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11<sup>th</sup> February, 2022  
22 Magha, 1943 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

# RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)  
(PART-II)

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## RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2022/22 Magha, 1943(Saka)*

*The House met at ten of the clock,  
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri V. Muraleedharan to lay all the papers from Sl.No.1-8 under the heading 'Papers to be Laid on the Table' in today's Revised List of Business.

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
- II. **Report and Accounts (2020-21) of BIS, New Delhi 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 Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), issued under sub-section (5) of Section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964:-

- (1) No. EP.9(1)/2019, dated the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2021.
- (2) No. EP.7(1)/2020, dated the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021.
- (3) No. EP.39(1)/2020, dated the 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2021.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6404/17/22]

II.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under Section

23 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bureau of Indian Standards, (BIS), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Bureau.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6403/17/22]

**I. Report and Accounts (2020-21) of HPF, Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu and related papers**

**II. MoUs (2021-22) between Gol and AYCL and BBJ**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Shri Krishan Pal, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) 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) Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF), Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6328/17/22]

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and the Andrew Yule & Company Limited (AYCL), for the year 2021-22.
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and the Braithwaite Burn and Jessop Construction Company Limited (BBJ), for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6327/17/22]

**Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of RVNL; IRWO, New Delhi; and MELPL, New Delhi and related papers**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.  
 (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6411/17/22]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation (IRWO), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation.  
 (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6414/17/22]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of Madhepura Electric Locomotive Private Limited (MELPL), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.  
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.  
 (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6412/17/22]

**Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, I lay on the Table, under Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. S.O. 4987 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, amending Notification No. S.O. 371 (E), dated the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, to omit certain entries in the original Notification, as mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6131/17/22]

**Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of APEDA, New Delhi; NCTI, New Delhi; IIFT, New Delhi; and CAPEXIL, Kolkata and related papers**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Anupriya Singh Patel, I lay on the Table—

(A) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 21 and sub-section (4) of Section 18 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6418/17/22]

(B) (1) 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) Twenty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, 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 Centre.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6416/17/22]

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

- (i) (a) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6417/17/22]

- (ii) (a) Sixty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the CAPEXIL (*formerly Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council*), Kolkata, for the year 2020 -21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6419/17/22]

- I. Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of CDB, Kochi; and PPV&FR, New Delhi and related papers**
- II. Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of NHB, Gurugram; NIPHM, Hyderabad; and MANAGE, Hyderabad and related papers**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, I lay on the Table—

I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 15 and sub section (4) of Section 17 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi (CDB), Kerala, for the year 2020-21.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala, for the year 2020-21, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working the above Board.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6338/17/22]

(ii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 85 and sub-section (4) of Section 62 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6335/17/22]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Horticulture Board (NHB), Gurugram, Haryana, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6336/17/22]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2020-21.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2020-21, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6337/17/22]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2020-21.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2020-21, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6506/17/22]



**Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of PDEXCIL, Mumbai; and SRTEPC, Mumbai and related papers**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Twenty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6429/17/22]

- (ii) (a) Sixty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), Mumbai, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6428/17/22]

**I. Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

**II. Report and Accounts (2020-21) of NICDIT, New Delhi and related papers**

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of Shri Som Parkash, I lay on the Table—

I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) Notification No. G.S.R. 890 (E), dated the 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, publishing the Boiler Operation (Amendment) Rules, 2021, under sub-section (2) of Section 28A of the Boilers Act, 1923.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6433/17/22]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) Notification No. G.S.R. 44 (E), dated the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, publishing the Gas Cylinders

(Amendment) Rules, 2022, under sub-section (8) of Section 18 of the Explosives Act, 1884.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6434/17/22]

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) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6432/17/22]

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### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. L. MURUGAN): Sir, I lay a Statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Answers to Questions entered in today's List are laid on the Table of the House. Hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*... There are two notices under Rule 267 for suspension of Rules - by Shri John Brittas, CPI(M) and by Shri Sanjay Singh. माननीय चेयरमैन साहब ने इसको allow नहीं किया है, इसलिए हम लोग इसको take up नहीं करेंगे।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, it is a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar. Only your speech will go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing else is going on record. कनकमेदला रवींद्र कुमार जी, केवल आपकी बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जा रही है, कृपया आप बोलें।...(*व्यवधान*)... कोई और बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

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**\*THE UNION BUDGET, 2022-23**

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Budget proposed by the hon. Finance Minister outlines the strategy for steeply increasing Capital Expenditure for quickly reviving the economy impacted by Covid by pulling in more private investments and by creating more jobs. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will go on record. Only Mr. Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar's speech is going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: The Budget has certain shortcomings. Despite the moving trauma and attendant lessons, allocations for health are not encouraging. ...(*Interruptions*)... Allocation for other important sectors has almost remained the same, that is, education. Generation of only 60 lakh jobs over the next five years is disturbing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order. अगर आप हल्ला करेंगे, तो no point of order will be allowed. अगर आप हल्ला करते रहेंगे, तो it is not good. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: However, the Budget has disappointed the people of Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Prime Minister, in this august House, on 8<sup>th</sup> February, stated that Andhra Pradesh has been suffering for the last eight years after bifurcation due to the injustice caused by the Congress Government and bypassing the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014, in a hurried manner. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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\*Further discussion continued from 10.02.2022.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish his speech. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: It is now time to do justice to my State irrespective of political considerations. Our demand for Special Category Status needs serious consideration.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish his speech. He is not yielding. I will come to you. Let him finish. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Capital Amaravati project, for which the hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation, needs to be saved and supported, since the present YSRCP Government has abandoned this and created uncertainties today. Amaravati farmers have been agitating for the last 787 days. Required levels of allocations mentioned in the A.P. Re-organisation Act, 2014, should be made for the projects, including the Polavaram project. Out of these ten years, eight years have already lapsed. Only two years are left. The hon. Finance Minister also emphasized the need for transparent financial management. In this context, I would like to share that whatever is happening in my State of Andhra Pradesh is contrary to the vision outlined for the country in the Budget. Based on the information given by the Central and State Governments on record, the YSRCP Government has borrowed much more in the last two-and-a-half years than what was done by the TDP Government in a period of five years. The total debt of the State accumulated till May 2019 is Rs.2,02,543 crore. The total debt since 1956 to 31.3.2019 for a period of 63 years was Rs.3,14,495 crores only. Presently, the total outstanding guarantees are Rs. 1,53,134 crores; total outstanding debt is Rs. 4,15,080 crores; debts payable to the contractors is Rs. 79,000 crores and debts payable to electricity discoms is Rs. 25,000 crores. So, at present, the total debt approximately is Rs. 6,72,214 crores.

Sir, indiscriminate borrowings are being raised despite the flow of resources from the Centre almost doubling to Rs. 86,865 crore during 2021-22 from Rs. 44,234 crore in 2018-19. As per CAG, the huge revenue deficit for 2019-20 was 1,486 per cent of the estimate. For the current financial year, it was Rs. 40,829 crore for the seven months' period of April - October, 2021 as against the Budget provision of only Rs. 5,000 crore for the full financial year. It reveals an excess expenditure of 816 per cent. The Principal Accountant General in a letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 to the State

Government objected to withdrawal of Rs. 41,043 crore bypassing the treasury units in violation of the code. CAG has also noted that mobilisation of loans also exceeded the Budget.

Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has amended the FRBM Act to increase the limit of providing guarantees from 90 per cent to 180 per cent. The latest evidence of the crisis in Andhra Pradesh is that the Government raised Rs. 2,000 crore which was appropriated by the RBI for the earlier loans. The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad, during the visit to Vijayawada on Sunday stated in public that there is no financial discipline on the part of the State Government. The newly-formed Andhra Pradesh State Development Corporation has raised loans of Rs. 25,000 crore by escrowing the future revenues from the sale of liquor for a period of 25 years. This was done despite the CM's promise to prohibit the sale of liquor gradually.

Unfortunately, the State of Andhra Pradesh is on the verge of disaster. The State is mortgaged. Government lands and properties and even capital Amaravati are up for sale. The future of the people of the State is gloomy and the State is being steered in the reverse direction. I demand an appropriate enquiry into indiscriminate borrowing and violation of the stipulated provisions and mismanagement of the finances by the State Government to ensure speedy and equitable economic growth that benefits the poor, weaker sections, youth and women. Mismanagement of the finances of the State, mal-governance by the YSRCP Government has come to threaten the sustainability of the welfare schemes meant for the poor and weaker sections, and, this needs to be averted by all means. This warrants immediate intervention by the Centre, and, an appropriate enquiry should be conducted.

Sir, loans to the tune of Rs. 80,000 crore are being raised every year which is more than twice of the permitted level. As per the CAG, revenue deficit for the year 2019-20 is more than the earlier period. The Principal Accountant General and the Economic Affairs Department of the Government of India sent a letter on 17/1/2022 to the Andhra Pradesh Government in respect of Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads Project; Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridges Reconstruction Project; and, Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement Project. The request of the front loading of the loan amount is not agreed to and the State has to timely release the proportionate share throughout the project execution.

The hon. Chief Minister of our State has also requested the hon. Prime Minister on 3/1/22 to restore the net borrowing ceiling of the State for the financial year 2021-22 to Rs. 42,472 crore.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kanakamedala ji, please conclude.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: I am concluding, Sir. All the railway projects, two major corridors in Andhra Pradesh and proposed highways and ring roads, due to non-cooperation of the State of Andhra Pradesh, have stopped abruptly and the State of Andhra Pradesh did not deposit its share in respect of all the projects.

Majority of the funds of the Centrally-sponsored schemes, including MNREGA also have been diverted and no activities are going on for the development. Day in and day out, the Andhra Pradesh Government is searching for the loans to run the Government. Government has not been able to give salaries to the employees and the pensioners in time. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri John Brittas.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under which Rule?

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, it is under Rule 267. Sir, this is a House of States, which has to discuss the issues concerning the federal principles of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen. Your motion is not drawn in proper terms. Hon. Chairman has not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, please allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your motion is not drawn in proper terms. Hon. Chairman has not allowed it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Chairman has not allowed it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri K.C. Ramamurthy to speak on General Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, please listen. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, it is an important issue. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, we are walking out. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I rise to speak on people's friendly, progressive and forward-looking Budget presented by hon. Finance Minister. It is not only forward-looking, but it is *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* Budget which brings with it new energy, strength and push our development trajectory. Sir, when I say 'people friendly Budget', it means the Budget is for common people. I say it progressive Budget because there are schemes for every sector. One can very easily see this if one reads the Budget with an open mind. I say 'it is forward looking', as the achievable targets are fixed keeping in mind our country's growth for the next 100 years.

