in Bilaspur district. There is a need to provide SIM cards there. Besides, mobile service is also required there. The circular in this regard has been released and the names of those people have been mentioned therein. Till now the mobile service have not been started in these areas.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to one more thing. There was a telephone office at Marwaha Pindra in Bilaspur district which has now been shifted to Katghora. It is on account of this that there is discontent among people of the area and there is uncertainty about telephone services there. The people of that area are deprived of telephone services and facing difficulties in the absence of their personal phones. So, I would like to request that the telephone services should be streamlined in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh and postpaid and prepaid connections should be made available in this area. The waiting lists for telephone connection should be cleared at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have spoken well. Now let your colleagues speak also.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Through you, I would like to submit that the process of selection of the people living below poverty line (BPL) should be streamlined so as to ensure that only bonafide people could get benefit. The recommendation of the local Members of Parliament should be made mandatory for the said purpose so that the Government may get correct information in this regard. It is essential from this view point also, that a number of times the Government officials have to recommend for rich people in the name of the poor under the pressure of the influential persons or due to bribe. In this way, the people living below poverty line are deprived of their right.

Sir, poor persons continue to starve while comparatively rich persons remain well to do. Such complaints have also been made by some other hon'ble Members of Parliament during the course of discussion with them. Such benefit should not be provided without the recommendations of the local Members of Parliament. I hope and have confidence that the Government will seriously take action on my suggestions to ensure that only eligible persons may get this benefit.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Sir, now I am present in the House. If you permit, I would like to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not behaved in a right way.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: I am sorry for this.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, please speak.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Sir, I had given notice on the same issue that has been raised in the House by my colleague Shri Sunil Mahato ji.

MR. SPEAKER: OK, you please associate yourself with him.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Sir, I would like to express my views in brief. The Government of Jharkhand has created differences between tribal and non-tribal population. The State Government is going to hold Panchayat election in the State while 76 per cent population of the State are opposing the move. It is on account of the discontent among people of the State that the situation is very tense. In this situation the Panchayat election should be postponed and there should not be reservation for the single post and in view of the discontent prevailing among 76 percent of the people, the panchayat election should be held after abolishing the provision of reservation for the single post.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, thank you for the opportunity. In my Bellary Lok Sabha constituency, there are a lot of railway-related problems. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways, through you, to introduce a train from Chennai to Mumbai and Mumbai to Chennai via Bellary and another train between Guntakal and Kottur. This is my request.

Sir, there are no daytime trains between Guntakal and Hubli which is causing a lot of hardship to the passengers, public of the region. Prior to gauge conversion there were several trains passing through Bellary during daytime. I would request you to kindly re-introduce all the trains which were prevailing prior to gauge conversion.

The Hampi Express which is running between Hubli and Bangalore is having only one General compartment and very less number of Sleeper class coaches. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly introduce at least one AC 3-tier coach and two General compartments and at least three Sleeper class coaches to that Hampi Express.

There are a lot of business activities in that area and if all these facilities are provided by the Railways, it would be very convenient and very helpful to the people of Bellary.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this very good opportunity. In my

constituency, Chamrajanagar, there is a river called Kabini which is a tributary of Cauvery. On this river, there is one bridge which was constructed at the time of Britishers. That bridge is very weak. Two National Highways, N.H. 209 and N.H. 212, pass through that bridge. There are so many vehicles that are passing through the bridge. It is a very old bridge.

I would request that the Government of India and the State Government must take up this one immediately.

MR. SPEAKER. It is on record today.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, your notice is very vague. It relates to the State Government. Therefore, it cannot be allowed. You have raised a law and order issue of the State.

Excepting those notices which I could not admit under the rules, I have allowed today every hon. Member. In total, I have allowed 56 hon. Members. His matter is not admissible. I am sorry. It is a State matter and not admissible.

I think I am at least entitled to a little 'thank you' from all of you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had called my name hence I am on my leg.

MR. SPEAKER: I had called you to inform you about the non admissibility of your notice. Your notice has not been admitted.

13.04 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not going to be recorded. That has not been allowed and that will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

\* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not going on record. That has not been allowed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ram Kripal ji, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged that. That is not going to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

13.05 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we are taking Matters under Rule 377. Those hon. Members who want to lay their matters on the Table of the House, they are allowed to lay them on the Table of the House. They may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to start work on rope-way at Girnath Parvat in Junagarh district of Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two famous mountains in Junagarh district of Gujarat namely Girnath Mountain and Datar Mountain. It is said that Girnath is even older than the Himalayas. A holy place of Jains and Hindus is situated on Girnath. Similarly there is a holy place of Muslims and Hindus on Datar Mountain. This place is also said to be the birthplace of famous devotee Narsing Mehta. That is why this place is quite important from the point of view of religion and tourism.

Permission for constructing a rope-way on this Mountain was granted a long time back for which an agency has also been deployed but work has not yet begun in this regard.

I request the Government of India to get this work completed as early as possible keeping in view the importance of this religious place.

\* Treated as laid on the Table.

- (ii) **Need to widen run-way at G.N.B. Airport, Guwahati for resuming operations of international flights**

[English]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): The G.N.B. Airport, Guwahati has been declared as an International Airport without having proper infrastructure. Few days after operation of an international flight, the services were closed down.

Secondly, Hajis from N-E States were promised categorically that they could avail direct flight from Guwahati to Jeddah with effect from 2004-05 Haj. The runway of Guwahati Airport was unfit for big Air-grafts, and Jeddah Airport Authority refused landing of small Air-crafts at Jeddah. At the last moment, the Hajis from Guwahati were carried to Kolkata and they were sent to Jeddah causing great inconvenience. Knowing the problems very well, the Civil Aviation Department has not taken any step to widen the runways of GNB Airport at Guwahati to avoid further inconvenience.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to pay due consideration for widening the run-way and also, resuming operation of international flights immediately.

- (iii) **Need to construct a flyover at the crossing in Bulsar, Gujarat linking National Highway No.8 with Bhallad-Narol-Selvas-Daman road**

[Translation]

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL (Bulsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways towards the crossing on Ahmedabad-Mumbai National Highway-8 in my constituency Bulsar which leads to Bhallad-Narol-Selvas-Daman.

Sir, apart from the Gujarat Development Corporation, there are around 5000 factories situated nearby this crossing. Large number of heavy vehicles pass through this crossing. Thousands of habitants of my constituency are working in these factories and a lot of their time is wasted at this crossing as the government has not constructed a bridge at this place on the National Highway-8.

Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to construct a bridge on this crossing on National Highway-8 which links Bhallad-Narol-Selvas-Daman.

- (iv) **Need to clear the pending proposal for doubling and electrification of railway line from Bibinagar to Nadikudi and construct a railway line between Obulavaripalli and Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted following two proposals for inclusion in the railway budget and also for immediate necessary action:-

1. Request for doubling and electrification of the railway line from Bibinagar to Nadikudi.
  - The Bibinagar to Nadikudi railway line is an important section of the South Central Railways, connecting the twin cities to the coastal districts.
  - Prestigious trains like the Hyderabad- Chennai Express, the Narasapur Express and the Falaknuma Express run on this route, as the travel time is less.
  - The trains on this route are fully occupied and there is constant demand from the public for more trains on this route.
2. Construction of railway line from Obulavaripalli in Kadapa District to Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore District.

A railway line is required to provide access to Krishnapatnam Port for the mining areas in Bellary - Hospet region. This line will also help in development of the hinterland in Kadapa district. The total length is 114 kms and the project will cost around Rs.450 crores. State Government is committed to 13% of equity up to Rs. 20 crores for land acquisition for the Rail Project. This project may be expedited.

As these proposals are pending for the last two years, I urge upon the Union Minister to kindly accept these proposals at the early date.

