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Tuesday,
2nd February, 2021
13 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)
(PART-II)

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RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 2nd February, 2021/13 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

The House met at nine of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlotji, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azadji, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi, Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivanshji, Leaders of various Parties and Groups in the House, I could sense the enthusiasm on the part of all sections of the House to further move on with this important Session with the hon. President presenting the vision of the Government to Members of both the Houses and the Government presenting the General Budget for the next financial year which focussed on post-Covid recovery and health.

I would like to share with all of you an important landmark that our country has just crossed. It relates to completion of 100 years of representative democracy in our country with the first direct elections to the Imperial and Provincial Legislative Councils held during the winter of 1920 further to the Government of India Act, 1919. Democracy is all about participation of people in the management of public affairs and policy making through their elected representatives. The occasion of being a hundred year old modern representative democracy calls for serious reflection on the state of democracy and the functioning of the Legislature in our country. In this connection, my appeal to all of you is to try and make the Session more purposeful. The issues that need to be discussed could be discussed threadbare in a peaceful, orderly and dignified manner. Last time some unfortunate incidents happened. I don't want to recall them. But it is binding on all of us to see to it that the House runs properly, Members follow rules and regulations, maintain discipline and dignity and also participate in debates in a meaningful manner. I have all along been appealing to Members to prevent any situation which would affect the interest of the Parliament and also the nation.

On the landmark occasion of 100 years of representative democracy in our country, I suggest to this august House to resolve to enhance the dignity of the House through proceedings as per the rules and convention of this House. A prolonged discussion of over 20 hours on the Motion of Thanks to President's Address to both

the Houses and also the General Budget would offer ample opportunities to raise and discuss a wide range of issues of public concern to which the Government will respond. I am happy to recall the assurance given by Leaders of all Groups and Parties in the meeting held at my residence on Sunday. I sincerely hope that this important Budget Session will turn out to be highly productive in the spirit of the last four Sessions.

During the inter-Session period, eight Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees of Rajya Sabha worked overtime and held a total of 55 sittings. These Committees met for a total duration of 110 hours and four minutes, which comes to an average duration of two hours and seven minutes. This is an improvement over the previous average of one hour fifty-four minutes for each meeting. I hope the duration of the meetings would further rise given the efforts and the costs involved. The Committee on Commerce has reported substantial improvement, holding ten meetings during the inter-Session period for a total duration of 26 hours 18 minutes. The average duration of each meeting has increased to two hours thirty-seven minutes against the average duration of just one hour forty-two minutes earlier. The Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture held the highest number of eleven meetings for a total period of 22 hours. I think the Committee has even visited Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth & Sports reported the highest average attendance of 53.45 per cent in seven meetings. I compliment the Chairmen and Members of all the eight Committees and the Secretariat for their spirited work during the inter-session period on behalf of the Parliament. Six Committees of Rajya Sabha during the inter-Session period spent thirty-eight hours and thirty-four minutes discussing various aspects of the outbreak of pandemic, its consequences and management. This was in addition to the discussion on the pandemic-related issues by the Committee during the July-August last year. I am happy to inform the House that these Committees of Rajya Sabha have examined the pandemic-related issues in bipartisan and constructive manner, not as a fault-finding, to provide a guidance for such sudden challenges in future. These Committees have also complemented the efforts of the Government, the people and all the stakeholders and also pointed out the shortcomings in handling the pandemic challenge. I would like to share with you that I was very happy when I went through the Reports and deliberations of the Standing Committees, how Members have participated and made constructive suggestions and tried to elicit as much information as possible. I compliment the Chairmen and Members of all these

Standing Committees for the good work that they have done in discussing and preparing the Reports.

I would also like to share with all of you another important development regarding the Members of this august House speaking in their mother tongue. You may recall that the Chairman of this august House has been urging all of you to speak in native languages. Simultaneous interpretation service has been made available for all the twenty-two Scheduled languages. During the last two years, the use of regional languages -- regional means 'native languages'; I don't feel comfortable with the words 'regional languages' -- has risen to five times. In addition, four languages, namely, Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani and Santhali have been used for the first time in the House since its inception in 1952 and a few other local languages were also used after a gap of several years. I hope the use of mother tongue in the proceedings of this House would further increase. Hon. Home Minister is here in the House. I would suggest to the hon. Home Minister to see that his Ministry, which is in charge of implementation of the Official Languages Act, try to promote as many languages as possible in the administration of the Government and also take initiative to see that the judiciary and the local administration also understand the spirit of this move and try to encourage the use of languages. The Ministry of Home and the Ministry of HRD can take further initiatives to see that translation facilities are made available. I hope that the Government and also the hon. Members take this suggestion in right spirit and then move on.

The change between the same time last year and now is perceptible. When the pandemic broke out last year, we hardly had testing facilities, quality masks and personal protection equipment required to handle the pandemic. A year later, our country, besides successfully containing the pandemic, has emerged as the hope for other countries, has indigenously made vaccines and become the vaccine factory of the world. This is a remarkable transformation. The House places, on its record, its appreciation of the people concerned for the same. I once again reiterate the importance of the Budget Session and need to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the House and utilisation of this Zero Hour, Question Hour and all other provisions that are available. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Is there Zero Hour today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know what is happening. Since I know what is happening, I keep in mind what is required. I hope you will be cooperative. I am sure about it.

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on several occasions, when our country was challenged and down under, we rose as a nation to tide them over. Our fight against the Covid-19 pandemic is one such illustration. Reflecting this spirit, Team India scripted history on the tough cricketing terrains of Australia by winning the four test series 2-1 and stunned the world last month.

It was made possible by the 'never say die' attitude of the young and inexperienced cricketers. The depleted team disproved the forecasts, of a certain loss of series by a wide margin, by staging a remarkable recovery from down under demonstrating the indomitable spirit of grit and determination. It is a clear evidence of the promise 'Young India' holds for our nation.