Here, I would like to mention with what objectives our Budgets had been formulated over years. In the pre new India and the present new India, there is a fundamental difference in economic thought. These differences are reflected in all previous Governments Budgets and the Budgets presented after Shri Narendra Modi ji became the Prime Minister. In 1948, the thought was a 'socialistic pattern of society'. After eight years, in 1956, it was rephrased as 'democratic socialism. And again, after a decade, it was innovated as 'welfare state'. After a few years, the slogan '*garibi hatao*' came into existence. After this, the change in narratives continued till recently highlighting Right Wing philosophy or Left Wing philosophy. But, Sir, Narendra Modi ji's biggest economic vision is ending this narrative and resurrecting pro-people economic policy and Budget beyond the Left and Right dichotomy. Whenever and whatever good to the people that ends in the socio-economic empowerment of different sectors of society, that has become the main vision of the Government. The economic fundamentalism is what I call a Semitic thought in Right and Left propaganda. Right says that priority should be given to the private sector and Left says that public sector is the priority. For Modi ji and our Government, it is the people's sector that matters, not the Left or the Right. Whatever is good for the country and its people is reflected in the Budget and not what Left and right profess.

Modi ji ended the colonial hangover on the presentation of the Budget from 28<sup>th</sup> February, which was a colonial inheritance that was blindly followed by the subsequent Governments, to 1<sup>st</sup> February, which is more practical and in tune with our accounting standards. What is experienced now is tremendous increase in the horizon and participation in Budget preparation. Earlier, the marginalised classes were treated as clients, but now they are treated as stakeholders and are extensively consulted. The earlier Budgets, before 2014, carried the colonial mindset and Western thought process, and now, our Budgets truly reflect the republican spirit.

Sir, a lot has been said about the PM *Gati Shakti*. I don't wish to repeat the points which have been extensively discussed by my esteemed friends, but I only say that seven drivers or engines of Gati Shakti are like seven horses that Lord Surya has for his chariot which symbolizes warmth and life. As they move across, they remove darkness and usher in light. Not just this, seven horses also symbolize seven colours of rainbow. Similarly, seven engines of *Gati Shakti* - roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure - usher in a new horizon of integrated and transformative approach for economic growth, sustainable development and to pull economy in unison. These engines are complemented by energy transmission, IT, water and sewage and social infrastructure. So, this coordinated approach, with reins of horses firmly in the hands of our hon. Prime Minister, will certainly drive the country to reach new horizons in development.

Sir, Covid has crippled every single economy and every single country of the world, and India is no exception. Right from the US, with 7.6 crore cases at top, to Tonga and Micronesia at the bottom, it left none and engulfed all. The resilience shown by every Indian, under the leadership of our beloved Prime Minister, Modi ji, guided the country right through the pandemic, be it relating to vaccination or providing free foodgrains to poor and migrant labour by incurring more than Rs. 2.5 lakh crores or providing impetus to every single sector, be it through *Aatmanirbhar* package, monetary or fiscal measures or covid diplomacy.

Sir, not a single country in the world, including the most developed country like US has taken up supplying free foodgrains to poor on such a mammoth scale as we did. The hon. Prime Minister, under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana I, II, III, IV and V phases, has so far given more than 700 lakh metric tonnes and has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2.65 lakh crores. I don't think that such a massive help to poor in the form of supplying foodgrains free of cost has ever happened in the



history of independent India, or for that matter, in any country on the globe. The hon. Finance Minister deserves compliments since it is her Ministry which pooled resources for this massive programme.

Sir, in a parliamentary democracy, it is expected that the Opposition will do logical criticism which can become constructive and help in policy formation, but what I found is that many of the learned Members from Opposition, blinded by anti-Modism, have preferred to take to illogical criticism which only lowers their credibility. What the Members of the Opposition fail to realize is that *New India* is not a polemical slogan, but a concept with substance. There is a visible paradigm shift under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi *ji* and this is reflected in the Budget. The Budget is a reflection of Shri Narendra Modi's vision which is not only for India but is being emulated as a vision by many other developing countries.

Sir, as I see, this Budget aims to boost growth and create employment by investing hugely on infrastructure and capital expenditure; Rs.48,000 crore is given for completing 80 lakh houses under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana*. It is spending hugely on social sector schemes and programmes without forgetting the security of the country as one can see the increase of nearly Rs.50,000 crore, with Rs.5.25 lakh crore for Defence when compared to last year's allocation of Rs.4.78 lakh crore.

Sir, with the announcement made by the Finance Minister on digital currency, we have become the 9<sup>th</sup> country along with China, UAE, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Thailand, etc., to have our own digital currency. The Finance Minister also made the announcement of imposing 30 per cent tax on transfer of digital assets. It means if an Indian crypto investor is intending to transfer assets to exchanges in other countries or wallets, then he has to pay 30 per cent tax in income accrued. Not just this, there is also an announcement that the RBI will issue digital rupee using blockchain technology and other technologies from the coming financial year. These measures will revolutionise the fintec sector. Hon. Prime Minister has also said that digital rupee will revolutionise the fintec sector by creating new opportunities and lessen the burn in handling, printing and logistics management of cash.

It has been observed in the recent past, particularly during IPL and T20 World Cup matches, that unabated advertisements by crypto players were bombarding people on all platforms and prompting and provoking them to invest in it in spite of the fact that crypto currency is an unregulated digital currency and not a legal tender.

Not just this, some crypto exchanges have also started Podcasts and other collaborations to attract investment on their exchanges. Popular film stars and celebrities promoting crypto currency trading will definitely influence the mindset of Indians and thinking that all is well with crypto currency. And, cleverly, all advertisements just mention a thin line at the end, 'crypto currency is an unregulated digital currency, not a legal tender and subject to market risks.' And nobody can see this.

Hence, I compliment hon. Finance Minister for starting to regulate crypto assets, having our own digital currency and taxing transactions. I also request hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister to regulate misleading advertisements on crypto currency and direct them to give clear picture of implications of investment in crypto assets.

Sir, I will take one more minute. The Opposition has been making fun of *Make in India*. What is *Make in India*? What is wrong in *Make in India*? Why should anybody object to that? Is it a sin to become self-sufficient? Do you want India to be in the position of ship-to-mouth? Do you want to depend on foreign countries for our Defence requirements? We were depending on other countries even for nuts and bolts for our Defence equipment. What is wrong in becoming *Atmanirbhar* in Defence so that we don't become a parasite for our Defence needs? It is with this very objective that the hon. Finance Minister has given a push to domestic Defence industry. This Government, never in the history of independent India, has earmarked 68 per cent of capital procurement Budget of armed forces for domestic industry. The result is: We rapidly become *Atmanirbhar* and this propels economic activity and provides employment opportunities. Defence R&D has been opened for private sector, Startups, helping private sector to work with DRDO and other Defence research institutions.

Sir, all the sectors, which help our economy to grow stronger, have been given more importance and allocations have been made accordingly. The Budget, as I mentioned, Sir, is people friendly, progressive and futuristic. Only our learned friends from the Opposition should view this with open mind and not with anti-Modi mania. Then they will certainly appreciate the intrinsic value and principles in the growth-oriented Budget.

With these submissions, Sir, I once again extend my compliments and greetings to the hon. Finance Minister for presenting a Budget which aims to

transform the country and drive smoothly in *Amrit Kaal* to become a force to reckon with in the comity of nations. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the discussion on General Budget, 2022-23 is over. लगभग 42 सदस्यों ने इस पर चर्चा की है, अब माननीय Finance Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond on the discussion which is being held here. I thank all participant Members who have gotten into good details of the Budget, sought clarifications and also critically described what has come through in the Budget. I take this opportunity to highlight some of the features and also very clearly speak about why this Budget has prioritised certain things whilst explaining the doubts that the Members have expressed.

Sir, we went in for a Budget which would stand for continuity, bring stability to the economy, predictability in taxation and also has a vision for India @ 100. So, the continuity point, which is very critical at a stage when the economy is coming out of the pandemic, focussed on growth. In the last Budget also, we had focussed on growth. That is how we could get the people out of the difficult situations that they have had gone into because of the pandemic and that growth focus continues in this Budget as well. One other thing which continues with growth focus is, in order to attain the growth, we wanted to undertake public expenditure in building infrastructure for a modern India, a 21<sup>st</sup> Century India and an India which is going towards India @ 100. So, there was a philosophy or a guiding principle of PM Gati Shakti, that was put in as one of the ways in which the infrastructure spending from the public hands would be guided. That guidance which comes from the PM Gati Shakti was essentially because we needed to bring in greater synergy, we wanted to bring in greater complementarity between various infrastructure spending that we are undertaking. It is not to say that infrastructure spending had never happened in this country. It has happened. But, what we find over the decades is that each project by itself, standalone in its nature, hadn't given the benefit or the multiplier which such an investment should have given. You brought in a manufacturing zone or you built a road somewhere or a highway somewhere, but unfortunately the synergy which had to come through had not come through or partly came through but actual maximization was not possible. Therefore, we thought that if there is greater synergy between all these public expended infrastructure projects that are being created, it

should be to the point of maximizing the outcome of such infrastructure which is getting built, at least, in the forthcoming 25 years, the *Amrit Kaal*, that we have talked about, leading India towards India @ 100. Therefore, PM Gati Shakti is guiding us for building infrastructure all across the country, being the focus and the continuity from last year, on infra as an instrument for giving the stimulus to the economy. So, I said that the Budget aims at continuity; the continuity is in giving the stimulus through public expenditure. We also wanted to underline the stability and the sustainable recovery that we so need now at a time when the economy has to grow and grow at a good pace; it is important for the economy also to be stabilized. The sustainable growth is what is going to ensure that India remains on the top and, unless that level of growth is maintained, we are not going to have the trickle-down effect of the economy and the benefits of the economy reaching the poorest of the poor. So, stable and sustainable recovery was one of the important motives and objectives of this Budget for having been drawn in the way we have drawn it. Policy prescription for it had already been given in the last Budget. Again, the continuity principle guides us even in that, so also in disinvestment or privatization or ease of doing business and also adapting technologies in all our fields of governance...Sir, whether it is digital, getting good access to the remote areas; whether it is digital related to financial inclusion; whether it is digital inclusion for the sake of medical and health facilities and digital also for education. That technology and digital adaptation are also the instruments through which we want to work during this 'अमृत काल' so that India @ 100 would have the lead advantage which many countries are just starting to do. We would be leading in that field of digital technology and technology adaptation leading to better transparency in governance and accountability also. These are two very important things other than the fact that it is easing common man's financial inclusion process of education or health related matters, it also shows in a very transparent manner how governance takes place in this country. So, technology for the sake of all these benefits is also being prioritized in this Budget. One example of that is bringing in drone as an instrument or as a very effective tool for improving and modernizing India's agriculture. Now, when you bring in drone, it has got several adaptations. Some Members, Dr. Amar Patnaik and others, spoke about what we are doing about agriculture. By bringing in drone, we are able to bring in efficiencies in the use of fertilizers, in the use of pesticides and also making a good technology-driven assessment of the crop density and also possibly predicting the size of the output. Also to get the contours of the field and so on, the drone technology, today, also has the potential for our rural youth to get into this field for which we have given a training, skilling programme which will run for a few years when people can become

adaptive using drone technologies so that our agriculture can benefit from such a development.