- (v) **Need to take steps for providing accommodation to the Employees of Bokaro Steel Plant, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bokaro Steel city unit of Bokaro Steel plant, under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is situated in

Jharkhand. The officers and employees of the State Government have been occupying the residential units of Bokaro Steel Plant for the last several years which has caused much dissatisfaction among the officers and employees of the plant as they have not been able to avail the facility of residence. The officers and the employees of the State Government are still living in the residences of Bokaro Steel Plant though the State Government has constructed its residential units and they are not even paying rent despite being presented with the bill by the plant due to which the State Government now owes crores of rupees to the Bokaro Steel Plant as rent.

Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the officers and the employees of the Bokaro Steel Plant in getting residences and request the Government to ensure that the payment of crores of rupees due to the plant is made and it gets back its residential units.

- (vi) **Need to Review the decision for delimitation of seats in the legislature of Uttaranchal based on Census of 2001**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the delimitation of seats in the Assemblies of various States in the country is being done by the Delimitation Commission under the Delimitation Act, 2002 based on Census of 2001. The hilly state of Uttaranchal is also included in it.

The Uttaranchal State was constituted on 9 November, 2000 and the delimitation of its 70 assembly constituencies was done in 2001 on the basis of which the present elected government is functioning in the State.

As per the ongoing delimitation exercise, nine Assembly constituencies are proposed to be excluded from the hilly regions of Uttaranchal and it is on account of this that discontent is rife among people in the region. The hilly region shares its boundary with the international border of China, Tibet and Nepal. The incidents of Maoist violence in Nepal is continuously on the rise. In this situation the people of the region are apprehensive that while on the one hand their representation in the state Assembly will be reduced and on the other hand the developmental works being done through the MLAs will be hampered in the already backward hilly areas which might result in making them more backward and the peaceful state Uttaranchal could also be turned into a disturbed area.

It is on account of the success of family planning programme and migration of people of the region in search of employment from the hilly region of Uttaranchal that the

population of the region has declined. A ceiling has been put in regard to the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies till the year 2026. Similarly, a ceiling on the number of constituencies of State Assembly should also be applied for the similar length of time i.e. 2026.

So, I urge upon the Government that keeping in view the peculiar condition of Uttaranchal, it should also be kept out of the ambit of Delimitation Act as is the case of Jammu and Kashmir or the delimitation of 2001 itself should be recognized and the existing delimitation process should be quashed or at least like Lok Sabha it should be suspended upto 2026.

- (vii) Need to run Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express daily and also introduce a pair of Rajdhani Express train between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bhubaneswar via Cuttack**

*[English]*

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): The 2421-2422 and 2443-2444 Bhubaneswar-Rajdhani Express trains are running four days a week covering only four out of thirty districts of Orissa. The rail users of the remaining districts who frequently visit Delhi are not able to get the benefit of these trains. If another pair of Rajdhani Express train is introduced between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bhubaneswar via Cuttack and vice-versa on the remaining three days of the week on the Hirakud Express route touching Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Angul a large number of passengers from the State of Orissa will be greatly benefited. Two link Express trains one from Koraput and another from Sambalpur via Kesinga and Balangir and another Berhanpur to Bhubaneswar should also be introduced to enable the passenger in these areas to board the Rajdhani express at Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar respectively.

As such, I demand that the Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express be made a daily train without any further delay.

- (viii) Need to withdraw move to impose anti-dumping duty on viscose and filament yarn besides abolishing duty on man-made yarn**

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): A large number of people in the country get their employment from the textile industry. The number of people connected with the textile industry runs into many lakhs. A country earns around 13 billion dollars by the export of textile products. At present on all the man-made yarn there is a duty of 16 to 24 percent but on the other hand the Government has abolished the duty on the cotton yarn with effect from the budget for the year 2004-2005. This has resulted in less demand of the polyester

yarn and the industry connected with the man-made fabric has been on the verge of closure. This is resulting in loss of jobs to many people and the Government is also losing foreign currency in the process. Moreover, now Government is thinking of imposing anti-dumping duty on the viscose and filament yarn. This will result in damaging indigenous industry. Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to impose anti-dumping duty on the viscose and filament yarn and on the other hand abolish the duty which is being collected on the man-made yarn at present to save the man-made fabric industry.

- (ix) Need to start work on Jodhpur-Barmer and Jodhpur-Jaisalmer National Highway and also clear the proposals for construction of roads under Central Road Fund for Jodhpur**

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, long back two National Highways were approved in my parliamentary constituency Jodhpur. One Highway is from Jodhpur to Barmer and another is from Jodhpur to Jaisalmer. However, even after lapse of two years, the construction work has not yet started. The people of the area are getting contentment only from the poles of the highways. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Road Transport and Highways that the construction work of both the National Highways should be started at the earliest. Besides this, the Rajasthan Government has sent many proposal for the construction of road in Jodhpur district under the Central Road funds. The proposal is pending till date.

Sir, Jodhpur is a border district. So the proposal for the construction of national highways under the Central Road Funds which is lying pending with the Government should be approved in the public interest at the earliest so that common people may get relief.

- (x) Need to review the procedure being followed for awarding contract of pantry car in trains by IRCTC limited.**

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, partiality is being shown while awarding the contracts of pantry car in trains by IRCTC Limited. Despite expiry of contract given by Railways in some trains, the tenders were not invited and the pantry is being operated on the adhoc renewal basis and it has been allotted to RK Group and Chautal group. The contracts in some other important trains like Goa Express, Mumbai, Kanyakumari Express, Punjab Mail, Pushpak Express, Bangalore-Jaipur Express, Gomti Express, Jhelam Express and Kushi Nagar Express etc. have

been awarded to the said two groups by the IRCTC Limited without inviting tender. It seems that IRCTC Limited is deliberately violating the entire rules to benefit the said two groups.

So, I would like to request that high level enquiry should be conducted regarding the contracts given to the two said groups by IRCTC limited and strict action should be taken against the officers found guilty and the tender should be invited for pantry cars for all those trains where contracts are on adhoc renewal basis and it should be allotted to the bonafide contractors.

- (xi) Need to review allocation of slots for programmes being telecast by Doordharshan Kendra, Kolkata with view to maximizing revenue earnings by the Kendra**

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that almost all the time slots for sponsored programmes of Kolkata Doordarshan are lying vacant for years together resulting in huge loss of revenue, whereas number of producers are waiting for allotment of time slots for their programmes duly approved by the Kendra with higher revenue long time back Kolkata Doordarshan in allotting time slots to new programmes at much lower price avoiding the bidding process. The slots that fetches Rs. 60,000.00 or more are now being allotted at Rs. 15,000.00 to the chosen few. Even highest revenue earning slots are allotted to selective people at as low as Rs. 10,000.00. This will further increase the loss of revenue. No positive action has been taken against any of the defaulters. No legal action has been initiated to realize payments from default producers. This is another area is loss of revenue.

No positive action has been taken to improve the quality of the programmes and as such private satellite channels are gaining advantage both due to quality and dearth of programmes at Doordharshan.

I request the Government to intervene and check the loss of revenue due to vacant slots, default-producers, allotment of slots at cheaper rates to selected few so that Kolkata Doordarshan can once again get back the glory of the highest revenue earning Kendra amongst all the Kendras of Doordarshan. I demand immediate action to make the Kendra profit making besides punishing the guilty.

- (xii) Need to expedite the setting up of Kayamkulam Fishery Harbour in Kerala**

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Kayamkulam

Fishery Harbour is a long pending demand. Government of India during the year 1994 granted administrative sanction for the scheme. The scheme could not be completed owing to the delay in the land acquisition and litigation in High Court. Besides, the changes in the hydrography and topography necessitated comprehensive model study. A revised project with an estimate for Rs. 1970.32 lakhs was submitted to the Government of India in 2004 after conducting the model study and also settling the litigation. But so far the Union Government has initiated no action for setting up the Harbour at Kayamkulam.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures for setting up the Kayamkulam Fishery Harbour without further delay.