Bundled out for the lowest ever test score of 36 runs in the second innings in the first test at Adelaide and losing by eight wickets, Team India came back snatching a victory by the same margin in the second match at Melbourne on December 29th, ending the last year on a happy note. The stand-in captain, Ajinkya Rahane, led by example with a gritty century knock.

In the series-deciding final test at Gabba, Brisbane, the spirited Indian scripted an epic win in a nail biting finish clinching the series. It was a great team effort with the youngsters in the forefront.

The 'spirit of Gabba' should inspire Young India to rise to new heights and fulfil their aspirations with grit and determination.

On behalf of the House, and on my own behalf, I place on record our deep appreciation to the captain and members of Team India, and in particular the youngsters and also the team management for their splendid performance in all forms of cricket in Australia during their recent visit and making our country proud with their performance.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I would like to remind you that this staggered sitting arrangement has been made after extensive discussions between the Speaker and me and also after holding discussions with the Health Ministry, the Home Ministry, the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and other concerned people, and by and large, the information was also shared with the leaders. I noticed the other day that

some Members, though their seats are not here, were occupying the seats. Please try to avoid such situation. We have already given the flexibility to Parties and the total number of seats allotted to a particular Party is known. If the Leaders want to allow so and so Member, they can allow him provided they follow it. Otherwise, it will be difficult to recognise the Member and also there will be difficulty in coverage. Each Party has been allotted seats in proportion to their strength in Rajya Sabha Chamber and concerned Parties and Groups have already allotted seats to their Members in different places. I am happy about that. It is necessary that Members occupy the seats allotted to them at the designated places. So, that is one appeal to all of you.

Some Members are worried about Zero Hour. We will extend it also. Then, hon. Members are aware that sittings of the House from 2nd February to 8th April, 2021, will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rule 180(5) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha provides for admitting Call Attention notices and states that they should be raised at 2 p.m. and no other time during the sitting of the Council. That is the rule. So, in view of the change in the time of the sittings of the House, it is not possible to take up the Calling Attention at 2 p.m. Accordingly, the Calling Attention shall be raised in the House at such a time as may be decided. Similarly, Rule 180(C)(1) provides that the time for submitting notices for Special Mentions shall be up to 5 p.m. on a day for raising the matter on the next day of sitting. Again, in view of the change in timing, it has been decided that the time for submitting notices of Special Mentions shall be up to 12 noon on a day for raising the matter on the next day of sitting. I hope the House accepts these modifications and then move on.

Regarding Zero Hour, I have one submission. In Zero Hour, keeping in view the time constraint because it is for half-an-hour now, I appeal to the Members that instead of taking three minutes, please take two minutes so that more and more Members will get an opportunity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: With regard to the Papers to be laid on the Table, Statements related to the Reports of the Department-related Standing Committees listed in the Business for the day in the name of other Members, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may accordingly make available in Rajya Sabha and ensure the presence of

either of the Ministers of State or the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for laying such Papers, if he or she is preoccupied otherwise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I also wish to inform that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 31st of January, 2021, has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business, as follows:

	BUSINESS	TIME ALLOTTED
1.	Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	Ten Hours
2.	General Discussion on the Union Budget for 2021-22.	Ten Hours
3.	Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-	
	(i) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021 - to replace an Ordinance.	One Hour
	(ii) The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 - to replace an Ordinance.	Two Hours
	(iii) The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021 - to replace an Ordinance.	Two Hours
	(iv) The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 - to replace an Ordinance.	Two Hours

The Committee also recommended that the House may sit on Saturday, the 13th February, 2021 instead of Monday, the 15th February, 2021 to conclude the General Discussion on the Budget for 2021-22 and other Business, and, the sitting of the House scheduled on 15th February may be cancelled. In accordance with the general request by Members, it was accepted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, letters have been received from the following Members for grant of Leave of Absence during the 1st part of current 253rd Session of Rajya Sabha:

1. Shri Rewati Raman Singh
2. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
3. Shri Ripun Bora

Shri Rewati Raman Singh and Dr. Narendra Jadhav have sought Leave of Absence on medical ground while Shri Ripun Bora has sought Leave of Absence for personal reasons.

Do they have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 29th January for the duration of the 1st part of the current 253rd Session of Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2018-19) of the PCIM&H, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2018-19, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Commission.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2988/17/2021]

I. Reports and Accounts (2019-20) of various Power Corporations and related papers

II. Memoranda of Understanding between Government of India and POSOCO and PFC

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2966/17/2021]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2965/17/2021]
- (iii) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3224/17/2021]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and the Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO), for the year 2020-21. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3232/17/2021]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited, for the year 2020-21. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3233/17/2021]

I. Reports and Accounts (2018-19) of various AIIMS and related papers

II. Reports and Accounts (2019-20) of various institutes and related papers

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of the Section 18 and Section 19 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 :—

- (i) (a) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical

Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2018-19, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2991/17/2021]

(ii) (a) Annual Report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2018-19.