Start-ups are being encouraged. We saw that nowhere else in the globe, the robust way in which start-ups are coming out in this country. Nearly 45 of them have now come between 2020-21 as 'Unicorns'. They have benefited because access to funds are made easy in India. India's own funds, PE funds and VCs, are now able to support them and, therefore, a lot of youth who believe in innovation; who have ideas; who can create employment; who are able to give instant solutions for our legacy problems whether it is housing; whether it is laying of roads and whether in storage of grains, such critical ideas with which they are now contributing to the economy and bringing in a new signature to the Indian economy are being supported in this Budget as well as last and the last year's support to the start-ups have shown tangible results for all of us to see and in that sense, even this Budget, therefore, also announces, a high-level committee to be formed for understanding how best we can have more resources within India through the PEs and also Venture Capital Funds for enabling more such funding of start-ups and other business ventures which will be for our own youth, for our own moneys and for our own economy to speed up in terms of achieving higher growth.

So, the Budget, actually speaks of stability. It continues some of the policies of last year and that policy will guide us towards next 25 years. We will see modern infrastructure. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I didn't think that I said anything which is going to amuse anyone of us. ...*(Interruptions)*... India's 25 years, the coming 25 years, are going to be important. ...*(Interruptions)*... No wonder we are calling it an 'अमृतकाल'। ...*(Interruptions)*... These 25 years, if there is no vision....  
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... प्लीज़, आप लोग बैठकर न बोलें।

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: If we do not have a vision for India @ 100, we will suffer similarly, as was the first 70 years, when 65 years were with the Congress, which had no vision except for supporting, building and benefiting one family. Except for that, there was no vision in this country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... प्लीज़, आप लोग बैठकर न बोलें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I come about what काल it is, this 'अमृत काल', but I will also explain a bit on it, a bit later if only our Opposition Members have a bit more patience. I will make it interesting for them on that also. Sir, I had mentioned this earlier, and, I would like to recall it again. The kind of hit that the Indian economy took because of a global pandemic, it was not just for India, but, for everybody else, every other country suffered, but, India suffered very much more; there is no doubt about it. I would just very quickly recall that in the year 1972-1973, we had a 0.6 per cent contraction in our economy due to the global oil crisis. In the year 1979-1980, we had a 5.2 per cent reduction and that is also because of the Iran-Iraq War. The year 2008-2009 was the global financial crisis as a result of which there was again a contraction. The latest contraction, which is the year 2020-2021 contraction, by minus 6.6 per cent is one of the biggest contractions which the Indian economy had to go through. There is no memory or there is no comparison between this kind of a contraction or anything else which happened earlier, so, I may not be even able to give a comparable situation and say, 'how was it then and how is it now'. However, the recent global financial crisis is a very important milestone for India, as I read out four important global crises that triggered contraction in the Indian economy. The latest one is the 2008-2009 crisis, other than the one from which we are just about to come out. Sir, I just want to highlight the fact that time the contraction was only to the extent of Rs. 2.12 lakh crores. Sir, the contraction was only that much, it was a reduced gain, if I can be more accurate, whereas now, the contraction is very big, Rs. 9.57 lakh crores is what is the loss in GDP that we had to suffer because of this pandemic. So, this crisis is a big one, the loss to the GDP is much higher, whereas the loss to the GDP in the year 2008-2009 was only to the extent of Rs. 2.12 lakh crores. But, in spite of the supply-side disruptions, India's CPI inflation now is at only 6.2 per cent. I want to just highlight the fact that India's CPI inflation which is used for assessing the 'Mehengai' as we say in Hindi, is at 6.2 per cent whereas for a smaller contraction during the global financial crisis of only Rs. 2.12 lakh crores reduction in gain, not a negative growth, in that sense it was reduction in gain; what was the CPI inflation then Sir, in the year 2008-09? ...*(Interruptions)*... As you were saying something, I would rather benefit from your comment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : कृपया आपस में बात न करें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): One should smile at it.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Anand Sharmaji, thank you very much. Sir, for a reduction in gain of Rs. 2.12 lakh crores, the CPI inflation of that time was 9.1 per cent. Sir, the inflation was at 9.1 per cent, the CPI for a reduction of only Rs. 2.12 lakh crores, which is big enough, a global financial crisis hit us, that was the reduction in gain, whereas, when the pandemic hit us and the loss to the GDP was 9.57 per cent and our management of the inflation is that it is only 6.2 per cent. I want to highlight this for the benefit of all our respected Members of Opposition who periodically say look at the inflation, look at the inflation. I want to say in a lesser crisis you could not handle the inflation; you led it to 9.1 per cent. We are taking care of it, and it is remaining at 6.2 per cent only. I agree that there are instances where we need to work more to get more pulses in the ground, more edible oils in the ground; we are working on it. But a smaller crisis you couldn't handle with very experienced Finance Ministers and I was mocked at saying, 'would you know anything at all?' Leave me, Prime Minister Modi's consideration on how the economy should be because he is an experienced Chief Minister and handled the entire affair at his own personal guidance all of us have been working. So, this is a result, Sir, of only 6.2 per cent now whereas 9.1 per cent for a relatively smaller problem. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Brittas, please. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I have already admitted about that, John Brittasji. ...*(Interruptions)*.. We know that at ground level we need to do more and we shall be doing more and thank you for reminding me that I have to go to the market. All Right? ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Brittas, please. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I want to highlight the fact that we chose to go through public expenditure on infrastructure building. Multiplier effect is what guided us on it, and I have said this before that revenue expenditure does not give you the required multiplier. Revenue expenditure of every one rupee gives you just 45 paise worth of multiplier and that too for an immediate specific period, whereas for one period later, it gives us another additional ten paise more. So, spending money through revenue does not give you the required multiplier and the required multiplier being high, is what is very critical for us now because the economy has to revive and

revive in a sustainable manner, otherwise, we will have drops and rises. So, we are doing that. So, we chose not to go through the revenue expenditure route. So, what does the capital expenditure give us? For every one rupee spent from CAPEX, you get two rupees forty-five paise worth of multiplier in the immediate specific period and for one period later, you get nearly three rupees fourteen paise worth of, and over time you get three rupees fourteen paise worth of multiplier. It is a clear distinction between what gives you better multiplier and, therefore, whether you want to go through the revenue route or whether you want to go through the capital route is so obviously before us and, therefore, to sustain the growth, we had to choose spending through public capital expenditure. That is why the money which has been given from Rs.5.54 lakh crores, we have gone to Rs.7.50 lakh crores in this Budget for capital expenditure for building infrastructure. Sir, there was a small discussion on the figures given by the Economic Survey being very different from what it is in the Government's Budget Speech. Sir, it was raised saying as an issue that 8 per cent number which has been given *versus* the 11 per cent number, both nominal, the real being 8 and 11 being nominal, figures are given and which is to be believed from a Finance Minister speaking about it in this House said, 'which one has got to be believed?' I just want to highlight, Sir, and I am very grateful indeed to Dr. Narendra Jadhav who pointedly went down to explain why that difference is there and what that difference explains for itself and, therefore, with that explanation has already been given, I am not getting into the details of it, but for the former Finance Minister to raise it as though there is something misleading, is very disappointing because the Economic Survey draws its source of information from one particular set of data. The Government looks at advance estimates which come just before the Budget, and uses that data and the advance estimate, it is true could not take or could not imagine Omicron setting in. We have taken that also and factored it into the Budget. As a result, there are numbers which are slightly at variance with one another. So, with the sources of calculation being different, obviously you will get numbers which to believe - I am sure, in his tenure too...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I want to say... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Viswam, not allowed, please. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: He heard as 'CPI', that is why...



SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Oh, thank you. That is very interesting! Therefore, the sources of data being different, and also largely in the range of the numbers that all of us are talking about, it does not cause any sense of worry. I am sure, Economic Surveys were prepared during his term as Finance Minister as well. I don't think a ditto copy between the Finance Ministry and the Economic Survey, which is at an arm's distance, should also be aspired for. Opinions in economy do come from different sources. So long as they are diametrically not different, I think, for us to raise doubts about its credibility is only attempting to mislead. So, I leave it there.

Sir, there were quite a number of Members who spoke about various issues. I have clubbed them together on the head of the issue rather than by each Member, to go into and answer every one of the question. I have grouped them all together, like, for instance, on unemployment. Many Members spoke--Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, Shri Sanjay Singh from Aam Aadmi Party, Shri Elamaram Kareem of CPM, Shrimati Kanimozhi from DMK, Ms. Dola Sen from TMC, Shri Kapil Sibal, Shri A.D. Singh and former Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram. So, I have grouped them all together to address the issue of, say, unemployment so that I can speak about it.