- (xiii) Need to probe into the continuous depletion of Gangotri glacier in Himalayas**

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the size of Gangotri Glacier in Himalayas has been continuously shrinking over the past several years which might adversely affect the continuous flow of Ganga in future. The reasons for the shrinking of the glacier were given in a reply to a question on 18 April, 2005.

Necessary steps should be taken to maintain greenery in the Himalayan region to sustain the flow of Ganga. Tourists should be prevented from throwing litter in the area and the impact of measures adopted in this regard should be evaluated at regular intervals and a comparative study of other glaciers should be made so as to make sure whether shrinking in the size of glacier is taking place as a normal and natural phenomenon.

I request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to take necessary steps in this regard and apprise the House from time to time about them so that Ganga may flow forever.

- (xiv) Need to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no Navodaya Vidyalaya has yet been opened in district Hamirpur of my constituency in Uttar Pradesh even though the Ministry of Human Resources has a laid down policy that stipulates opening one Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district.

I request the hon'ble Minister to issue necessary instructions for sanctioning the construction of new school building in village Itayal, in tehsil Rathoi district Hamirpur in



my constituency and starting classes by setting up a temporary school in Rath.

**(xv) Need for proper repair and maintenance of National Highway No. 83 between Podhahi and Nadaul in Bihar**

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the length of National Highway No. 83 from Patna to Gaya is approximately 100 kilometers in which a stretch of approximately 25 kilometers between Podhahi and Nadaul is in a dilapidated condition. There are many potholes on this stretch. Accidents of passenger vehicles keep taking place every day. The work on the bridge under construction on Morehar River between Podhahi and Neema is still incomplete.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to undertake the renovation and repair of the said road and complete the pending construction work of the said bridge.

**(xvi) Need to provide basic amenities at Naimisaranya in Mirrikh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh with a view to promote tourism and pilgrimage in the year**

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT (Mirrikh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Naimisaranya is a famous religious place under Mirrikh Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh. There are several religious places like Ddahchi Kund, Pandav Kila, Hanumangarhi, Sudarshan Chakra and Ma Lalita Devi Mandir (Shaktipeeth) in this area. The pilgrims take a circumambulation (parikrama) of 84 kosa around Naimisaranya as a culmination of their pilgrimage to the four dhams (holy pilgrim sites) only after which their pilgrimage is considered to be complete. Not only the pilgrims of the country but foreign tourists also visit this place for 'Darshana'. The importance of these religious places is even described in our ancient 'Puranas'. Despite that there is an absolute dearth of basic necessities in these places even today. Funds are allocated every year to the states by the centre for the modernization of religious places, but proper attention is not being paid for the development and upgradation of these places.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take adequate measures to provide necessary basic facilities to set up an interstate bus terminal and for linking Naimisaranya and Mirrikh with railways and National Highways in order to develop this place as a tourist spot in view of its religious importance.

**(xvii) Need to include all the villages in Parbani district, Maharashtra under the jurisdiction of**

**Parbani Postal district for the convenience of the people.**

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 22 villages of my parliamentary constituency, Parbhani fall under the jurisdiction of Parbhani district but their Postal district is in Buldana which comes under the jurisdiction of Vidharba. The problem of lost mails and delivery of posts continues and the people are not able to receive their mails since the villages are under the jurisdiction of one district and the post office is under another district.

Through the House, I urge upon the Government that all the 22 villages of Parbhani district may be included under the jurisdiction of Parbhani Postal district.

**(xviii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for providing relief to the people affected by floods in the State**

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (Ichalkaranji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the heavy floods which hit Ichalkaranji district of Maharashtra recently.

Sir, there has been loss of life, livestock and crops on a large scale owing to heavy floods in Ichalkaranji. The powerloom industry has also faced a huge loss.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that compensation should be provided to the farmers, industries and common people of this district and more and more funds should be provided to expedite the relief and rehabilitation work.

**(xix) Need to declare Sunderbans Waterways as National Waterways**

*[English]*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sunderbans in West Bengal is the largest delta in Asia with an all-season rivers' stretch of 222 KMs. These rivers can be used for navigation. However, they remained unutilized so far. There was a proposal for declaring Haldia-Raimangal stretch or rivers, which is about 91 KMs, as National Waterways. The proposal has already been cleared but it is awaiting clearance by the Environment and Forests Ministry.

Sunderbans is one of the most industrially backward and poverty stricken areas of our country. If the perennial rivers of Sunderbans are utilized for navigation, it would provide employment opportunities to the local people including fishermen. This would also help in improving the socio-economic conditions of the area.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take early steps for declaring Sundarbans Waterways as National Waterways.

- (xx) **Need to amend Environment and Forest Conservation Act with a view to disburse surplus land to landless Scheduled Caste and poor people in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of people particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this country who do not possess even an inch of land to live on or for farming purpose in order to earn their livelihood. But on the other hand there is approximately 8 crore acre surplus land in the country. If this surplus land is disbursed among the landless people by making necessary amend-ments in the Environment and Forest Conservation Act then it will not only facilitate the adequate use of surplus land but would also provide land to poor, landless people and would also allow them to earn their livelihood through agriculture. This would also ameliorate the condition of poor landless people living below poverty line and would also enable them to cooperate for the development of the country by joining the mainstream.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take necessary effective measures for disbursing the surplus land among the poor and dalit community of the country after making necessary amendments in the Environment and Forest Conservation Act.

- (xxi) **Need to grant Rs. 800 crores for urban renewal programmes in Mumbai, Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai-South): Many residents of Mumbai live in old and dilapidated buildings. Throughout the year, and especially during the monsoon, these structures collapse, resulting in deaths of several residents, as well loss of property. The last few weeks have highlighted this acute problem, with the recent collapse of a building in Nagpada and Marine Lines during the early hours of Monday, August 29.

The Maharashtra Government had established the Mumbai Repair and Reconstruction Board with the responsibility of repairing and reconstructing these old buildings. Unfortunately, due to paucity of funds, the Board is unable to discharge its responsibilities effectively. In December 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi created the Prime Minister's Grant Project, to which the Union Government granted Rs. 100 crores for an urban renewal progra-

mme in Mumbai. The PMGP resulted in the repair and reconstruction of several dilapidated cessed structures.

There is an urgent need to grant more funds to the Mumbai Repair and Reconstruction Board through the National Urban Renewal Mission, so that the Board can carry out its objective. In this regard, I urge the Urban Development Ministry, Government of India to release Rs. 800 crores immediately to the Maharashtra Government.

13.08 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SECOND REPORT  
OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

AND

RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005 - contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take items nos. 9 and 10.

Shri Nikhil Kumar - not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mistry, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatsoever has been said without my permission, that will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mistry, nothing is going on record. Now, please sit down.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I have to raise a matter under Rule 377.

\*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may lay it on the Table of the House. That has already been decided.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not going to be recorded. Now, please sit down.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Speaker called out my name.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree. I will call you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khan, that is not going to be recorded. It has already been decided that Matters under Rule 377 should be laid on the Table of the House. That will form part of the proceedings.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had given notice. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Goyal, nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. First, you give notice.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Hon. Speaker had called out my name.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you. I will give you a chance. Please sit down.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Our Government conducted inspection. ...(Interruptions) What became of it?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is under consideration of the hon. Speaker.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Sir, I rise to support the Railways (Amendment) Bill. There is no doubt that we must have pride in the Indian Railways. Railways is the second biggest landholder in the country after Defence. Railways has 43 lakh hectares of land in which excess land is 43,000 hectares roughly and the amount of encroached land is roughly 2,240 hectares, which comes to 0.05 per cent of the whole Railway land in the country.

In our country, the population density is much more than many other countries and particularly from that end, better utilisation of land is a must for our country. That is why, I would like to support the Bill which is brought here. It is seen that the Standing Committee also has taken a detailed analysis of the Bill.

There is no doubt that the Bill is relatively a very loose one. It almost presumes that the Authority is a part of the Ministry. The separate identity and functioning of the Authority should be maintained, which probably is somewhat lacking in the proposed Bill.