(b) Annual Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2018-19, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2989/17/2021]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), Noida, for the year 2019-2020, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2992/17/2021]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2019-20, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2993/17/2021]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

II. Report and Accounts (2019-20) of SPMCIL, New Delhi and related papers

III. Report (2019-20) of SEBI, Mumbai and related papers

IV. Report (2020) on recommendations of JPC on Stock Market Scam

V. Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India and SPMCIL

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, I lay on the Table—

I. A. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economics Affairs), under Section 25 of the Coinage Act, 2011:—

- (1) G.S.R. 565 (E), dated the 17th September, 2020, publishing the Coinage (Issue of Commemorative Coin on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organization) Rules, 2020.
- (2) G.S.R. 727 (E), dated the 18th November, 2020, publishing the Coinage (Issue of commemorative coin to commemorate on the occasion of Centennial Celebrations of University of Lucknow) Rules, 2020.
- (3) G.S.R. 37 (E), dated the 20th January, 2021, publishing the Coinage (Issue of Coin to commemorate the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary Year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) Rules, 2021.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3066/17/2021]

B. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 166 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

- (1) G.S.R. 604 (E), dated the 30th September, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 691 (E), dated the 28th June, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) G.S.R. 643 (E), dated the 16th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 691 (E), dated the 28th June, 2017, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3076/17/2021]

C. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

- (1) G.S.R. 623 (E), dated the 9th October, 2020, seeking to levy provisional countervailing duty on 'Flat Products of Stainless Steel' originating in or exported from Indonesia, for period of four months from the date of publication in the Official Gazette, i.e., w.e.f. the 9th October, 2020 based on the Preliminary Finding notification No. 6/16/2019- DGTR, dated the 7th August, 2020 of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies.
- (2) G.S.R. 630 (E), dated the 13th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 801 (E), dated the 21th October, 2015, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (3) G.S.R. 646 (E), dated the 16th October, 2020, amending Notification No.

- G.S.R. 802 (E), dated the 21th October, 2015, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (4) G.S.R. 649 (E), dated the 19th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 804 (E), dated the 21th October, 2015, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (5) G.S.R. 672 (E), dated the 27th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 52 (E), dated the 28th January, 2019, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (6) G.S.R. 692 (E), dated the 9th November, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 886 (E), dated the 18th November, 2015, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (7) G.S.R. 697 (E), dated the 10th November, 2020, seeking to continue the imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Flax Fabric' originating in or exported from, the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong for a period of 5 years as recommended by Directorate General of Trade Remedies in the sunset review investigations conducted in the matter.
- (8) G.S.R. 707 (E), dated the 11th November, 2020, rescinding Notification No. GSR 445(E) dated the 1st June, 2015 to revoke the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Acrylic Fibre' originating in or exported from Thailand.
- (9) G.S.R. 708 (E), dated the 11th November, 2020, seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on specific category of 'Clear Float Glass' originating in and exported from Malaysia, based on recommendation of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies.
- (10) G.S.R. 730 (E), dated the 19th November, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 933 (E), dated the 4th December, 2015, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (11) G.S.R. 738 (E), dated the 26th November, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 804 (E), dated the 21st October, 2015, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (12) G.S.R. 741 (E), dated the 27th November, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 802 (E), dated the 21st October, 2015, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (13) G.S.R. 743 (E), dated the 27th November, 2020, seeking to impose Anti-Dumping duty on Fluoroelastomers (FKM) originating in or exported from China PR for a period of 5 years, in pursuance of sunset review final

findings issued by the Designated Authority, Directorate General of Trade Remedies.

- (14) G.S.R. 746 (E), dated the 1st December, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 565 (E), dated the 31st May, 2016, to substitute/insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (15) G.S.R. 748 (E), dated the 2nd December, 2020, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Toluene Di-isocyanate (TDI) having isomer content in the ratio of 80:20, originating in or exported from European Union, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei and UAE, for a period of six months, as recommended in the preliminary findings issued by the Designated Authority, Directorate General of Trade Remedies.
- (16) G.S.R. 751 (E), dated the 3rd December, 2020, amending Notification Nos. G.S.R. 955 (E), dated the 11th December, 2015 and G.S.R. 1327 (E), dated the 24th October, 2017, to insert certain entries in the original Notifications.
- (17) G.S.R. 752 (E), dated the 3rd December, 2020, rescinding Notification No. G.S.R. 489 (E), dated the 12th June, 2015.
- (18) G.S.R. 753 (E), dated the 7th December, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 687 (E), dated the 8th September, 2015, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (19) G.S.R. 762 (E), dated the 15th December, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 249 (E), dated the 20th March, 2018, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (20) G.S.R. 811 (E), dated the 30th December, 2020, rescinding Notification No. G.S.R. 804 (E), dated the 21st October, 2015.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (20) See No. L.T. 3073/17/2021]

D. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 24 of the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017; and Section 166 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, along with Explanatory Memoranda:-

- (1) G.S.R. 606 (E), dated the 30th September, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 703 (E), dated the 28th June, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) G.S.R. 645 (E), dated the 16th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 703 (E), dated the 28th June, 2017, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3076/17/2021]

E. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 24 of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act 2017; and Section 166 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act 2017, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

- (1) G.S.R. 605 (E), dated the 30th September, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 684 (E), dated the 28th June, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) G.S.R. 644 (E), dated the 16th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 684 (E), dated the 28th June, 2017, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3076/17/2021]

F. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

- (1) G.S.R. 599 (E), dated the 30th September, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 785 (E), dated the 30th June, 2017, to substitute/omit certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) G.S.R. 651 (E), dated the 20th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 943 (E), dated the 31st December, 2009, to substitute/insert certain entries in the original Notification.
- (3) G.S.R. 680 (E), dated the 28th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 785 (E), dated the 30th June, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (4) G.S.R. 681 (E), dated the 28th October, 2020, seeking to prescribe concessional Basic Customs duty rate of 10⁰% on potato imports with the prescribed quota (TRQ) of 10 lakh Metric Tons till the 31st January, 2021.
- (5) G.S.R. 683 (E), dated the 29th October, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 394 (E), dated the 20th April, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (6) G.S.R. 705 (E), dated the 11th November, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 785 (E), dated the 30th June, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (7) G.S.R. 736 (E), dated the 26th November, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 785 (E), dated the 30th June, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

(8) G.S.R. 777 (E), dated the 18th December, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 943 (E), dated the 31st December, 2009, to insert/substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

(9) G.S.R. 810 (E), dated the 30th December, 2020, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 423 (E), dated the 1st June, 2011, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (9) See No. L.T. 3074/17/2021]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

(a) Fifteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3042/17/2021]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

(a) Annual Report of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Mumbai, for the year 2019-20.