Sir, the Budget mentioned about different categories under which some employment is being created somewhere else. But the one big number which people easily picked up and said, 'That is all the number you are going to create! 60 lakhs is all that you are going to create!' Sorry, I think, what got missed out in that is the PLI, which is now being given for 14 sectors. We are describing each PLI Scheme, which is being given for different sectors, and this one where we spoke about PLI, for the PLI-driven exercises, we said this 60 lakh number. That doesn't end the story there. There are various other steps that the Government is taking, aiming at improving employment. I very clearly did also speak in a bit of elaboration, about how drones are also going to generate more employment in the rural areas. It is actually showing results in many of the districts where it has already been adopted. Also, when we are spending so much on infrastructure-building, that can't be without employment. That is even going to be Rs. 7.5 lakh crore to be spent on building public infrastructure. There also will be employment generation. The latest periodic Labour Force Survey indicates that urban unemployment rate in January-March quarter of 2021-22 has declined to pre-pandemic level of 9 per cent after peaking at 20.8 per cent of unemployment. It peaked there. But, now it has already come down; it is being established by this Periodic Labour Force Survey pertaining to the January-March

quarter of 2021-22. So, the unemployment issue is being addressed and the unemployment numbers are coming down.

Sir, November, 2021 saw a net addition--forgetting the dropouts--in the EPFO subscription to peaking at 13.9 lakh new subscribers, an increase of 109.21 per cent over the previous year. This is the highest ever achieved since 2017. So, unemployment issue has got to be seen from various different sources of information and sector-related information that we are getting. We should not rush to think that 60 lakh number, which was given, is all the jobs that are being created. Capital expenditure, I think, I have partly explained; the issue of GDP number and the growth rate number being different, which was also being raised by several Members, I have explained. There was a question on increased allocation to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs claiming that that increase is purely for the sake of Central Vista. I just want to explain it. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' allocation has been increased from Rs. 54,581 crores in the BE of 2021-22 to Rs. 76,549 crores in 2022-23. The increase is mainly on account of increased allocation in PM Awas Yojana-Urban enhanced from Rs. 8000 crores to Rs. 28,000 crores and not because of Central Vista. I just want to explain it. I think, hon. Member, Shrimati Chhaya Verma had raised it and hon. Member Shri Jawhar Sircar had raised it. Again, there are questions about MNREGA; people who claim that MNREGA is their own programme and how can we not attribute it to their period, I want to say, yes MNREGA was designed, MNREGA was passed and MNREGA was an Act because of them, very well. But I also would like to equally say that MNREGA's misuse was also due to them. ...*(Interruptions)*... CAG was also talking about the misuse and MNREGA was infested with ghost accounts. People who did not exist were receiving money under MNREGA. People who are not known were also...

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, ... ..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ripun Bora, please sit down. ....*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record except Madam's speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... प्लीज़ बैठ जाइए।...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठ जाइए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Sir. MNREGA was infested with ghost accounts. I repeat. MNREGA had people whose names were written and who were not even born yet in this earth. So these were people who were receiving MNREGA money. That is also to their credit. So, I will not hesitate to give credit

where it is due, but take it on fully, take the entire credit for the misuse of MNREGA. Don't just take the name. ....(Interruptions)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** प्लीज़...(व्यवधान)... आप सबकी कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है।...(व्यवधान)... कृपया अपनी सीट्स पर बैठ कर न बोलें।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: So, Sir, I just want to highlight that MNREGA is a demand-driven programme. Also, let us not forget, MNREGA, even as it was born, was to provide that rural employment in lean seasons. Jairam Rameshji is here who has actually, spent a lot of time looking at MNREGA, looking at rural development, and he will vouch for this. MNREGA was meant to serve the rural, unemployed, particularly, in the lean season of agriculture. When agriculture activities are at its peak, it was safely assumed that people will find jobs in the agricultural activity. Also, it was to serve in the drought prone areas when agricultural activity unfortunately, because of climatic and other conditions, has remained only a couple of months in the entire year of 12 months. It had confined itself to only those rain-fed months, three-four months or five months and so on. The rest of the year, people were remaining unemployed and therefore, this was brought in to bring in succour. And in that, therefore, whenever demand was going to come up, it was to be funded. That is exactly what we are doing. Therefore, to think that you have not put it at the BE stage itself and then you let them suffer, this is entirely wrong. We gave the money at the BE stage, and just see what happened during 2020-21, Sir. The total moneys given for MNREGA crossed Rs. 1,11,000 crores. It was given by us. Therefore, it is one thing to create a scheme; it is one thing to misuse a scheme; whereas, what we do now is create a scheme, use it properly and transparently. ...(Interruptions)... So, BE of Rs. 73,000 crores is being given now -- with an understanding, which all of us know -- if the demand rises, we will provide more through the Supplementary Demands for Grants. So, on MGNREGA, I think, people who know it, people who want to have the claim for it, should not mislead by saying that we are not giving anything now. We have given Rs. 73,000 crores. And, they know that when the demand comes, we are bound to give, or else, they are here to question me. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** जो माननीय सदस्य बैठकर बोल रहे हैं, आपमें से किसी की भी बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है, आप unnecessarily हल्ला कर रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान).. Please let her speak, hon. LoP. ...(Interruptions)... प्लीज़, बैठकर न बोलें, आपकी कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है, आप हाउस को डिस्टर्ब कर रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)..

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL(Gujarat): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She is not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let her finish, I will allow you...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister, if you are conceding, here is a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Sir, my point of order is under Rule 238, along with this, I would also like to draw your attention to page 272 of a book on unparliamentary expressions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That we will see. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: I am raising it and, then, I will leave it to you to decide. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, Rule 238 mentions 'rules to be observed while speaking'. Here, Rule 238(vii) says, "A member while speaking shall not... 'utter treasonable, seditious or defamatory words'." Now, Sir, please look at unparliamentary words at page 272. The hon. Minister first said that former Finance Minister was misleading the House. Then, again, hon. Minister says, "Members speaking on MGNREGA are misleading the House". Now, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, kindly see that not once, but many times, she has used the unparliamentary word 'misleading'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will examine that, Shaktisinhji. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: I wish your honour will give a ruling on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will examine it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री; तथा श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव) :**  
सर, रूल 242 बहुत क्लियर है, किसी भी सदस्य को irrelevant बात नहीं करनी चाहिए। जो रूल 238 है, उसका जो सेक्शन 5 का explanation है, वो 'persons in high authority'; फॉर्मर मिनिस्टर किसी हाई अथॉरिटी पर नहीं हैं, वह उसका एक्सप्लेनेशन हैं, वे रूल ही गलत उठा रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** प्लीज़, माननीय सदस्यगण, चेयर आपसे बार-बार आग्रह करती है कि आप सब रूल्स को फॉलो करें, प्लीज़ सभी लोग रूल्स को फॉलो करें, माननीय मैडम, आप बोलिये। ...**(व्यवधान)**.. Hon. Minister, please. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, now I come to allocation to health sector. Questions were raised by Rajmani Patelji, Kanimoghiji, Kapil Sibalji, Amar Patnayakji, and others whether the health sector was getting adequate funds. I will, very quickly, give you a picture, in 2019-20, we had given Rs. 64,000 crores; in 2020-21, we had given Rs. 80,026 crores; that Rs. 80,000 crores became Rs. 85,950 crores in the RE of 2021-22, the year that we are in, which we will finish on 31<sup>st</sup> March. And, the Budget 2022-23, which is before this House, gives Rs. 86,606 crores. So, it is going up, not coming down.

Then, there are points which also need the attention of this House. Expenditure on COVID-related health preparedness had received Rs. 12,000 crores in 2020-21, and more than Rs. 15,000 crores in 2021-22. So, for preparedness we have given that money as well. The allocation for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which was Rs.64,000 crores, has gone to Rs.86,606 crores. So, I don't think, we should say that it has come down; it is a 35 per cent increase. Over and above that, in the B.E. 2022-23, one point that I would want to highlight is that Rs.5,846 crores, particularly for the references that Amar Patnaikji made, have been allocated under PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, (PM-ABHIM), a scheme which is going to develop capacities in health systems and institutions for responding effectively to the current pandemic and God forbid, if there is any future pandemic as well.

The other issue about food subsidy and fertiliser subsidy, quite a few Members spoke about it. I just want to quickly give a picture. As for fertilizer subsidy, in the B.E. of 2021-22, we gave Rs.79,530 crores. In the R.E. of 2021-22, this amount was increased to Rs.1.4 lakh crores, representing an increase of over 75 per cent between the B.E. and the R.E. itself in the current year, and that is because, as you know, global fertilizer prices have gone up. The Government of India imports a large quantity of fertilizers and in this case, in spite of the prices having gone up so much, we still imported it. We have no choice but to import it, but we made sure that the increased global prices of fertilizers are not shifted on to the farmers. The Government has borne that cost and the farmers have got fertilizers, as always, at the price at which they had bought last year or the year before. So, that shows that the

Government has been receptive to developments outside and understanding the issues here in the ground.

I also want to highlight that the allocation for food subsidy is Rs.2.86 lakh crores. This is higher -- I am talking about 2021-22, the year that we are about to finish -- because under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, around one lakh crore additional allocations have been made for food subsidy. Food subsidy allocation for this year, 2022-23, is Rs.2.07 lakh crores, which is the best estimate of requirement at this point in time. So, it is still higher. The food subsidy is well over Rs.2 lakh crores.

Doubling of farmers' income also has been an issue on which several Members, Shrimati Chhaya Verma, Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri Rajmani Patel, Syed Nasir Hussainji, Amar Patnaikji, have all voiced their concerns and I fully understand that. In 2013-14, the expenditure of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare was only about Rs.19,000 crores, whereas this has been increased 6.6 times, and, today, it is at Rs.1.24 lakh crores, that is, for 2022-23 for the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare. Out of this, Rs.68,000 crores will be transferred in DBT mode, to the bank accounts of farmers, under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana. Just to make this a bit more elaborate, in B.E. 2021-22, fertiliser subsidy was Rs.79,530 crores; in R.E., it became Rs.1.4 lakh crores, which represents a 75 per cent increase. The fertilizer subsidy this year is also being increased. About 10,000 Farmer Produce Organisations are being funded. FPOs are being formed. The Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF), with a provision of Rs. 100,000 crores, has been created. For the creation of Agricultural Infrastructure Fund, we have given money.