I believe that in para 4, sub-Clause 2 (iii) at least some correction must be made, and it should be inserted that:

\*Not recorded.

\*Not recorded.

"...relating to traffic and transport..."

Otherwise, it will mean that the Authority is taking the role of a land developer in many places. It should not be so. It should be relating to the traffic and transport only, and not for matters other than that. An expert in land management should also effectively be a part of the Authority since it relates to the land issues.

I believe that there are 4 or 5 major points that should be specially taken care of. It is said that the land that is not getting utilised will be commercially used within 15-20 years. Probably, the Railways should consult the perspective plan also. Perhaps, some work would not be undertaken within 15-20 years, but it is very important for a planning process. Therefore, the perspective planning should also be kept in mind.

Secondly, I believe that the Standing Committee has submitted a Report to the Railway Ministry on the measures to be taken for commercial utilisation of the land. The same should be followed to generate revenue from non-traditional sources, namely, to beautify the station surroundings and improve the general ambience and aesthetics; to have commercial use of idle space; to provide modern amenities to the Railway users; to reduce traffic congestion by remodelling the station building and circulating areas; etc. It also recommended checking and preventing encroachments, and carrying out some commercial activities. This approach must be followed. Otherwise, the users would not be properly benefited. I believe that the passenger amenities and benefit of the users should be properly kept in mind.

Thirdly, I would like to raise the issue of land use. It is an issue relating to the State, but it is also important to note that a good amount of land in the Railways is basically given by the State free of cost. Therefore, this question should be tackled very categorically, and the States should be definitely consulted. I am not saying this because of the land use pattern, but it is a fact that the State has given land for development. Therefore, the programmes or projects should not be finalised without consulting the State. I believe that we should keep this also in mind.

I would like to give two references. Firstly, all of us might know the name of Shri Bankim Chandra who composed Vande Mataram. His birthplace is Naihati, which is adjacent to the Railway line. The State Government is looking forward to construct a museum in the name of Shri Bankim Chandra for the last 10-15 years. The State Government is ready to do it, but the Railway land also should be given for it. It is a fact that it could not be given for the last 15-20 years. This could create a feeling in the mind of the

people that the commercial utilisation is the only purpose relating to the passengers, local people, and the Railway users. Therefore, the opinion of the State Government should be taken into account in these matters.

Secondly, there is a squatter colony in Pandu within Maligaon in Assam on the Railway land for more than 50 years. It has schools, colleges, etc. for long, and it is not a problem that has arisen in the past 5-6 years. How will it be regularised? As far as possible, it must be regularised without the rehabilitation of those who are already there, particularly, the poor people. In some cases, the rehabilitation process must be taken care of very categorically.

I believe that we must have such a provision here. The fourth point is about the vendors, hawkers, etc. The Railway Minister is very kind enough in this regard. He has already announced that a pilot project will be taken up by the Eastern Railway, and the Ministry is already working on that. Adjacent to the railway stations, some commercial activities happen, and particularly the hawkers and the vendors cater to the needs of the passengers. The important question is as to how we can settle their problem.

We have seen that the level of encroachment is only 0.05 per cent, which is much less. If we do not settle the problems of the hawkers and the encroachers, I believe, commercialisation, development, etc., will not take on proper course. I believe, it should be taken up and the Minister has already agreed to consider it. The Members of Parliament of West Bengal met him and also the officials with a request to take up these issues.

With the money earned from commercialisation of railway land, the Railways want to create a fund to take care of passengers/users amenities. The fund should not be kept in a common pool, but it should be kept in a separate pool so that the railways can provide passenger amenities, reduce or eliminate traffic congestion, and so on. The fund can take care of these issues. Issues like rehabilitation, etc., are to be tackled and, I believe, it will be tackled properly.

The Bill should be accepted and I support the passing of this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to inform the hon. Members that I have a very long list of speakers who want to speak on this subject. The only difficulty that I have is that I want to get this Bill passed before two o'clock. So, I request the hon. Members to give only suggestions and not make any lengthy speeches.

Now, I give the floor to Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Is the House adjourning at 2 O'clock?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe so but I want this Bill to be passed by 2 p.m.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Railways (Amendment) Bill. The Hon. Minister has brought a Bill proposing amendments in the Railway Bill, 1989. 43000 hectare land is lying unutilized whereas there is encroachment on 2240 hectare land belonging to Railways. The Bill provides for commercial use of vacant land of Railways and creation of Railway Land Development Authority so that railway's revenue can be increased. Priority should be given for construction of shopping malls, parking plazas, hospitals and local bodies or setting up of joint ventures. It is estimated to generate an additional revenue of Rs. 10000 crore. I would like that priority should be given to leasing out land for 15 years to SCs, STs or OBCs.

Use of bio-diesel would be quite justified. In view of steep hike in the consumption of diesel, it would be quite beneficial to grow Jatropha crop on vacant land on either sides of railway tracks. Further, rupees 200 crore can be generated through commercial activities. So far as generation of Rs. 10 thousand crore through lease of land is concerned, it can be even higher if it is done systematically. He has asked Group 'D' railway employees to grow vegetables and fruits, trees on railway's vacant land. I am grateful to hon. Minister for such a kind gesture. It would check encroachment of railway land. It is a very good amendment.

Railway's vacant land is not just vacant, it has been kept so far development of railways. But in case where there is no immediate plan for expansion, I would suggest leasing out of such land for 50 years instead of 30 years. He has selected about 61 probable major sites for commercial use. Out of it, some sites are small. Final sanction has been given to 9 sites involving Rs. 21 crore and tender process for 17 sites involving Rs. 110 crore is in progress. My submission is that it should be expedited so that people get employment. Further, tenders cancelled for 24 sites should be reinvited.

With these words, I support the said amendment and conclude my speech. I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumar, earlier you were absent from the House.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumar, I had kept your name at number one.

[English]

But you were not present in the House.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I had just gone round the corner.

The proposal is to amend the Railways Act.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, you should allow all the political parties to express their views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I am giving them time.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill brought to amend Railway Act, 1989. At the outset, I would like to say that some of the hon'ble Members had criticized the Ministry of Railways yesterday. Not going into the criticism, I would place certain facts before the House which would make the House to complement railways. Indian Railways is sui generis. It daily runs about 13000 trains.

[English]

It is an incredible. Thirteen thousand trains run daily. Over 63,000 kilometres of track exists in this country. Whether we like it or not the fact is that these trains reach their destinations by and large on time. The other thing is that these trains carry substantial freight, something like 600 million tonnes. It is expected that this will rise to something like 650 million tonnes. I, therefore, compliment the Railway Ministry for running such a huge enterprise efficiently.

Having said that, I would like to place before the Railway Ministry certain real challenges. These challenges are mainly because of our economic liberalisation. The Planning Commission has also warned us that because of the proposed economic growth at the rate of seven per cent per annum, and industrial growth at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, something like 400 million middle class people would be graduating to the high income bracket. They would naturally be interested in carrying out trade and commerce. This would impact cargo movement. The ports that are today handling cargo will be under great pressure. It is expected

that there will be something like a 20 per cent annual expansion of ports in the country. Railways will have to gear up to meet this increased workload.

There is also the question of passengers. Today, the rail commuter is not satisfied with merely a very fast train, a Kalka Mail, or the Southern Express or the Frontier Mail. The commuters today are interested in superfast inter-city connecting trains, or trains that connect North with the South and East with the West and preferably they would like to enter the train somewhere at night and get up in the next region next morning.