(b) Executive summary of the above said Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3057/17/2021]

IV. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirty-fifth Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (December, 2020).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2934/17/2021]

V. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) and the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), for the year 2020-21.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3064/17/2021]

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the information of hon. Members, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik met with a very serious accident. He had multiple fractures and he was admitted to hospital. I had been there and enquired about his well being. He is recovering fast.

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

DR. VINAY. P. SAHASRABUDDHE (Maharashtra): Sir, I present the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports:

- (i) # Three Hundred and Seventeenth Report on Preparation for Olympic Games, 2021;
- (ii) # Three Hundred and Eighteenth Report on Action Taken Notes on 311th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Khelo India Scheme;
- (iii) # Three Hundred and Nineteenth Report on Action Taken Notes on 315th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on the Demand for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports;
- (iv) Three Hundred and Twentieth Report on Action Taken Notes on 312th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demand for Grants (2020-21) of Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education;
- (v) Three Hundred and Twenty-First Report on Action Taken Notes on 314th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demand for Grants (2020-21) of Ministry of Women and Child Development; and
- (vi) Three Hundred and Twenty-Second Report on Action Taken Notes on 313th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demand for Grants (2020-21) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

Sir, I would like to add that the earlier name of this Committee was Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.

The Reports were presented to Hon'ble Chairman on 24th December, 2020 under Direction 30(i) of Directions by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha when the House was not in Session and Hon'ble Chairman was pleased to order for the publication and circulation of those Reports under Direction 30(ii). Reports were also forwarded to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on the same day.

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदनों[&] की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ:-

- (i) भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण (एफएसएसआई) के कार्यकरण पर उसके 110वें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों/समुक्तियों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई के संबंध में 121वां प्रतिवेदन;
- (ii) आयुष मंत्रालय की अनुदान मांगों (2020-21) (मांग सं. 4) पर उसके 120वें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों/समुक्तियों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई के संबंध में 122वां प्रतिवेदन;
- (iii) कोविड 19 महामारी का प्रकोप और उसके प्रबंध के संबंध में 123वां प्रतिवेदन; और
- (iv) स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग (स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय) की अनुदान मांगों 2020-21 (मांग सं. 43) पर उसके 119वें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों/समुक्तियों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई के संबंध में 124वां प्रतिवेदन।

श्री सभापति : धन्यवाद प्रो. राम गोपाल जी । You might have seen that the Health Committee, by and large, is trying to adhere to the schedule and has been presenting reports on time.

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS**

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I present the following Reports* (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs:

- (i) 226th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Twenty-

[&] The Reports were presented to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 2020 and forwarded to Speaker, Lok Sabha on 25th November, 2020.

* These Reports were virtually presented through video conferencing to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 21st December, 2020 and were forwarded to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha the same day.

Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Home Affairs;

- (ii) 227th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Twenty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region;
- (iii) 228th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Twenty-Second Report on the Management of Worsening Traffic Situation in Delhi; and
- (iv) 229th Report on Management of COVID-19 Pandemic and Related Issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Anand Sharma *ji*. I hope that Members might have gone through the Report of the Home Committee, particularly with regard to this pandemic and also the actions of the States and Central Government. It is a very, very interesting and very objective Report. I hope the Members will avail this opportunity to go through the Reports of the Committee because it is very relevant.

Now, the Reports of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel, Dr. Vikas Mahatme.

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL**

DR. VIKAS MAHATME (Maharashtra): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Committee on Coal and Steel:—

- (i) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on “Implementation of District Mineral Foundation and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana” pertaining to the Ministry of Mines;
- (ii) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' pertaining to the Ministry of Coal;
- (iii) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' pertaining to the Ministry of Mines;

- (iv) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' pertaining to the Ministry of Steel;
- (v) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' pertaining to the Ministry of Coal;
- (vi) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' pertaining to the Ministry of Mines; and
- (vii) Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' pertaining to the Ministry of Steel.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (2020-21):—

- (i) Twenty-first Report on “Implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006”;
 - (ii) Twenty-second Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their One hundred and tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on “Examination of Accounts of ICAR” “Non Achievement of Stated Objective” and “Blocking of Funds of Coconut Development Board”; and
 - (iii) Twenty-third Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their One hundred and fourteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on “Design, Development, Manufacture and Induction of Light Combat Aircraft”.
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STATEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Statements showing Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (2020-21):—

- (1) Ninth Action Taken Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on "Irregularities in procurement of Goods and Services, Award of work to non-existent firms, Unrealised VAT refund and Excess payment of departmental charges";
- (2) Forty-ninth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Rail Link to Kashmir";
- (3) Fifty-second Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Procurement of Allopathic Drugs in CGHS";
- (4) Fifty-fourth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Railways Finances";
- (5) Fifty-eighth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Non-Compliance by Ministries in Timely Submission of Action Taken Notes on the Non-Selected Audit Paragraphs of the C&AG of India";
- (6) Eighty-first Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Extra Avoidable Expenditure by ANURAG";
- (7) Eighty-third Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Land Management in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited";
- (8) Ninety-seventh Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Performance of Import and Export Trade Facilitation through Customs Ports";
- (9) Ninety-eighth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Ratna and R-Series Hydrocarbon Fields";
- (10) One hundred and second Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Disaster Preparedness in India";
- (11) One hundred and fifteenth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Performance Audit of Employees State Insurance Corporation and Special Audit of Medical Education Projects of ESIC";
- (12) One hundred and nineteenth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Maintenance of Bridges in Indian Railways";
- (13) One hundred and twenty-fifth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Stressed Assets Stabilisation Fund (SASF)";

- (14) One hundred and twenty-sixth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana";
- (15) One hundred and thirtieth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Hydrocarbon Production Sharing Contracts";
- (16) Sixth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Injudicious Release of Grants";
- (17) Thirty-seventh Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Procurement of Stores and Inventory Control";
- (18) Forty-sixth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Revenue Loss due to Delay in levy of Toll Fees";
- (19) Forty-ninth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Administration of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund";
- (20) Fifty-fourth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme";
- (21) Sixty-eighth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)";
- (22) Sixty-ninth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)";
- (23) Seventieth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2008-09)";
- (24) Seventy-fifth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Canteen Stores Department";
- (25) Seventy-sixth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Training of Pilots in the Indian Air Force"; and
- (26) Seventy-eighth Action Taken Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on "Functioning of Land and Development Office".