**11.00 A.M.**

If we are giving the data, Sir, it is because the questions have been asked. One more important question was on how we supported the MSME. MSME sector was a concern for Member, Suresh Reddyji and also Member, A.D. Singhji. I just want to highlight the points through which, hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, you will understand that for MSMEs, there have been several schemes which have been brought out; and that is because during the Covid pandemic, we needed to give that support. Sir, Rs. 20,000 crore subordinate debt for MSMEs, Rs. 3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for business, including MSMEs, which has now been enhanced to Rs. 4.5 lakh

crore, and now, during this Budget, we have given Rs. 50,000 crore more, raising it to Rs. 5 lakh crores. Then, there was Rs. 50,000 crore equity infusion through MSME Self-Reliant India Fund. From among these schemes, moneys have also been disbursed and people have benefitted from it. Whatever is left over in these accounts will continue to remain ready for anyone who wants to use it. So, I just want to highlight that the amount of disbursements made under the Emergency Credit Guarantee Scheme is Rs. 2.36 lakh crores -- disbursed, gone into the account of those MSMEs who need it.

Sir, there are quite a few such clarifications which I can go on giving but I will also pick up on issues which specific speakers have mentioned. Sir, quoting some study -- because I am moving from MSME; I will continue with MSME -- which is made available in the public domain, it was mentioned that based on a study in 2020-21, 67 per cent of MSMEs were shut. But what they have failed to say from that very same study is, they failed to mention that the very same study said, 67 per cent of MSMEs were temporarily shut, again an attempt to mislead. You say, 67 per cent of all the MSMEs were shut based on a study. I have gone through the study. I will quote the study. I will show it to you. I will place it on the Table. That very study says, 'They were temporarily shut.' Obviously, if the lockdown is in, won't they shut? And that is what was covered by the survey and reported. ...*(Interruptions)*... But, at least, use the word appropriately. It was temporary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: And because ECLGS was extended, many of them have taken the credit facility which was given, and, as a result, they are staying afloat even today. ...*(Interruptions)*... The SBI study shows that how many people have benefited by that ECLGS. So we need to highlight. Please highlight. Please bring in reports. But say it completely and not cherry-pick the words to give a different impression from what actually that study gives you as an impression. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, according to the study ...  
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... She is quoting the report. Allow her to quote her reports. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am quoting the very same reports, hon. Leader of Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... According to the study, about 65 per cent of the MSMEs surveyed, availed credit under the Government's Emergency Credit Guarantee Scheme which provided banks and financial institutions hundred per cent guarantee against any losses suffered by them due to the non-repayment of these. So, let us understand ... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: We can play ball on that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, in the last two years, it has not been business as usual. Everyone of us knows it. It has not been business as usual. Extraordinary steps had to be taken; and when we are quoting reports, we need to come with a complete detail before this. The State Bank of India study also shows how many people, how many MSMEs have benefitted from the Emergency Credit Guarantee which was given. I would just take example one, Sir. Comparing a large economy like the US may not be appropriate, but I would give an instance of how things develop when there is a global pandemic. In the US, at the onset of the pandemic, 1,40,104 units were marked temporarily closed. Of these, more than 97,966 businesses have permanently shut down during the pandemic, according to a report on the local economic pandemic in the US. Now, I just want to say... ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** प्लीज़, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्लीज़, बैठकर न बोलें। ...*(व्यवधान)*... There is a process for that, Madam. Dr. Ameer Yajnik, you are not allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a process for that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Minister speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing else is going on record. Madam Minister, please.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Member, Dr. Ameer Yajnik, is saying that correct information should be given. I would definitely give that about economies which gave cash transfer, which had huge stimulus packages, and tell you what happened to them. I would certainly give the details in a minute. I wish her to be kindly patient. I would give that information. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, about inflation, I think I did say a bit, but I want to again compare the Indian economic situation, which I did earlier as well when I talked about the 2008 global financial crisis, as to what



happened in India then and what is happening now. But I would also give a comparison between what is happening in other economies and what is happening in India.

Sir, economies all over the world have suffered, but I just want to say that US inflation, as was reported in all the papers today, has hit a 40 year-highest. Cash transfers were made, huge stimulus packages were given, but this is the effect. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you more data on that. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you more data on that. Sir, we are giving answers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** प्लीज़, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपकी बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैडम, आप बोलिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: There is no point. There are times when it is difficult to gulp down some facts, but we will have to take them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** पीछे सीट पर बैठकर न बोलें। ...*(व्यवधान)*... पीछे सीट पर बैठकर you are not supposed to speak, please. There is a process for that, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are not allowed to speak. Please continue, Madam Minister.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Sir. Sir, in Germany, since 1992, they have not faced an inflation of the order that they are facing today. There are economies that have better cash transfer, better solutions and better stimulus. I just want to say that no country is comparable with another. Every country has its own uniqueness. But all said, there would always be allegations that you have not done enough. 'You have not done enough, the way I want you to do.' All that comes, but I need to address that, Sir. So, Germany, since 1992, has never seen an inflation like this. In 25 years, the Eurozone has not seen the kind of inflation that they are seeing now and the UK, which also gave a big stimulus, has never seen as much inflation in the last 30 years as they are witnessing now. So, inflation management and carefully allotting resources is also a very important and responsible job that Finance Ministries all over the world have to do.

Sir, the respected Leader of the Opposition is not here, probably he would come, but I just want to highlight that WPI inflation is no longer the benchmark metrics for measuring inflation. They quote the WPI, saying it has already gone up to

11, 12 or 14 per cent. No, Sir. WPI doesn't influence inflation metrics. So, CPI is what we have to look at and CPI is that index which RBI also looks at when it is monitoring inflation control measures. That is only for reference. Since 2014, Prime Minister, Shri Modi, has ensured that we keep our inflation well contained and not cross six per cent or more. This crossing of six per cent has happened, no doubt, but we breached it a little bit, between 2014 and 2020, maybe six times, on a monthly average that we are looking at, and not beyond that. It is every time brought back to being within the limits of six per cent. So, our inflation management is robust is what I want to underline here. But, at the same time, it may not be nice for me to repeat it because nobody is going to like me saying it and I have to be in this House to say things which others like as well. But I will have to say things which are not going to be music to some people's ear. Highest inflation, if ever, or the worst era of inflation, if ever, this country endured, it is from 2010 to 2014 when retail inflation was more than 9 per cent in 22 out of 28 months, from January, 2012 to April, 2014. For 22 months out of 28 months, between January, 2012 and April, 2014, inflation was well over 9 per cent. So, let us also keep that context somewhere in the back of our minds.

There were quite a lot of questions on disinvestment: "Are you going to sell off everything? What is happening, particularly in Insurance sector?" Here, I want to humbly submit one thing. For instance, the Malhotra Committee was formed during 1991-1992 during the Congress period. The recommendations of Malhotra Committee are something which Congress kept in its mind and started doing quite a lot of things. "To ensure that there are private players who should be included in the Insurance sector", the recommendation of the Malhotra Committee. "Foreign company should be allowed to enter into Insurance sector", the recommendation of the Malhotra Committee. "There should also be an IRDA", which is instituted already and is guiding every one of the operations. So, we are following the recommendations of Malhotra Committee, which, of course, was formed during the Congress time for privatization of Insurance sector. Today there is a bit of confusion in the Congress side. I want to highlight that. On the one hand, I am not sure if I am allowed to take the name, a former President of the Congress Party, says, "India is against privatization." You know who the former President is! He is currently Lok Sabha Member. He says, "India is against privatization." On the other hand, I have a senior Congress leader, former Finance Minister, questioning me why I am going slow on disinvestment. He says, "Tell us the progress of disinvestment in BPCL, Container Corporation of India; you haven't said anything about two banks in this Budget." I want to ask the Congress Party. Is it one thing outside? Is it other thing

in Lok Sabha? Is it a third thing in this House? Clear it. Do you want it or not? You started it with Malhotra Committee and you take claim for 1991. ...*(Interruptions)*... When you ask a question from us, you say, remember ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपकी कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: \*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am quoting. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** आपकी कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपको जब मौका मिला था, तब आप बोल चुके। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Now, let her speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, it is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: What explains ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** आपमें से किसी की भी बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है, केवल मैडम की स्पीच ही रिकॉर्ड पर जा रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... You have already spoken on the subject. Hon. Finance Minister, please speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak, Brittasji. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: What explains Rs.1.07 lakh crore worth of disinvestment that happened during the UPA? What explains that? If they were against the disinvestment, why did they allow that to happen? Just one line, disinvestment is a complex process...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Where do you stand? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You are not allowed, Mr. Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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\* Not recorded.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I just want to respond. Hon. Binoy Viswamji is somebody whom I respect. He is a very senior Member. He is also ideologically very committed -- I appreciate that -- just as we are ideologically very committed, just as there are very many people who are ideologically committed. He asked, "Where do you stand?" I thought the Budget of 2021 very clearly narrated where we stand. Jana Sangh narrated where we stand. Bharatiya Janata Party and Vajpayeeji narrated where we stand. Our election manifestoes state where we stand and us fulfilling the manifestoes say where we stand. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, hon. Member, Binoy Viswamji, does not need to ask that question. Every Budget, which has been given under Vajpayeeji, every Budget which has been given under Modiji, from 2014 to 2019, every Budget, which has been given now, every manifesto of the BJP, clearly states where we stand. So, don't worry. We never contradict ourselves. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Binoy Viswamji, please, don't disturb. Let the discussion go on. आपको जब मौका मिला था, तब आप अपने विषय पर बोल चुके हैं। Let her speak now. आप सबको जब मौका मिला था, तब आप बोल चुके हैं, 42 सदस्य इस पर बोल चुके हैं। Let her speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, again, as the lead speaker, I heard the former Finance Minister saying, "You are not moving forward, as though you are on a treadmill. You are only running but remaining where you were". It was mentioned. I just want to show, if we are remaining where we were and pretending to run by explaining the state of our economy seven or eight years ago. The size of the GDP was Rs.112 lakh crores then. Now, it is Rs.230 lakh crores. It can't be when you are running on the same spot. I am being corrected, it is Rs.232 lakh crores. Exports were Rs.2.85 lakh crores in 2013-14. Today, it is at Rs.4.7 lakh crores. The Commerce Minister is the Leader of the House. He is here. So, you can't be standing in one place running and also pretending to move forward. ...*(Interruptions)*... Last two years were the years of pandemic. If that was said, unfortunately, somebody is repeating it here. They were not the normal years. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shame, if you are toeing that person. Foreign exchange reserves were \$275 billion in 2013-14, seven years ago. Now, it stands at \$630 billion. Not running as we are standing in one place! FDI inflows were \$36 billion then. Now, it is \$80 billion. Again, we can't be running on a treadmill. National Highways' length, which is a very important matrix for development, was 90,000 kilometres in 2014. Today, it is 1,40,000 kilometres. Again, no treadmill business!