Overnight connectivity is what the passengers want. This is something very important and the Railway Ministry must accept and acknowledge the challenge that is going to be posed before it by low-cost airlines. Already there are six low-cost airlines that are charging something like Rs.500 to Rs.3,000 per seat. Connectivity between Delhi and Bangalore and Delhi and Chennai are already there in the country and more are in the pipeline.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, this is something I must bring it to the notice of the hon. Railway Minister.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may ask the Minister of Railways, you may speak for 4 hours, I have no objection.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: But unfortunately whenever I rise to speak, I get less time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so, I give you more than sufficient time.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Low cost airline ticket costs Rs. 500 to 2000 for the same distance for which railways charges Rs. 2000 for AC II Tier. Therefore, the people would prefer travel by air and railways will have to do something to counter it. So far as its comparison with road transportation is concerned, railways freight carrying will have tough competition on the completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project, East-West corridor and North-South corridor. At present, railways carry 600-650 metric tonne freight. But will it touch the figure of 1000 metric tonne in next five years? Completion of North-South corridor and introduction of new containers by transporters will put burden on railways.

13.27 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

The Ministry of Railways have to do something serious

because not only as far as freight is concerned but also the challenge that would be posed to the Railways in connection with the passenger traffic when new ultra modern buses would be on the road, the Golden Quadrilateral project, etc. The Ministry of Railways should go in for a great deal of passenger comfort, and especially make arrangements at railway stations for the waiting time, etc. I would suggest that Railways should get out of the very old mould and go in for setting up a good mould and by opening shopping malls at these railways stations. It would attract passengers and at the same time if passenger comfort is provided to the running trains, it would be a good way to counter the challenge that would be posed by road transport.

Finally, I would like to mention that this is a good idea to make use of the real estate that the Railways have and which have been lying so long unutilised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I have given a Privilege Motion notice relating to the Government of Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: Can it be raised anytime, young man?

[Translation]

You come to my chamber. We would discuss and decide.

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: One point which should be borne in mind is that the real estate has to be made use of by the Railway Ministry. The Ministry of Railways must be aware of the threat posed by the land mafia. If the land mafia is not taken care of and steps are not taken to counter it, then this very good and useful step would be countered totally. In this connection, there will be need for better policing. I would suggest that the Railway Protection Force being in charge of only guarding the property of Railways should be done away with and the Railway Protection Force should actually take over from the Government Railway Police all over the country. Even if it is by amending the Constitutional position, the Railway Ministry should do it. This is something important and hence, I thought that I would mention it to the Railway Minister.

Finally, we are here to consider how best we increase the financial position of the Railways. The Railways have gone out of the way to set up a Power Construction Railway Corporation and it is supposed to carry out construction of a power project in Nabi Nagar in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going beyond the scope.

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: This is going too far.

Laluji, you have come. Your absence has been taken advantage of by them.

...(Interruptions)

This is something that should be left within the realm of the Power Ministry, and the NTPC should be able to carry it out. But even so, if at all the Railway Ministry is interested in carrying this out, something should be done. There has not yet been approval of the stage at the Union Cabinet. This should be done. This is a very important point. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to kindly take note of this.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Prasanna Acharya. You must conclude your speech within a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Railway Minister.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, please allow me also to speak.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister on one particular point. In Chapter II, which is going to be added after this Amendment is passed, point 4B says regarding appoint of four persons. The Government is going to appoint four persons to the Board of Authority apart from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Out of these four persons, three would be belonging to the Railways and the one would be from outside the Railway Administration.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Paranjpe ji, look at your watch. You are allotted only two minutes.

Sir, I do not understand why this provision "outside the Railway Administration" has been made. What is the intention of the Government?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, ask Shri Velu to reply to it, otherwise we will have to walk-out. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): It is to favour somebody. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a huge amount of revenue would be generated by developing the land. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, here, does it not seem that the Government has provided a scope for political maneuvering? Does the Government want to appoint any political person as a fourth person?

Sir, the hon. Railway Minister is not there to listen to me. I would wait till he comes.

Then, as you know, vast patches of land are now under litigation and a large amount of land has been acquired through the State Governments, which has been given to the Railways free of cost. During the pre-Independence days also, when the Railways got started, many lands were given to the Railways. Now, also many lands are under litigation and the Authority is bound to be dragged into litigation. Therefore, my suggestion would be that instead of appointing a political person, in the vacuum, let anyone from the Railway Authority or a person from the Judiciary should be appointed. It is because there is an apprehension that the Authority would be dragged into many litigations, let there be somebody from the Judiciary, at least.

MR. SPEAKER: He has got Ministers of State also, and they are sitting here. They are very able Ministers. He is also coming.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, my point is that out of the revenue which would be generated by the Railways by developing the land and by commercial utilisation of land, 50 per cent of the revenue should be spent in the same area from where the revenue has been received. Otherwise, revenue received from Mumbai would be spent in some other areas.

So, I am reiterating that 50 per cent of the revenue collected, should be utilised for the Railway development jobs from the same areas where it has been collected. That is my suggestion and it should be implemented.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have given very good suggestion.

Sir, my second point is this. It seems to be a very simple Amendment but it has many ramifications. It is because, whenever you pass through any railway line, in and around the platform, a large number of *jhuggies-jhonpries* are there; the poorest of the poor people of our society are staying there since time immemorial. Some people are staying there since more than last 30 years. So, has the Government not any social obligation for these people? For commercial

utilization of such lands, the Government is going to evict these people. Therefore, before doing this, does the Government not have its moral and social responsibilities to take care of these people who are going to be evicted for commercial utilization of those spaces?

Sir, it is a very important social issue that is going to arise out of this Amendment Bill. So, before doing it, the Government should find some alternative for these poor people.

Sir, now I am on my third and last point.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making very good points. Although all your points are last points, I am allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I am really on my last point now. We have no objection if the Government is trying to redeem the land already grabbed by the people.

There are some land mafias also who have grabbed the land of the Railways. The Railways have also acquired many lands from the small, poor and middle-class farmers and the common people. But, they have not been given the due compensation for years together. So, my point is that the Government, the Railways, have a right to redeem their land but, at the same time, the Railways have a duty - they are duty-bound - to pay compensation to those people from whom lands are acquired. There are cases where even after three decades compensation has not been paid to the people from whom they were acquired. So, the Government has to take care of this also before going in for the amendment. I would not oppose the amendment being carried through by this House, but the Government has to give very serious consideration to these points before carrying out these amendments. This is a very simple amendment but has got very serious ramifications on the society, particularly on the downtrodden.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, speak something for your leader.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me a opportunity to speak on this Bill. I would also like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister to bring forward this Bill.

As we all know that earlier Railways used to run in loss but the hon'ble Minister has made it a profit earning department with his skill and efforts. Presently, Railways is running in profit of Rs. 10 thousand crores and it is for the

first time in the history of railway that the hon'ble Minister of Railways has reduced the rail fare by one rupee. Before that railway had been increasing its fare. Earlier the Railways department was a liability for the Government, however, the hon'ble Minister with his efforts and public cooperation has done a wonderful thing and has made the Railways a profit making department. Consequently, Railways will not only invest for the development of the railway rather it is also in the position to contribute to the government treasury.

Secondly, the hon'ble Minister has announced to constitute an Authority for the utilization of thousands of hectare of unused railway land. Under this initiative, efforts will be made to utilize the railway land which is not being used and is under encroachment. Besides, this land will also be used for cultivation on large scale. The poor labourers will also be benefited thereby. I would like to give a few figures. The railways has 100.23 lakh hectare of land, out of that 43 lakh hectare of land is unused and most of it is under encroachment. The utilization of this land is a commendable step and the words fall short to welcome it. The entire House is supporting it. So, I am confident and as has been estimated that once the Bill is passed and the law is formulated with regard thereto then this land will be utilized and Railway will get an additional income of Rs. 10 thousand crore. It is a welcome step.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to my parliamentary constituency, Patna. The hon'ble Minister has himself visited it. There is a Patna Ghat near Patna Parcel godown where there is a vast piece of land which is not being used for commercial purposes because it is under encroachment. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that in his reply today itself he should announce that a commercial complex will be constructed there. The Minister had assured the people there and had also instructed his officers to construct a market complex so as to utilize that land for commercial purposes. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):  
And his work. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow prompting.