**REGARDING NOTICE GIVEN UNDER RULE 267 FOR SUSPENSION OF
QUESTION HOUR**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Zero Hour. Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy. ..(*Interruptions*)..
Shri Tiruchi Siva. .. (*Interruptions*)..

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 267 for suspension of Question Hour to take farmers' situation into consideration. There is a notice which we have given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received a notice from Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Shri Elamaram Kareem, Shri Binoy Viswam, Prof. Jha and also Shri Ashok Siddharth. I have gone through the notice. It is given under Rule 267, seeking suspension of the Business listed for the day as to discuss the ongoing agitation of farmers in the outskirts of Delhi against the three farm laws passed by the Parliament. The Members who gave notice have highlighted the need to resolve the issue in national interest. I understand the concern of the Members over the situation and need to resolve the issue at an early date in the national interest. As Chairman of this House, I cannot go into the merits of the position taken by the agitating farmers and the Government. Both the sides have so far held several rounds of discussion and expressed desire to further continue the dialogue. Neither this side nor that side of the House is opposed to any discussions between the farmers and the Government and also to discuss the farmers' issue in the House. It needs to be held at the earliest and it is a matter of time. *..(Interruptions)..* Hon. Rashtrapati *ji* has referred to farmers' agitation in his Address to the Members of both the Houses on 29th of the last month. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for the Address is scheduled to be started tomorrow. In fact, I wanted the discussion to start today. But it was brought to my notice that the convention is that the discussion first starts in the Lok Sabha and then the Rajya Sabha takes it up. This has been the convention so far. Keeping that in mind, we have agreed to have the discussion on the President's Address tomorrow. The Business Advisory Committee has also been informed. As we are going to discuss the President's Address tomorrow as the first item, hon. Members can avail themselves of this opportunity and then participate and express their viewpoints. That is why I am not able to accept the notice given to suspend the Business of the House. *...(Interruptions)...* Please take the opportunity tomorrow. *...(Interruptions)...* You have ten hours. *...(Interruptions)...* आपने नोटिस दिया *...(व्यवधान)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, this is a very serious situation. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have mentioned the notice also. I have allowed the Leader of the Opposition to mention the gist of the notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Government should agree to a discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Keeping that in mind...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, 155 farmers have died.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will be discussing that tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nobody is going to stop you from discussing the issues. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, it is a mass movement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... The notices given for Zero Hour today will be carried forward. ...*(Interruptions)*... They will not lapse. ...*(Interruptions)*... These Zero Hour notices will not lapse. ...*(Interruptions)*... They will be carried forward. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Nobody is allowed to speak once the Chair has given a decision. Please accept that. Tomorrow you will get an opportunity. Whatever you want to say, highlight the issues of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray ji, you want to add something. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, this House could not discuss the farmers' Bills when they came up before this House. But now we know that everybody wants it. It is a matter of national importance. The Government is also holding discussions with them. But the House is not aware of what is going on between the Government and the *kisan* organizations. That is why this House should discuss at length the matter of national importance because it is concerning the *anndata* of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand what you are saying.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: That is why so many political parties have given the notice. Kindly consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have myself mentioned the names of the Members.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: In the President's Address, there are so many issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: There are so many issues. But we want a discussion on a specific issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री दीपेन्द्र सिंह हुड्डा (हरियाणा): सर, मेरा भी नोटिस है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your leader's name has been mentioned. That means you all have been included.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I respect your words. But on the borders, hundreds and thousands of farmers and their families, including children, are there. Water supply and electricity have been disconnected. It is an inhuman activity. You can ask them to restore water supply and electricity there. And conduct a discussion on farmers' issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I got your point. Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we abide by your decision. At the same time, the issue is very serious. For more than two months, Sir, in bitter cold, women, children and old age people have been suffering.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Siva, this has been said.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, we need to discuss it separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will discuss it tomorrow. There is no problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... The President's Address mentions farmers' laws. ...*(Interruptions)*... So we need to discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't

shout. ...*(Interruptions)*... Whoever shouts with a louder voice, they will not get an opportunity.

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, मैं सिर्फ 30 सेकेंड लूंगा। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि संसद प्रतिनिधियों का केन्द्र है, जहाँ जन सरोकार के मुद्दों पर चर्चा होती है। एक तरफ सर्द पूस की रातों में लोग परेशान हो रहे हैं, तो कम से कम उनके विषय पर संसद में चर्चा हो, मेरी बस इतनी सी गुज़ारिश है।

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I am grateful to you. I am sure you would agree with me that this is the most urgent and pressing issue of today. The people who feed the country are on the path of agitation for so many months now. Kindly discuss this issue in the House now. That is why we request you to allow us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ashok Siddharth. Misra ji, you want to speak.