Then, average inflation was at 9.5 per cent in 2013-14. Now, it is 5.23 per cent in 2021-22. I am talking of April-December.

Then, international matrix is something towards which I wanted to draw the attention of hon. Members. In 'Ease of Doing Business', in 2014, we were at 142<sup>nd</sup> position. Now, we are at 63<sup>rd</sup> position. In 'Access to Electricity', we were at 99<sup>th</sup> rank. Today, we are at 26<sup>th</sup> rank. In 'Global Competitiveness', we were at 71<sup>st</sup> rank in 2014-15 and now we are at 43<sup>rd</sup> rank. In 'Global Innovation Index', we were at 76<sup>th</sup> rank in 2014, and now we are at 46<sup>th</sup> rank in 2021. Logistics Performance Index, we were at 54<sup>th</sup> rank in 2014, we are at 44<sup>th</sup> rank now. So, all these matrixes show that we are not running, standing there! ...(*Interruptions*)...

Sir, let me make one more reference to the hon. former Finance Minister. He accused me saying you did not speak anything about the poor; you have not at all spoken about the poor, you spoke more about your Prime Minister. Of course, I feel very proud, I feel honoured to be in the Ministry along with the other Ministers who are guided by the Prime Minister, a Prime Minister who is visionary. I do not have anything to hide. I will say it any number of times. He is the Prime Minister of this country. In every popularity ratings, he is at the top. But, Sir, in our country, there are some people who suffer from visceral hatred of the Prime Minister but that is there problem. I will say here one thing. An allegation was made that I did not speak about the poor. I want to know what is that poor that you are talking about. Let me quote what your former President said. "Poverty does not mean the scarcity of food, money or material things. If one possesses self-confidence, then, one can overcome it", said the Congress leader. He also said that it is a state of mind. I have not named the person but we know who it is. ...(*Interruptions*)...

So, let me continue the quotation. If you want, I can lay it here, this is also reported in the media. "Poverty is just a state of mind. It does not mean the scarcity of food, money or material things. If one possesses self-confidence, then, one can overcome poverty" was the *gyan* given to us. I want to ask what is that poverty that I did not refer? Is this the poverty? My mental state is the poverty that I should have referred! I want to ask this. Be clear on what poverty you are referring to. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** मेरा आप सभी सदस्यों से आग्रह है कि सीट पर बैठकर न बोलें। आपकी कोई बात record पर नहीं जा रही है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra) : \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)...  
Priyanka ji, you are not allowed to speak.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am not mocking the poor. The person who mocked the poor is in alliance with you now. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** प्लीज़, आपस में बात न करें। ...(**व्यवधान**)...फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर की बात के अलावा कोई और बात record पर नहीं जा रही है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** आप बैठ जाइये। आप सब बोल चुके हैं। प्लीज़, बैठ जाइये। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is how when we don't have the courage to ask the person who said this. ...(*Interruptions*)... They distort and put it on me. They are in alliance with him. I am astonished. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am astonished that a member, a thinking member, a lady, stands up to say, you are mocking the poor whereas the person who said that is in alliance with them. ...(*Interruptions*)... I wish she makes...  
...(*Interruptions*)... I have quoted the man. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have quoted the person. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not my statement. I have quoted the person. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: \*

**श्री उपसभापति :** आप बैठिये, आपकी बात record पर नहीं जा रही है। आप unnecessarily अपने आपको परेशान कर रहे हैं। आपकी कोई बात record पर नहीं जा रही है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in Tamil ..(*Interruptions*).. Just before I say that Tamil proverb, I want to say that I have responded ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, it was ...(*Interruptions*)...

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\*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Let me finish. ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Brittas, please take your seat. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, is this a Budget debate? Yes, it is. It was a question raised to me about my Budget speech and I am giving it as a reply during the Budget debate speech. So, let there not be confusion. ..(*Interruptions*).. Everything that I am speaking ..(*Interruptions*).. This is not done, Sir. ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not proper. आप बैठकर ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: We have heard everyone of them silently. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN (Karnataka): Sir, she is ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot decide that. ..(*Interruptions*).. The Chair will see that. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: She is conveniently walking away ..(*Interruptions*).. There is no mention of poverty index ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak. ..(*Interruptions*).. Please sit down. You are not allowed to speak. ..(*Interruptions*).. आप पीछे बैठकर हमेशा ...(*व्यवधान*)... No, no; not allowed. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: \*

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): \*

**श्री उपसभापति :** आप लोग बैठ जाइए।...(*व्यवधान*)... आपकी बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है।...(*व्यवधान*)... किसी भी अन्य सदस्य की बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है।...(*व्यवधान*)... निर्मला जी, आप बोलिए।...(*व्यवधान*)...

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\*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, Amar Patnaik ji... ..(*Interruptions*)... Sir, now that there is a bit of order, I would like to go back to saying that one little Tamil proverb and then move on. I have not named anybody in this House. But there is a lot of response coming, and, therefore, there is a proverb in Tamil which I want to say. There are hon. Members, Mr. Navaneethakrishnan is there, Wilson ji is there. I can see many more DMK Members. <sup>⊗</sup>'Frog gets into trouble by its mouth'. I have not named anybody, but everyone is shouting, defending somebody else. Who are they defending? <sup>⊗</sup> 'Frog gets into trouble by its mouth' ...(*Interruptions*)... If you want a rough translation, Sir, 'during raining season, nobody knows where the frog is but it goes 'beck, beck, beck'. Show me greater noise. ...(*Interruptions*)... So, we get to know it. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have not said anything at all, but when the responses come, it is like a rainy season frog. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, Amar Patnaik ji ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI (Rajasthan): \*

DR. AMEE YAJNIK: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Dangi. ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Yes, yes; I understand, Madam. I understand that. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Except Madam Finance Minister's speech, nothing is going on record.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, for every answer, ..(*Interruptions*).. Sir, for every answer that I am giving, there was a question from that side. Do I answer questions or not? ..(*Interruptions*).. Sir, I am talking about Amar Patnaik ji's question. He had some questions on agriculture. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, what she said was unparliamentary. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I would want Mr. John Brittas, the hon. Member from Kerala, to listen to people. ..(*Interruptions*)..

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<sup>⊗</sup> English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

\*Not recorded.



MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Brittas, please do not disturb like this.  
..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The Chair will decide what is unparliamentary.  
You will please decide for me, Sir. Thank you very much, John Brittas ji.  
..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not entrusted with the job to see from there.  
Please sit.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, farmers and agriculture, ..(*Interruptions*)..  
The allocation for food processing ..(*Interruptions*).. Sir, everyone wants to know  
about farmers. ..(*Interruptions*).. Everyone wants to know about farmers and their  
matter. I am giving an answer for the questions raised by Amar Patnaik ji. The  
allocation for food processing has gone up by 90.4 per cent to Rs. 2,941.99 crores in  
2022-23. The allocation for animal husbandry and dairy has grown by 26 per cent to  
Rs. 3,918.84 crores. The allocation for fisheries has grown by 73.5 per cent to Rs.  
2,118.47 crores. With respect to wheat procurement, there is a 55 per cent growth in  
2021-22 versus 2013-14. Comparing 2013-14 to 2020-21, there is 87 per cent growth  
in paddy procurement. Comparing 2013-14 with 2020-21 -- earlier procurement was  
made only of wheat and rice; we are procuring even oilseeds -- oilseeds procurement  
has gone up by 204 per cent. Sir, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha raised some concerns  
about Z-shaped recovery. I just want to say that India's Gross Domestic Product is  
projected to grow at 9.2 per cent to Rs.147.5 lakh crore for the current financial year  
ending March 2022 which will be the highest among all large economies. There is no  
question of a slowdown or a recession. I want to draw your attention to it. I have  
already mentioned it earlier that the difference in the Economic Survey and the  
Ministry of Finance Report are because of the different sources through which we  
draw the information. This is also for Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha.

Shrimati Chhaya Verma had raised questions on crypto currencies. I just want  
to say this on act of taxing crypto currencies. I think the hon. Member suggested, 'Is  
it legitimizing crypto currencies?' She asked this question. I just want to say that we  
have taxed the profit emanating from the transactions. I am not doing anything to  
legalise it or ban it or not llegalise it or anything at this stage. ...(*Interruptions*)...  
Unbelievable! ...(*Interruptions*)... I am giving an answer. ...(*Interruptions*)... I

am talking about the reply. ...(*Interruptions*).. Why would Binoy Viswam Sir...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Binoy Viswam, this is not proper. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please sit down, Mr. Binoy Viswam. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am not yielding, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)... This is a bit too much. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am replying to the question raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Chhaya Verma. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You speak, Madam. ...(*Interruptions*)... सिर्फ आपकी बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जा रही है, किसी और की बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाएगी। मैडम, आप बोलें। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: By shouting like this, the Member's right to get a reply is being denied. ...(*Interruptions*).. The right of a Member to get a reply is being disrupted. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** Mr. John Brittas, this is not going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... आपकी कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... आप दोनों disrupt कर रहे हैं। ...(*Interruptions*)... I will be forced to name you. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will be forced to name you. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will be forced to name you. ...(*Interruptions*)... आप बार-बार disrupt कर रहे हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)... Please. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not allowed. ...(*Interruptions*)... Madam, you speak, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...(*Interruptions*)... कृपया आप सब शांत रहें। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you very much, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)... Banning or not banning will come subsequently when the consultations give me inputs. ...(*Interruptions*)... But then would you rather have me not tax it and allow the profits to be there and then tell me I have not even taken a corrective action? ...(*Interruptions*)... So legitimate or illegitimate is a different question. ...(*Interruptions*)... But I will tax it because it is a sovereign right to tax. I hope Shrimati Chhaya Verma is able to hear my reply, or else I am quite willing to give her the reply when I meet her in person. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am very sorry that the Member's right to receive a reply is being disrupted by other Members which is really a sad thing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Shri Anil Desai -- I don't know if he is here -- had questions about employment. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have explained that. ...*(Interruptions)*.. There is a misconception and that I have already explained. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sixty lakh is only for the PLI and there are other schemes through which we are trying to promote more employment in the country. This I have already explained, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Anil Desai also asked question about GST collections. ...*(Interruptions)*... I just want to say for 2022-23, talking about overall investment, the allocation is one lakh crore rupees to assist the States. ...*(Interruptions)*... He asked about the GST collections. He said, 'Will there be some kind of a support to the States?' On the matter of support to States, I would like to highlight that one lakh crore rupees is being given to assist the States in catalyzing overall investments in the economy. I just want to underline the fact that it is given for 50 years without any interest burden on the States. It is not going to affect their FRBM; they can continue to borrow at the rates which have already been given to them. So, this is not going to hurt them.