[Translation]

You are speaking well; however say something about the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am



[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

confident that the Government will utilize all the unused land of railway in Bihar as well as all over the country and once the Bill becomes a law the Government will get additional power to implement this proposal and as a result of which the Government itself on a large scale. ...*(Interruptions)* Dairy? I would like to request the Government to set up dairies for the poor people on this vacant land mentioned under this Bill. The hon'ble Minister has rightly said this and it is a commendable step.

With these words I welcome this Bill and wish that the Railway may progress under the leadership of hon'ble Minister, the dreams of hon'ble Manmohan Singhji and Soniaji may come true and Indian Railways may become number one railway in the world. While concluding I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, this Bill is a small Bill. It wants to set up a Railway Land Development Authority, to develop railway lands.

This proposal was made during the Ninth Plan period by the Planning Commission and after eight years, this proposal is being considered now. That means, the previous Government did not do anything about it. When this proposal is coming up now, I would like to bring some of the problems before the House.

There was a proposal to plan a certain tree called *Jatropha*, by which bio-diesel could be produced. At that time, according to the calculations, it was told that Rs.3,000 crore worth of bio-diesel would be produced by the railways' wastelands. That would have been very good, but I do not know whether something has happened to that. If the hon. Railway Minister could enlighten this House as to what happened to that proposal, it would be useful.

When 43,000 hectares of vacant land is going to be developed, I would like to bring forth one of my apprehensions. It is said that more than 2,000 hectares of land is under encroachment. Everyone knew that for the last 50-60 years, very poor, landless people are finding some place to stay along the railway lines; maybe good or maybe bad - that is a different matter, but they are staying there. There are also some shops on the railway lands, run by people. Does the new proposal mean throwing away of those people mindlessly? Does it mean complete eviction of those people? I would request the hon. Minister to think twice about it. It would be very unfortunate if those people are just thrown out, because you have a plan to develop the lands. I would say that you have to have some alternate arrangements for them.

There is another thing that I would like to bring to your notice. Railway land is not actually the land purchased by the Railways or owned by the Railways. Railway land is given by the States, either free of cost or on lease. So, the State Governments should be consulted before the Authority takes its decision to develop the land. Their opinion should also be taken into consideration on how these lands should be developed.

While welcoming this Bill, I would like to ask whether this Authority which they are going to set up, the Railway Land Development Authority, was necessary at all to develop those lands. For this Authority, rules are to be framed by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: We want to finish it by 2 o'clock.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I will conclude in a minute.

Everything is being done by the Government. But now you want to constitute another Authority under the Ministry. I feel that the Ministry itself could have done this development work without going in for another Authority. This is what I would like to say.

Anyway, I extend my support to this Bill. Our apprehension is that the landless poor will be thrown out of their dwelling units or their workplace and I would request that the House should be assured that it would not happen.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): On behalf of the DMK Party, I welcome this Bill. After a long time, maybe hundred years or more, this Bill has been brought before the House. For all these hundred years the poorest of the poor in the country protected the land. My request is, those who protected the land for such long years, should be rehabilitated. The Bill mentions about lease. Some of the land, adjacent to the railway station or railway track, is the prime land. That land may be utilised for commercial purposes. But, the unused land, which is far from the railway station or railway track - which was used to store the material and was called as the material yard - will not be used in future also. On that land, poor people have been staying for the last 40-50 years. In this Session I had also asked a Short Notice Question and the Railway Minister, Shri Velu had replied that there is no proposal to rehabilitate them. I would request the Minister that in this Bill it should also be provided that all such unused land, which may not be used in future also, should be sold to the poor in a subsidised manner at low cost.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I am grateful to you for giving an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to support Railway (Amendment) Bill 2005 moved by the hon'ble Minister of Railways. This Bill covers many issues of public interest. We all are concerned with it. The utilization of railway land depends on the nature of land and its market values. The land which is located near cities should be used for commercial purpose and the land which is under rural areas should be leased out to the villagers and the small farmers. However, many poor people have settled on this land and they have constructed their own houses there and are rearing cattle. They should not be displaced. If it is essential to displace them, then first they should be rehabilitated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far the hon'ble Minister has said about collecting revenue, I would like to submit that one bridge has been constructed by railway in Faizabad (Ayodhya) with the cost of Rs. 1 billion, however, it is not being used. The trains do not run on this bridge. Several times I have drawn the attention of the hon'ble Minister in this regard, however. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mitrasen Yadavji, this Bill is not about rail lines or bridges.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: O K, Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these words I conclude and support this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since we do not listen the reply of the tainted Ministers and our party has been boycotting them. So as a protest, we stage walk-out.

13.49 hrs.

*(At this stage, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I express my gratitude towards all those hon'ble Members who took part in the discussion on a resolution presented on the basis of report of Railways Convention Committee, 2004 and Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2005 to make commercial use of vacant railway land. I would also like to express my gratitude towards the Members who do not get chance to speak because I can understand the feelings of those Members. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude towards those Members.

Sir, as per Railway Act, 1989, railway can neither sell any part of its land nor can it allow commercial use of its

land. Therefore, this bill was presented to make amendment in section 211 of the Act. Along with it a Government resolution has also been presented on the second report of Railway Convention Committee, 2004. Both Government Resolution and Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2005 have been presented for consideration and passing in the House.

Sir, Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee had presented its report in regard to condition of railways in the year 2001-02. Experts had made a mention of the pathetic condition of railway in that report. At that time NDA Government was in power, they were talking about 'India Shining', but Railway was in a very bad shape. All former Ministers of Railways had intended to find out the ways to exploit the railways, and stop the wagons. They paid least attention towards increasing the income of railways. The Ministers had to intervene for the allotment of rakes. Many people used to queue up at the Railway Bhawan for the allotment of rakes. This is a revolutionary step and UPA Government has taken the initiative. Things do not happen on their own. It requires a lot of efforts and inspiration. UPA's Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is present here, all this is happening because of her efforts and inspiration. The previous coalition governments were 'front' for the namesake and had brought the country to the brink of ruin. Several revolutionary achievements, one after another have gone to the credit of the UPA's Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and UPA Government. It has done work for villages, poor and farmers. Requisite laws are being enacted touching upon those spheres which are untouched till now.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know you are over burdened and have many hurdles to cross. It is not an easy job to dispose off the business of the House and carry out the responsibility that comes with the office that you are holding. Today, the business which the House is going to conduct under your Chairmanship is historic. The financial condition of railways was very bad. Till the end of year 2001-02, the Indian Railways was unable to pay the dividend of Rs. 2823 crore. After registering improvement in the financial condition, our income has been continuously increasing without making any increase in freight charges and passenger fares. I daily take report and monitor the situation with a view to ensure that our income is increasing continuously. During the regime of the previous Governments, particularly the NDA Government freight charges and passenger fares, were increased even then railway continued to run in losses. At the end of this year the balance sheet of railways is likely to show an increase of Rs. 10 thousand crore. Therefore, after consultation with Sonia ji and hon'ble Prime Minister, I have decided to reduce the passenger fare by Rs. one. The objective of railways is not only to earn profits, but also to

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

ensure that the profits percolates down to the rural population which will further increase our income enabling us to reduce the fares. We will reduce the burden on the poor. Today, the Ministry of Railways is in a position that the dividend which it was unable to pay and which was supposed to be paid back in nine years, would be paid back in eight years. I would like to assure that we will pay back this amount to the Government of India not in 8 years, but in 5 years.

Sir, according to Railway Convention Committee the dividend rate of year 2005-06 is equal to the recommended rate of year 2004-05. Before the year 2004-05, this rate was 7 percent. But in view of falling interest rates and Railway's failure in regard to investments, the Committee has reduced this rate to 6.5 percent. This is a welcome step.