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, यह एक ऐसा इश्यू है, जिसमें सरकार और संसद - सभी सांसद इंटरिस्टेड हैं, सभी इस विषय पर बात करना चाहते हैं, ताकि इस समस्या का कोई सॉल्यूशन निकल सके। जब बाहर इस विषय पर चर्चा हो रही है, मीडिया में हो रही है, तो अगर हाउस में भी इस विषय पर चर्चा हो, तो अधिक अच्छा रहेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Prof. Ram Gopalji, there is no time. Otherwise, I would have given you an opportunity. I have already taken your name. I want to put the record straight. People say that there was no discussion on farm laws. Farm laws were discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. If you say, "No", I have to refer to records. And it was of four hours and four hours were completed in the House. That is the thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, we walk out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We have no other option but to register our protest. ...*(Interruptions)*... We stand for the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Hour. Please. Question Hour has started. I have already repeated that there was a threadbare discussion on farm laws in the House. A

wrong impression is being created that there was no discussion. With regard to voting, people may have their own arguments. But as far as discussion is concerned, every party completed its part and made its suggestions. It is on record. If anybody wants, I can again ask the record to be placed forward. It is very clear. Now, Question Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New strategy for achieving GDP growth

*1. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government is going to revise the target date for achieving Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD five trillion in the light of the collapse of global economy due to the pandemic; and
- (b) the new strategy for achieving the target considering the fact that there are very strong headwinds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Government is committed to making India a US \$ 5 trillion economy.

Government continues to facilitate growth and investment to support the \$ 5 trillion economy. The measures undertaken, inter-alia, include introduction of GST, reforms in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, reduction in Corporate Tax Rate, easing of FDI norms, reforms announced under Atmanirbhar Bharat, accelerating infrastructure roll-out through National Infrastructure Pipeline, emphasis on capital expenditure and increasing competitiveness of Indian enterprises through Production Linked Incentive Schemes (PLI) amongst others. These measures are likely to provide significant stimulus to growth towards making India a US\$5 trillion economy.

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Sir, my first supplementary is this. We are most grateful to the hon. Minister for assuring the country that we are on way to achieving five-trillion dollars of GDP. But, Sir, one of the reasons for worry is the Gross Capital Formation which is only 27 per cent. I believe that unless this goes up drastically, we may not possibly be achieving this. What is the solution that the Government has on this?

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Sir, let me first thank the hon. Member for raising this question. I can understand his concern about India being a five-trillion dollar economy. If you see in the last few months, even during the pandemic time, the Government of India has taken many initiatives, especially when the Prime Minister said, आपदा में भी अवसर ढूँढ़ने हैं। We have taken multiple initiatives including reduction in the corporate tax rates from 30 per cent to 15 per cent to give incentives to the manufacturing companies to be set up in India. Recently, during the Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, many reforms were undertaken in the areas of coal, power, labour laws, etc. and even production-linked incentives have been given, and the production-linked incentives to the tune of Rs.1,97,000 crore will be given in the next five years. Apart from that, many other initiatives have been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. You can inform the Members. Whatever information you have, pass it on to them. Now, second supplementary.

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Sir, my question actually was on Gross Capital Formation. I will go to my second supplementary. Any country which wants to have a global economic leadership must spend a lot of money on innovation. That is how countries spend. In our country, our total spent amount on Research and Development is only 0.7 per cent. Would the Government increase this percentage drastically over the next few years?

श्री अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर: माननीय सांसद जी ने एक बहुत अच्छी बात कही है कि रिसर्च के ऊपर ज्यादा पैसा खर्च हो। इस बार हमने बजट में भी लगभग पचास हजार करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया है। नेशनल रिसर्च फाउण्डेशन के माध्यम से वह पैसा खर्च होगा और अलग-अलग क्षेत्र, जहां सरकार चिह्नित करेगी, उसमें रिसर्च भी होगी, ताकि भविष्य में ज्यादा पेटेन्ट भी फाइल किये जा सकें और भारत को आगे बढ़ने का बल भी मिले।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No.2. Shri Dinesh Trivedi.

Low expenditure on research and development

*2. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the Ministry's expenditure that Department of Health Research accounts for;

(b) whether Government is aware that the allocation on health research is the lowest compared to the allocations for similar departments engaged in Research and Development (R&D) activities;

(c) if so, the reasons for low expenditure on research;

(d) whether Government plans to increase allocation to health research; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The expenditure of Department of Health Research (DHR) ranged from 2.89% to 3.5% of that of Department of Health & Family Welfare in the last five years.

(b) and (c) The allocation has been lower as compared to the allocations for similar Departments engaged in research, namely, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE), Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR).

The Department of Health Research was created as a new Department in 2007-08 and its full-fledged working started from 2013-14 after the roll out of various schemes for infrastructure development and human resource & capacity development for promotion of health research in the country. Since then, with the increase in the activities and research programmes of DHR-Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the allocation and expenditure has been increasing every year. The expenditure of Department of Health Research has increased from Rs.564.56 crores in 2008-09 to Rs.1808.03 crores in 2019-20.

(d) and (e) The Department has created research infrastructure for promoting health research activities, undertaken health research activities in infectious and non-communicable diseases, trained human resources and has contributed significant interventions for containing infectious disease outbreaks/ epidemics, including COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, there has been a gradual increase in the allocation for the Department of Health Research from Rs. 567 crores in RE 2008-09 to Rs.4062.30 crores in RE 2020-21, which also includes Rs.2100 crores of Emergency COVID-19 package.