Sir, then, keeping in mind the States and their difficulties, I would like to remind that in November, 2021, instead of one installment of monthly devolution, which had to go to the States, I ensured that advance installment is given even in November. So, in place of Rs.47,541 crore which the States would have got, I had doubled it up, meaning that I added one more installment and made it Rs.95,082 crore in November itself. Similarly, to make sure that the States get money quickly in their hands, in January also, we did that. Every month, the money goes on 20<sup>th</sup>. In fact, now, we are even contemplating changing that to 10<sup>th</sup> of every month instead of 20<sup>th</sup>. That itself is for understanding the needs of the States and taking a step. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, where the States were expected to get only Rs.47,541 crore, I doubled it up again, meaning that I gave one more installment so that they have more money in their hands in advance. An amount of Rs.95,082 crore was released even in January. So, we are making sure that at every stage, we are a bit more sensitive to States. It is their money. But instead of getting it as regular installment, I am frontloading the installments in time so that States don't suffer.

Shri Rajmani Patel talked about the remote-controlled policy. He said that every one of our policies is remote controlled and it is being remote-controlled from somewhere. He probably mentioned that it is being remote-controlled from Nagpur. I just want to say that this is coming from a party which constantly, till this day, is remote-controlled. There is no democracy in that party. It is being remote-

controlled. Even worse, national policies were decided...*(Interruptions)*.. I am sorry to say this today. I didn't intend to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... But it was a question during the Budget debate. Therefore, I am answering during the Budget debate. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it a Budget issue? ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a Budget issue and that is why, you asked me that question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, national policies were decided at 10, Janpath, and then announced at 7, LKM. Was that remote control or not? Policy was decided at 10, Janpath and announced at 7, LKM. And one cannot ever forget the day when one of the General Secretaries of that party -- at that time, he was General Secretary -- tore that in the public in front of the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*... Even worse, the respected Prime Minister at that time, Dr. Manmohan Singh, after that, within a couple of hours, was going to meet the US President, and his party's General Secretary tore that. Isn't that remote control? What is that? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I come to my last intervention. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, the Leader of the Opposition wants to say something. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे):** सर, हम बजट पर उनका भाषण बड़ी गंभीरता से सुन रहे हैं। मंत्री जी, आप इस सदन को भटकाने की कोशिश मत कीजिए - कांग्रेस पार्टी ने क्या किया, कांग्रेस के जनरल सेक्रेटरी ने क्या किया - आप अपने बजट पर बोलिए, हम आपको सुनेंगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*... 27 करोड़ लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे आ गए हैं, पहले वे गरीबी की रेखा के ऊपर आ गए थे, आप उस पर बोलिए।

**श्री उपसभापति :** थैंक यू, माननीय LoP.

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे :** क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी को accept किया या नहीं? क्योंकि आरबीआई ने बोला है कि अपने रिस्क पर आप इन्वेस्टमेंट कर सकते हैं। आप यह बात बोलिए, हम सुनने को तैयार हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** केवल माननीय फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर की बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जाएगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... माननीय LoP प्लीज़। I have allowed you. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... माननीय फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर, आप बोलिए।

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति** : माननीय LoP, आपको बोलने की इजाजत मिल चुकी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, I request you. ...*(Interruptions)*... You give a serious reply and we would listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do not make.....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken, . ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition for reminding me that I should answer on Budget. Shri Rajmani Patel, during the Budget discussion, mentioned about it. Should I not reply, Sir? I am following his order only. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am following the instruction of the Leader of the Opposition. I am honestly.....*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री राजमणि पटेल** (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी..**(व्यवधान)**..

**श्री उपसभापति** : निर्मला सीतारमण जी, सिर्फ आपकी बात रिकॉर्ड पर जा रही है, और कोई बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है। ..**(व्यवधान)**..

**श्री राजमणि पटेल** : \*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: He is a very senior politician, he has been in politics for decades. He is very respected. I respect him and I certainly respect the words he has mentioned here and I am duly following it.

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\* Not recorded.

I come to the last intervention in my speech. This is also very much what came up during the Budget discussion. I am not speaking anything from somewhere, about a comment mentioned outside. So, I would like to have my full time, and I request your indulgence, Mr. Deputy Chairman, that I need to go into the details. There was this indication by a respected Member -- he is not here so I am not taking his name -- he said: "The Finance Minister is not elected and so she does not know the ground realities. And her Party should send her to get elected from the ground to know the ground realities." But coming from a Member, who is in this House elected -- ठीक है, today, he is in the Opposition -- to think that a Member in this House is one less to other respected Members who are elected is a bit too rich. Haven't they, in their time, in Rajya Sabha, also had Rajya Sabha Members being Ministers? Are they suggesting that their Ministers were unconnected from the ground? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Prime Minister himself was a Member of the Rajya Sabha, this great House. Was he disconnected from the ground reality? Is that what is being suggested by the hon. Member who told me that I am unconnected to the ground? I am sorry, Sir. Ten years being guided by a Prime Minister from this august House, I do not expect a Member to suggest that to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, that is one thing.

A few more things. The hon. Member also reminded about rural connectivity. I want to tell the hon. Member that India's rural internet user base is growing and it is growing three times faster and is quickly catching up to surpass the urban user numbers. So, this is something which has come out of Internet Mobile Association of India's Report. I am quoting from the Report. "While internet users grew by 4 per cent in urban India reaching 323 million users in 2020, digital adoption continues to be propelled by rural India, registering a 13 per cent growth in internet users over the past year." So, rural India's internet connectivity is also growing. Data consumption through BharatNet optical fibre surpassed 13,000 terabytes till June, 2021. This is an increase from 6,000 terabytes in 2020 and 300 to 400 terabytes in July, 2019; rapidity with which it is increasing. I just want to highlight that according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, which is a Report of August, 2021, the total number of internet subscribers increased from 79.5 crores at the end of December, 2020 to 82.5 crores at the end of March, 2021. So, in this Budget, of course, I have announced that contract for laying optical fibre in all the villages, -- the Minister is next to me -- including remote areas, would be awarded under the BharatNet project through PPP in 2022-23 itself and the completion is expected by 2025. Sir, our vision is that all villages and their residents should get the same access to e-services, communication

facilities and digital resources as urban areas and their residents get. I just want to highlight and it is also from one of the former Economic Advisors saying India, meaning India's growth, talking about it said, 'Bangladesh will be growing faster than India.' This was also raised. Maybe not by any Member but it is a very important conversation in which I think we need to put the facts together and say. We are ten times bigger, our economy is ten times bigger than Bangladesh. If I have to give you a rough calculation, if Bangladesh grew at 10 per cent and we grew just at 1 per cent, the absolute number that will arrive in terms of growth will be the same. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, then to say Bangladesh is at 5.5 and whereas you are at 4.1 is not really understanding it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I want to now address the concern that hon. Member, Dr. Ameer Yajnik, mentioned, saying that you have not spent much and you have not given money. I just want to say that countries which have spent big money while we prioritized on, "जान भी, जहान भी", save lives first and also immediately after that ensure that they get money for their businesses and so on. I just want to bring in one bit of an information. Advanced economies relied on large stimuluses, almost entirely on the demand-side measures they relied on, of direct support without paying attention so much to supply side. That is their priority. They can do it. Their outcome today is high inflation.

Now, I just want to highlight one observation which an economist, Shri Ruchir Sharma, has made in October, 2021 for the information of the hon. Member. Pandemic stimulus and I am just quoting, "Pandemic stimulus backfired: Indian can be thankful it did not go bigger on Government spending, 2020. Emerging markets which stimulated most aggressively got no payoff in a faster recovery, owing in part to the downsides of overindulging. India's payoff for moderation was one of the strongest recoveries in emerging markets." I just wanted to draw the attention of what one approach can give and what the other approach can give. Finally, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Sir, I have said that in the Budget Speech as well. Finally, Sir, hon. Member, who is not here now, had mentioned, and I hope I heard him right. He said that he does not see 'Amrit Kaal'. The Member said that he does not see... ...*(Interruptions)*... I will explain it. ...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Member said that he does not see 'Amrit Kaal' but instead has been seeing 'Rahu

Kaal' since 2014.' ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I wasn't sure if I heard him right if he said, 'Rahu Kaal'. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I want to say if there was a 'Rahu Kaal', if I heard him right, 'Rahu Kaal'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri John Brittas, please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I had mentioned it earlier, Sir,--I hope I heard him right-- that *rahu kaal* which he mentioned actually belongs to the time which, some time ago I had said, when a sitting Prime Minister brings about a law and it gets torn up scornfully in front of the media hours before the Prime Minister is about to meet the US President. That is *rahu kaal*. I am being careful. Sir, also, entrenched in the Congress party, where there is an implosion now, *rahu kaal* is what produces, I would think, the so-called G-23. So *rahu kaal* is not there now, *rahu kaal* is where Congress Party is. Ours is *Amrit Kaal*. ...*(Interruptions)*.. . *Rahu kaal* was thrown at me. ...*(Interruptions)*... *Rahu kaal* was mentioned by your Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, senior leaders from the party are leaving their own party and getting out. That is *rahu kaal*. Whereas standing there, in the Budget speech, the question, the allegation... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: You are sitting there and telling me...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** मैडम की स्पीच के अलावा आप में से किसी की भी बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है।

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: It is not *Amrit Kaal*, it is <sup>⊗</sup> ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, no wonder, Congress party, which is facing the <sup>⊗</sup>, is getting 44 seats and remaining there and not able to come out. ...*(interruptions)*...