I express my gratitude towards the Railway Convention Committee for this. The Indian Railways stands second after the Ministry of Defence in regard to property and assets. Railway possess 4.23 lakh hectares of land, out of which 2200 hectares of land is encroached upon and 43000 hectares of land is vacant. A revolutionary amendment in Railway Act is being made in regard to railway land in metropolitan cities like – Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi. After carrying out this amendment, we will make use of that land. After all, from where the income would accrue. If earlier articles published in the newspapers and magazines and previous parliamentary debates are referred, hon'ble Members were of the opinion that the Railways would have to become self-reliant, its income has to be increased and the Union Government has to give dividend. The vacant land of railway should be used.

I used to read newspapers and magazines even when I was not a Minister. They contain suggestions by the hon'ble Members. We want to increase the income of railways keeping all those suggestions in the mind. We give agriculture land near railway line on lease to group 'C' and 'D' employees of railways for cultivation. A new plant named *Jatropha* has been developed, which is used for the production of bio-diesel. We are going to cultivate that plant on both sides of railway lines. ...*(Interruptions)* That crop is being cultivated in place of 'Behaya' ...*(Interruptions)* I do not know what route is taken by these people. ...*(Interruptions)* He represents such an area that has brought bad names to the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, hon'ble Members have mentioned about encroachments by slums dwellers. The UPA Government have clearly accepted in its Common Minimum Programme that they will not remove encroachments made by the poor through the use of force, rather persuade them to part from the encroached land, particularly that of railways. In the Federal

structure of the country, it's the duty of the State Governments to make houses available to the poor and landless people, as flats are being constructed for slum dwellers in Mumbai. The same situation is prevailing in Kolkata. In Delhi also, many slums exist near the railway line. These people keep approaching me and I would clearly like to say that our Government will not adopt any coercive strategy against any one. Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, Shri Manmohan Singhji, CPI, CPM, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and all other constituents of UPA have sympathy for the poor.

We understand their pain. The poor are our brethren. These people will part from that land willingly. We will not even need to take this issue with them. The bill presented in this House is a revolutionary step. Unemployed should be given either the work or unemployment allowance. Under this legislation Rs. 25 thousand crore would be spent in a phased manner. One member of every family would get employment through this law. When they would get job in rural areas, then why would they migrate to cities to survive on odd jobs. We are launching a campaign – "chalo gaon ki aur", "chalo khet khalihan mein." We would consider the suggestions that the hon'ble Members have given regarding the authority that we propose to constitute through this amendment. We are not going to favour anyone in the distribution of Railway's land nor we are going to sell it.

I have often found land lying vacant along with railway line. He might have seen railway factory of Jabalpur and Perambur in the south that used to cater to the needs of railways when steam engines were in vogue. There was vast tract of land in Rajasthan and other States. Railways have land in Delhi, Mumbai, Howrah and other cities. Besides these land, railways also owns some stadiums. We are not going to sell the land. We are going to lease out this land on long term and short term basis for commercial purpose under this law. When the authority is constituted, we would induct experts from outside, in case Railways does not have such expertise. Henceforth, our objective would be to ensure the utilisation of this land and make it commercially viable. We would not sell the railway's land. We do not have any surplus land. We have to expand the railways on the land lying vacant. Our Government and the hon. Prime Minister are committed towards turning Railways in to the power house of the infrastructure sector of the country. We are going to construct a Railway goods dedicated corridor for the expansion of the railways. Several hon'ble Members have said that the Railway department should return the land to the concerned state government. Whereas we are going to lease out this land and it would be decided by the authority, not by us so that railway's resources could not be misused.

Lakhs of people alight at Delhi Railway Station. We have got government accommodation but those who have money go to five star hotels. However, the passengers belonging to middle class and the rural persons who are slightly better off are lost as to which hotel or hospital they should head for, from where to buy medicines and what to eat? We intend to put the stations and nearby land in metropolitan cities to optimum use through this authority. People who travel abroad might compare our stations with the stations abroad. I want to develop all the stations on the lines of international standards. Our Government believes in delivering the goods, rather than making excuses. We believe in doing our bit. That is why, this historical and revolutionary step is being taken through this amendment. We would not sell the railway's vacant land, rather we would constitute an authority comprising expert officers from the railways in this regard. We would lease out this land on short term or long term basis. We have written to the state governments several times and it is the responsibility of the state governments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that there were large number of slum dwellers in Kolkata. The Government gave them land outside the city, made arrangements for their livelihood and rehabilitated them. Our Government is committed to the development of the country through development of each household which in turn would ensure a better revenue generation for the railways to develop the necessary infrastructure like motels, hotels, chemist shops as well hospitals in the vicinity of the railway stations besides the maintenance thereof. People interested in these commercial ventures are approaching us to get the land on lease. Claiming that they would beautify this place. That is why we have taken this step and Upper House has passed it. Therefore, it should be passed by Lok Sabha also. We would be asking for suggestions of the hon. Members from time to time, as we have done in the past. We would keep on taking revolutionary steps for the development of the railways. It is our railway and it is our prime land which is lying vacant and unused. This land should be used properly and all kinds of facilities should be made available there. Therefore, I request the august House to pass this bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in paras 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 of the Second Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2004) appointed to review the Rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 28.4.2005."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up the Railways (Amendment) Bill for voting.

The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

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

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.*

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

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move the motion:-

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed. "

*The motion was adopted.*

14.08 hrs.

## VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Fifth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 25th July 2005 is coming to a close today. In all, as many as 24 sittings lasting for about 158 hours were held. On two days, the House was adjourned after Obituary Reference to some past Members and also a sitting Member of the House. During the Session, the House transacted substantial number of important items of financial, legislative and other business.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General)

[Mr. Speaker]

2005-06; the Demands for Excess Grants (General) 2002-03; the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2005-06 and the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 2002-03 were discussed and voted by the House. The House also had a general discussion on Bihar Budget and the Demands for Grants on Account 2005-06 of the State were also voted by the House.

Two Adjournment Motions were discussed in the House. The first related to the failure of the Government to protect the eastern borders of the country against massive illegal immigration from Bangladesh and the second regarding the alleged failure of the Government to take action against the persons indicted by the Nanavati Commission. Both these Motions were negatived after meaningful debates lasting for over four and half hours and eight hours respectively.

The House passed 16 Bills during this Session. Some of the more important Bills passed were the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2005, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2005 and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill seeks to provide for enhanced livelihood security to the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

This path-breaking social welfare legislative measure was passed after a marathon debate lasting for over 13 hours. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005 passed by the House during the Session is another welfare measure to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family etc. During the debate on this Bill, women Members cutting across party lines made forceful submissions on the status of women in our society. I congratulate them for their valuable participation. Another path-breaking legislation which aims for gender equality was passed by the House yesterday, namely, the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2005 which provides for devolution of interest in coparcenary property to a daughter in the same manner as the son.

The House also had long and fruitful debates lasting over 20 hours on four important matters of urgent public importance under Rule 193. These debates, were on the Natural Calamities in the country; Statement of the hon. Prime Minister regarding his recent official visit to USA; errorism in the country including attack on Ram Janam Bhoomi Complex at Ayodhya; and rise in prices of essential

commodities including hike in petroleum prices. The discussion on the last matter, however, was not concluded. The House also took up combined discussion on the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, regarding approval of continuance in force of Proclamation issued by the President under article 356 in respect of the State of Bihar; and the Motion under Rule 184 expressing deep concern of the House over "Deteriorating law and order situation in the State of Bihar under President's Rule and also on the situation arising out of the Chief Secretary of the State proceeding on long leave." After discussion lasting over 6 hours, the motion under Rule 184 was negatived and the Statutory Resolution was adopted.

It has always been my endeavour to encourage Members to raise matters of urgent public importance through various parliamentary devices available. In this regard, I would like to inform the hon. Members that during the current Session alone, 25 important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. In addition, as many as 49 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects. The Prime Minister also made a Statement regarding his recent official visit to the United States of America.

As regards Private Members' Business, as many as 42 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill, namely, the Abolition of Child Labour Bill, 2005 seeking to ban the scourge of child labour was discussed and later on, withdrawn with the leave of the House. Discussion on another Bill seeking to amend the Constitution by insertion of new article 47A seeking establishment of primary health centre in every village with all medical facilities remained inconclusive.