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी : सर, अभी आपने क्रिकेट की बात की, जब कभी भी हिन्दुस्तान की बात आती है तो हमारा सीना एकदम गर्व से फूल जाता है। उसी के तहत मैं डाक्टर साहब को बहुत-बहुत बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। Very quietly, irrespective of which party, where we belong, I think, India has done a good job. And Dr. *Saheb*, you being a professional, my question is this. It was very nice to see whether it was on BBC or whether it was on CNN, wherever we have seen, we saw Indians, whether it is Dr. Swaminathan or Dr. Sanjay Gupta. Sir, all I am trying to suggest is that research is the source. Unless and until we emphasize on research -- we have independence, we have '*Atmanirbhar*' -- this is not possible, and we all are for it, if we do a lot of research and innovation. The question is this. We are spending only 3 per cent of the total allocation. This time, it has been reduced to 1.25 per cent of the total allocation. My question is: Would you reconsider increasing this amount because we need that particular amount to be increased?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I think, I have given a detailed reply. In the reply itself, I have compared the figures right from 2007-08 when the Department was created as a small Department. After that, the research activities and all those things have started somewhere in 2013-14. Right from 2013-14 till today, there has been a consistent improvement in the allocation of funds to the Department. Even last year, which means the present year that is going to complete on 31st of March, we have improved our allocation upto Rs.4,000 crores. Even for the coming year, it has further been enhanced. It is not only here that the research takes place. It is a joint effort. Research takes place in science and technology. It takes place in biotechnology. It takes place in other sciences. It is a joint effort and because of that joint effort, ICMR was the first to isolate the virus in the whole world. Today, even for the genome also, the mutation, they have isolated it from one NIV lab in Pune. When there was a need, the Government supported all the activities and they could improve it upto 2,000 labs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right; now, second supplementary, Dineshji.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I appreciate. The thrust of my question is very simple that India has the best of brains. Unless and until we encourage, whether it is in space or whether it is in health -- 119th Report on the Ministry has recommended a 10 per cent of the budgetary allocation -- unless and until we have that kind of a thing, India would not reach its potential. And we have the best potential in the world.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, it is already in the National Health Policy, the latest one, which was created in 2017. That is also the intention of the Government to improve the health allocation means budget allocation in health. And you have seen that in the Budget, which has been presented yesterday, there has been a 137 per cent increase in the health budget. It is almost 2.37 times more than the... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, Dr. *Saheb*.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: So, our intention is very clear, Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ... *(Interruptions)*... No commentary. You can discuss it during the Budget discussion. Shri Rakesh Sinha, from the Gallery.

श्री राकेश सिन्हा: सर, मेरा एक क्वेश्चन है कि जो प्राइवेट हॉस्पिटल्स हैं, उनका स्टेक बढ़ता जा रहा है, तो वहाँ रिसर्च के लिए सरकार क्या प्रावधान कर रही है, कौन से रूल्स उन पर लागू कर रही है, जिससे प्राइवेट हॉस्पिटल्स रिसर्च करें? यह उसी से जुड़ा हुआ है कि हमारे देश में मेडिकल में रिसर्च जर्नल्स की कमी है। जैसे Lancet journal यूरोप से निकलता है, हमारे शोधार्थी उस पर डिपेंड करते हैं..

श्री सभापति: आप क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्री राकेश सिन्हा: तो रिसर्च जर्नल्स निकालने के लिए सरकार क्या प्रयास कर रही है और किस प्रकार से उत्साहित कर रही है?

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, वे रिसर्च जर्नल्स के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं।

डा. हर्ष वर्धन: सर, रिसर्च जर्नल्स, रिसर्च, overall इन सारी activities के बारे में हर प्रकार का सपोर्ट हर तरह के सिस्टम्स को देने के लिए हमारी सरकार ने, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जब 'Startup', 'Standup' movement को लॉच किया था और 10,000 करोड़ रुपये इसके लिए रखे थे, उसके बाद से continuously- चाहे हमारी मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ साइंस हो या हमारा जो DHR (Department of Health Research) है, जिसके बारे में बात हुई है, they continuously support young people, whether they are in the private sector, whether they are in the informal sector, everybody. Sir, even during COVID also, hundreds of people were supported and because of the support for doing research, a lot of new things came up only because of the efforts of these young people who were supported by the Department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Now, Question No. 3, Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad. क्वेश्चनर नहीं हैं। No supplementary also. The Minister may lay the Answer on the Table. Now, Question No.4.

Additional finance on working capital and rescheduling of loans

*4. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether industries which have seen their turnover affected for more than nine months required more financial assistance beyond 20 per cent additional finance on working capital for industries extended by Banks, which is a generalised advantage given to all the industries; and
- (b) whether Government has envisaged any plan of rescheduling loans along with extending moratorium for two years on interest and loan repayment without marking as NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per Reserve Bank of India's Master Circular on Loans and Advances dated 1.7.2015, banks have been given freedom to decide their own guidelines for assessing/sanctioning working capital limits of borrowers and they may sanction working capital limits to borrowers after proper appraisal of their credit needs and in accordance with the loan policy as approved by their Board.

Further, as per Reserve Bank of India's circular dated 27.3.2020 and 23.5.2020 on COVID-19 — Regulatory Package, lending institutions were permitted to recalculate the drawing power by reducing the margins and/or by reassessing the working capital cycle till 31.8.2020, in respect of working capital facilities sanctioned in the form of cash credit/overdraft to borrowers facing stress on account of the economic fallout of the pandemic. Banks may review the working capital sanctioned limits up to 31.3.2021, based on a reassessment of the working capital cycle.