A Private Member's Resolution urging the Government to bring forward a suitable legislation to reserve, at least, one-third of the seats for women in all the State Legislatures and both Houses received unanimous support from all sections of the House before it was withdrawn. Another Resolution regarding special economic package for speedy construction of National Highways and Railway Lines in two districts of Orissa remained part discussed.

During the Session, 439 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 77 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 3.5 Questions could be answered per day. I would request for suggestions from the hon. leaders and Members how to improve this figure. In addition, two Half-an-Hour discussions were raised along with one Short Notice Question. Written replies to 4,594 Unstarred Questions were given.

In this Session, the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented 17 Reports.

References were made in the House on the occasion of important anniversaries, namely, the 125th Birth Anniversary of Munshi Premchand, the 63rd Anniversary of the 'Quit India' Movement and the 60th Anniversary of dropping of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

As the hon. Members might have observed, an effort has been made during the Session to streamline the raising of matters of urgent public importance. These matters were hitherto being raised during the so-called 'Zero Hour'.

The number of matters sought to be raised was, however, of late becoming so large that it was very difficult to regulate the raising of such matters. Further, this was also eating into the time allotted for legislative and other business. As agreed to in the Leaders' Meetings - and I am obliged to them - held on 24th of July, 2005, a new procedure has been introduced since 1st of August, 2005. Only five matters of extreme urgent national or international importance are now permitted to be raised during the so-called 'Zero Hour'. The rest of the matters are raised by the Members after 6.00 p.m. About 350 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members even by sitting late in the night. The new procedure has not only ensured timely taking up of legislative and other listed business, it has also provided an assured opportunity to Members to raise their matters. Besides, hon. Members also raised 273 matters under Rule 377.

In this Session, we lost over 10 hours of time. A serious incident of breach of discipline took place, which was condemned by almost all sections of the House and it is hoped that in future such act of gross indiscipline will not take place.

The Lok Sabha sat late during the Session for over 36 hours on 18 days to compensate the loss of time due to interruptions etc. and complete the listed business. This was made possible because of the wholehearted support and willing cooperation that we received from all sections of the House. I commend this collective commitment of the Members for effectively participating in the debates with sincerity and enthusiasm.

I take this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members for the kind cooperation extended to me and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, the Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips for their unstinted cooperation and courtesy extended to me and my colleagues. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, the Press and the Media who extended utmost cooperation and sat with us through the late hours. However, on this occasion, I would like to appeal to my friends in the Media to spare

some more space in their coverage of the proceedings of the House, which I feel would enhance the prestige of both these pillars of our democracy. I also thank the officers and the staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Doordarshan, CPWD and other allied agencies for their assistance in the proper running of the House.

Now, the hon. Prime Minister to speak.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we come to the end of an important Session of the Lok Sabha. Indeed, one could call it a historic Session, for in this Session, we have taken several legislative steps to empower our people, especially the weaker sections of our society, and thereby to strengthen our body politic. Sir, I know there have been trying moments and I once again reiterate my sincere and heartfelt appreciation of your fortitude, wisdom, and your inestimable patience and transparent sincerity in trying to conduct the proceedings of this august House. ...*(Interruptions)*

However, I am sure you will agree with me when I say that in this Session we have been able to transact more business and conduct more meaningful debate than has been the case so far in the 14th Lok Sabha. I would like to place on record my own personal appreciation of your effort in this regard, as well as the appreciation of the Members of this House. I would like to thank the Deputy Speaker and the Panel of Chairmen for their fair conduct of the proceedings of this House. This has enabled us to transact considerable business in the House.

Sir, there has been a visible improvement in the volume of business transacted during this Session including the number of Bills passed and issues discussed through Adjournment Motions and Calling Attention Motions. We were also able to discuss 10 statements made by various Ministers, including the one I made on my visit to the United States.

There is also the qualitative dimension of the quality of debate and discourse. This was certainly of a higher order in this session. In all honesty, I cannot say that I was entirely satisfied with our record in making good use of the time at our disposal. However, I do feel reassured that we were able to do substantial legislative work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world looks to us in the practice of democracy. We are a unique example of a developing country of such great diversity seeking its salvation through the framework of an open society and a functioning democracy. I must confess, I felt a deep sense of pride swell up in me as I sat listening to the words of President Hamid Karzai at a function in Kabul yesterday where the foundation stone for the Afghan Parliament was laid. President Karzai held up the example of India and said that our success in democratic governance had shown to the developing world that democracy is not a characteristic of the advanced western

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

nations alone. That, in fact, "countries of eastern cultures could also present successful examples of democratic politics."

President Karzai said, "India has more than a billion people with different cultures, religions and languages. By facilitating participation from its people, India has been able to make a stable and pluralistic democracy a reality for Indians. Asian and African countries in general, and Afghanistan in particular, can learn much from the rich experience of India." Since, we have an obligation not just to our own people, but the people of the world in making sure that our democracy works, and works for all our people. Billions of people across the world have a stake in the success of our democratic institutions for they too aspire for the freedom and dignity that democracy gives them.

Every Indian will feel pride rushing through his veins listening to such warm appreciation from a friendly neighbour. I salute the people of Afghanistan for the courage, fortitude and wisdom they are showing by embracing democracy as a way of life and of governance. India will do whatever it is called upon to do to strengthen democracy and the freedom of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we speak about the fruits of democracy we are not mouthing empty phrases. I am happy that in this session of Parliament the poorest of our people have been assured an important fruit of democracy, the assurance of gainful employment. Our Government is proud of the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill that this House has approved in this session. We have fulfilled a solemn commitment we had made at the time when our Government came to office. The challenge is now in how well we implement this assurance and ensure that its benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. Great responsibility rests on the shoulders of those charged with the responsibility of implementing the Employment Guarantee Act, particularly on the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Utmost care will be needed in selecting viable projects and in ensuring that there are no leakages and avenues of corruption in the utilization of funds.

Sir, people's faith in democracy is not based on the promises we make, or even on the laws we enact. It is only when the tangible and the not-so-tangible fruits of democracy impact on the lives of the people that their faith is renewed.

We are also proud of the legislation we have passed in this Session empowering our women. The amendments to the Hindu Succession Act fulfil a longstanding promise we had made to our sisters and daughters. Our Government is firmly committed to the empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and all minorities. We are equally committed to the empowerment of our women.

Sir, a true test of our democracy is its ability to respond to the needs and aspirations of every section of society. I

regret our inability in this session to move ahead on the reservation of seats for women in the highest decision-making bodies of our country. But I reiterate our commitment to this just demand of half of our population.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must place on record my deep and sincere appreciation of the leadership provided in each of these major acts of legislation by our respected leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, and the Members of the National Advisory Council that she chairs. They have done their patriotic duty by championing the cause of our people. I do sincerely hope we in Government will rise up to the expectations of our people and renew their confidence in our democracy.

Sir, I wish to thank you once again, and the Deputy Speaker as well as the staff and officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for the good work and successful conduct of the business in this Session.

I thank you.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Monsoon Session is concluding today and the brief of the business disposed off by the House as mentioned by you in your valedictory speech, is itself reflective of the fact that the Parliament has carried out its responsibility with due diligence. At the same time, speaking on behalf of the Opposition, I can draw satisfaction from the fact that the Opposition, in full awareness of its responsibility and accountability of highlighting the shortcomings of the Government and also of being vocal in doing so when the need arose and in extending its full cooperation when required, have lived upto the expectation of playing the role of a constructive Opposition. I am of the opinion that this is the right approach to carry on the Legislative business for which I express my gratitude to you and those on the treasury benches and would like to congratulate all the officers of the Secretariat as well.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The hon. Members may now stand up for the song, *Vande Matram*.

14.29 hrs.

## NATIONAL SONG

*The National Song was played*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned sine die.

14.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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