In view of the above, Banks can support borrowers through additional working capital limits as required, based on Bank's appraisal.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with the intent to facilitate revival of real sector activities and to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ultimate

borrowers, *vide* two circulars dated 6.8.2020, has provided a resolution framework for lending institutions to implement individual resolution plans, based on the assessment of the viability and in accordance with their Board-approved policies, in respect of eligible personal loans, loans to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) and corporates, and for restructuring of loans to MSMEs with exposure of up to Rs. 25 crore, while classifying them as standard. Resolution plans under RBI circulars may involve restructuring, in which the lending institution may grant customised relief which may include, *inter alia*, rescheduling of loans by and granting of moratorium.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to support new industries which became sick during the COVID-19 period.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Silence, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... No please, Question Hour is on. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have protested and walked out also. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*... ये नारे रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जाएँगे।...*(व्यवधान)*... ये नारे न ही रिकॉर्ड में जाएँगे और न ही प्रिंट मीडिया में जाएँगे।...*(व्यवधान)*... Let it be known to one and all to take notice that no slogan will be reported because the Chair has not permitted and Members who have walked out also, again, coming to the Well is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... वापस जाइए, प्लीज़।...*(व्यवधान)*... वापस जाइए, प्लीज़।...*(व्यवधान)*... वापस जाइए, प्लीज़।...*(व्यवधान)*... I allowed you to raise the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... You had your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then, you protested and walked out and then again... ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour should not become a casualty. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour is on, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour is on. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members.....*(Interruptions)*... One minute, one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sanjayji, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*... One second. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, no comment on it, comment should not be made and it should not be made against each other, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please recall, last time because of pandemic, we could not have Question Hour and could not have Zero Hour and, then, many people protested against that, wrote articles also and made statements. Now we have Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, human right...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

It is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*... Questions have been asked and the Ministers are giving the replies. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, this is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not going to help you. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will neither help the country nor help you also. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour should not become a casualty. ...*(Interruptions)*... The entire country wants the issues to be discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, you discuss it tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप separate मान कर बोलिए।...*(व्यवधान)*... आप राष्ट्रपति अभिभाषण पर चर्चा के दौरान किसानों के बारे में separately बोलिए।...*(व्यवधान)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please try to understand my predicament. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour has been admitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Questions are asked and the Ministers are giving the replies. The House is going on peacefully. Please co-operate. ...*(Interruptions)*... यह अच्छा नहीं है और यह परंपरा भी नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*... वॉकआउट करके फिर हाउस को डिस्टर्ब करना अच्छा नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are all senior Members. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, this is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... यह नारेबाजी नहीं चलेगी, you also know that; I need not say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Parliamentary Affairs Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I would only like to submit that they have given notice under Rule 267 and you have given the ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*... And after walking out, they are coming and disturbing. They themselves are demanding that there should be Question Hour and the Government has agreed, and the Question Hour is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*... Members are interested in Question Hour and they are disturbing like this. Whether they want Question Hour or not, let them place it on record. And from tomorrow, there will be Thanksgiving Motion on Rashtrapati's Address...*(Interruptions)*... Even Rashtrapati has mentioned about the farm laws. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand your concern. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Then, our discussion is there. But they don't want to run the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... They want to disturb. This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... In Zero Hour also, they are not participating. In Question Hour also, they are not participating. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is highly unfair and injustice to the Members...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I once again appeal to all of you, please go to your seats. Allow the House to function. ...(*Interruptions*)... Question Hour is very important. Some of you said last time, not having Question Hour is murder of democracy. ...(*Interruptions*)... This is the statement made outside. Please understand. ...(*Interruptions*)... The House is adjourned to meet at 10.30 a.m.

[Answers to Starred and Un-starred Questions (Both in English and Hindi) are available as Part – I to this Debate, published electronically on the Rajya Sabha website under the link <https://rajyasabha.nic.in/Debates/OfficialDebatesDateWise>]

The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past nine of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past ten of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

REGARDING DISCUSSION ON THE MAJOR PORT AUTHORITIES BILL, 2020

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya to move a motion for consideration of The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020... ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा : सर, हमने कहा कि किसानों पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय चेयरमैन साहब ने कहा था कि कल से बहस शुरू हो रही है, हम लोग उस पर बातचीत कर सकते हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा : सर, किसानों के साथ अन्याय हो रहा है।...(**व्यवधान**)...

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री मनसुख मांडविया): सर, पोर्ट सेक्टर ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : संजय जी, मेरा आग्रह होगा, आप अपनी सीट पर जाएँ। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : उसमें 7,500 किलोमीटर समुद्र तट है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : मेरा आग्रह होगा, आप अपनी सीट पर जाएँ। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : 204 मेजर...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय चेयरमैन साहब ने कहा है कि कल से राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर चर्चा है, आप अपनी सारी बातें उसमें रख सकते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : जिसमें 95 परसेंट ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

The House then adjourned at thirty-two minutes past ten of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय सदस्यगण, आप लोग कृपया अपनी-अपनी जगह पर बैठें। ...(व्यवधान)... कृपया आप लोग अपनी-अपनी जगह पर बैठें और कोरोना के प्रोटोकॉल का पालन करें।...(व्यवधान)...जो लोग वैल में हैं, उनसे मेरा आग्रह है कि वे अपनी जगह पर जाएं और आज का बिल 'The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020' हम चर्चा के लिए लें। कृपया आप अपनी जगह पर वापस जाएं।...(व्यवधान)...कृपया अपनी जगह पर वापस जाएं।...(व्यवधान)...कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है, कृपया अपनी जगह पर वापस जाएं।...(व्यवधान)... The House stands adjourned till 12.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at thirty-one minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past twelve of the clock,

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020. ...(Interruptions)... माननीय सदस्यगण, मेरा आग्रह है कि आप अपनी-अपनी सीट पर बैठें।(व्यवधान).... कल से हम लोग ...(व्यवधान)... कल से हम लोग राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर चर्चा करने जा रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... आज आप कोरोना के प्रोटोकॉल का पालन करिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप सब अपनी-अपनी जगह पर जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... हम कल से यह चर्चा शुरू

कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कोई और चीज़ रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय सदस्यगण, कृपया अपनी-अपनी सीट पर जाएं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... The House stands adjourned till 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, the 3rd February, 2021.

The House then adjourned at thirty-one minute past twelve of the clock till nine of the clock on Wednesday, the 3rd February, 2021.

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