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\*Not recorded.

⊗ Expunged as ordered by the Chair.



MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, where *rahu kaal* is? ...*(Interruptions)*... Where *rahu kaal* is? It is where Congress party is in *shaasan*, where they go and say, "लड़की हूँ, मैं लड़ सकती हूँ।" ...*(व्यवधान)*... लेकिन राजस्थान की लड़कियां लड़ नहीं पा रही हैं।...*(व्यवधान)*... राजस्थान में महिलाएं लड़ नहीं पा रही हैं।...*(व्यवधान)*... राजस्थान में महिलाओं के साथ हर दिन कुछ न कुछ कांड हो रहा है।...*(व्यवधान)*... राहु काल उधर है।...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, बजट स्पीच के समय, इस देश के अमृत काल के समय...*(व्यवधान)*... देश का अपमान करने के लिए अमृत काल को आपने राहु काल कह दिया।...*(व्यवधान)*..., अब ये उसका जवाब सुन लें।...*(व्यवधान)*... अभी ये जवाब सुन लें।...*(व्यवधान)*....,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Madam, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Sir.

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### SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Finance Minister's reply on General Discussion on the Union Budget 2022-23 is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, we come to Special Mentions. Dr. Subramanian Swamy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please read the title of your Special Mention. ...*(Interruptions)*... You please read the title only. Read the title and lay it. This is hon. Chairman's instruction.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House through you...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please read the title and just lay. Please read.

### Threats to national security and territorial integrity from hostile nations across the borders

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): Sir, I bring to the notice of this House through you to the Government that this House and the people of India as well are unaware of the recent threats that we face to our national security and territorial integrity from hostile nations across the borders. It would be advisable if the

Government brings out the White Paper on the developments that have threatened our national security since August, 2019. I request the Government to include in such a White Paper the number of locations along our border which have been a part of our territory, which have now come into the hands of hostile nations across the border. In particular, I am sure that Members of this House would appreciate knowing which areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh are under the occupation of Pakistan and China.

I am sure that this hon. House would appreciate knowing the national security threats that we face.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

**Need to take stringent action against the cartelization by major tyre companies in the country to increase the prices of tyres**

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently imposed monetary penalty of Rs. 1,788 crore on five major tyre manufacturers for indulging in cartelisation to increase the prices of certain tyre variants sold by each of them in the replacement market and to limit and control the production and supply. A penalty of Rs. 425.53 crore was levied on Apollo Tyres, Rs. 622.09 crore on MRF Ltd, Rs. 252.16 crore on CEAT Ltd, Rs. 309.95 crore on JK Tyre and Rs. 178.33 crore on Birla Tyres, has been imposed by the CCI. It is found that the tyre manufacturers had exchanged price-sensitive data amongst them through the platform of their association, namely, Automative Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), and had taken collective decisions on the prices of tyres. The five tyre manufacturers and ATMA were held guilty of contravention of the provisions of Section 3 of the Competition Act, which prohibits anti-competitive agreements including cartels, during 2011-12. In addition, a penalty of Rs. 8.4 lakh was also imposed on ATMA. ATMA was also directed to disengage and disassociate itself

from collecting wholesale and retail prices through the member tyre companies. This is a very serious matter of concern where companies are joining hands to influence the market and cheat the common man. It is actually a criminal offence committed by these companies and they have cheated the farmers as well as the consumers.

So, I urge the Government to take this matter seriously and file cases against these companies and punish the culprits.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sujeet Kumar जो एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, वे कृपया अपने नाम यहां भेज दीजिए।

**Need to extend the Howrah-Titlagarh-Howrah Ispat Super Fast Express to stations in Kalahandi District**

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, Kalahandi being an aspirational district requires a major boost in terms of railway connectivity for its rapid development as envisioned under the Aspirational Districts Programme. The people of Kalahandi frequently travel to the cities of Sambalpur for carrying out their economic, educational and medical

activities, Jharsuguda, Rourkela and Howrah to pursue their employment opportunities.

Presently, 12871/12872 Howrah-Titlagarh-Howrah Ispat Super Fast Express runs between Howrah and Titlagarh on a daily basis. This train connects the major cities such as Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Tatanagar, Rourkela and Howrah. Further, this train connects the Western Odisha districts of Balangir, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh. There is a long standing demand from the people of Kalahandi district for the extension of the said train to stations in Kalahandi district which will help them to commute to above mentioned major cities besides connecting to other Western Odisha districts. Recently, the extension of the said train was done upto Kantabanji in Balangir district without extending it to stations in Kalahandi district. The extension of the train is kept in abeyance until further order due to the public outrage for not meeting the needs of Kalahandi district.

The COVID-19 pandemic has already done serious damage to the economic activities of the tribal people in Kalahandi district for more than two years. This extension of this train will provide much needed relief to the local commuters.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister to extend the Ispat Express to stations in Kalahandi district.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SONAL MANSINGH (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

**श्री उपसभापति :** जो भी एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, kindly send their names.

#### **Need to curb increasing prices of mobile recharge**

**श्री संजय सिंह** (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): महोदय, देश में mobile internet और call recharge की बढ़ती कीमतों ने आम आदमी की जेब पर भारी संकट खड़ा कर दिया है। पिछले तीन वर्षों से telecom companies मनमाने ढंग से रीचार्ज कीमतों को 50-60 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा रही हैं और अब लगभग हर तीन महीने बाद नयी कीमतें ग्राहकों के सामने रख दी जाती हैं। यहां तक कि अगर मोबाइल में रीचार्ज न कराया जाए, तो incoming call भी बंद कर दी जाती है,

इसके कारण घर में मौजूद हर एक मोबाइल में रीचार्ज कराना अनिवार्य हो गया है। एक ओर सरकार की 'डिजिटल इंडिया योजना' है, वहीं दूसरी ओर लोगों के पास इतने महंगे रीचार्ज कराने के लिए पैसे नहीं हैं। कोरोना काल में बच्चों की online classes से लेकर work from home बिना internet data के नहीं किया जा सकता, किंतु इस समय में भी telecom companies ने मनमाने ढंग से लोगों की मजबूरी का फायदा उठाया है। Private telecom companies को रीचार्ज कीमतों को बढ़ाने का एकाधिकार है। आम आदमी पेट्रोल, डीज़ल, खाने के तेल और सब्जियों की महंगाई के बोझ तले दबा हुआ है और अब mobile recharge ने हर आदमी का बजट बिगाड़ कर रख दिया है।

महोदय, हमारी मांग है कि आसमान छूती mobile recharge की कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए अतिशीघ्र कदम उठाये जाएं।

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Sanjay Singh.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Sanjay Singh.

#### **Need to increase the honorarium of *Anganwadi* workers**

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, the amount paid, in relation to Anganwadi worker's honorarium, is Rs.4,500 which is borne by Central Government and State Government. The State Government paid an additional honorarium of Rs.3,750 thereby the total amount stands at Rs.8,250. Similarly, the amount paid, in relation to Anganwadi Helpers honorarium, is Rs.2,250 which is borne by Central Government and State Government. Further more the State Government paid an additional honorarium of Rs.4,050 thereby the total amount stands at Rs.6,300/- only. Interestingly, the State Government increased the additional honorarium three times between 2018 to 2021. But, unfortunately, the Central Government's additional honorarium between 2018 to 2021 is NIL.

I would request the hon. Minister for Ministry of Women & Child Development to urgently look into the matter and increase the additional honorarium due since 2018.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

**Need to restore Kashmir Press Club and safety of the journalists**

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, free independent media is a prerequisite of a health functioning democracy and is vital for maintaining a system of checks and balances. At a time when newspapers, media houses, and journalists have increasingly become partisan, the closing of the Kashmir Press Club is a severe blow to the necessary non-partisan values of journalism. It is necessary that the journalists should be able to speak freely on matters of public interest and restriction of freedom inevitably leads to poor outcomes in decision-making for both the institutions and citizens. Kashmir has been prone to several communication blackouts and the local journalists have remained an important source to voice the concerns of the people. Therefore, the Government must reverse their decision to shut down the Kashmir Press Club and restore it at the earliest possible to protect press freedom and ensure the safety of the journalists.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla; not present. Now, Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya.

**Need to ensure severe punishment for public incitement for sexual abuse of women**

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, we have, unfortunately, witnessed the most disgusting display of brazen misogyny for the second time in less than a year. Earlier in July, 2021, an App called 'Sulli Deals' was shared on social media which purported to 'auction' prominent Muslim women, journalists, writers, activists, etc. This was done to humiliate and terrorise courageous Muslim women who were writing and protesting against injustice and corruption.

When no action was taken against those responsible for ‘Sulli deals’, the end of the year witnessed the appearance of a similar App, ‘Bulli Bai’, on social media. Several prominent Muslim women who had filed a police complaint in Delhi were not only named but their photographs were made public on the site which also spoke about ‘auctioning’ the women. While the hon. Minister of Communications and IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, has announced that the github user behind the App had been ‘blocked’, this is a very weak and inadequate response.

I appeal to you as the highest constitutional authority to use all the means at your disposal to intervene and ensure that those responsible for this vile and criminal behavior are punished with the severity that they deserve. Thank you.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Protection, preservation and development of important historical, cultural and archaeological sites in Western Odisha**

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): The Western part of Odisha is abounded with beautiful flora and fauna, as well as temples and other historical architectural excellence. The only leaning temple of the world at Huma in Sambalpur district on the river bank of Mahanadi, the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Shrine of Samleshwari Temple at Sambalpur,

the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Lord Narusinghnath Temple at the foothills of Gandhamardan mountain, the Debrigarh Wild Life Sanctuary, which is an important site for conservation of wildlife, like, leopard, Indian Gaur, four-horned antelope are all located in Western Odisha. This apart, places such as Buddhist Shrine in Boudh district, the ancient engraving at Bhim Mandali in Rarakhol, Ushakothi in Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary and Gudguda Waterfall in Sambalpur district, Deuljhari hot spring in Athmalik, Harishanker Temple and waterfall in Bolangir district, Pradhanpat Waterfall in Deogarh district, temple town of Sovarnapur, Kandhara, which is the birth place of Santh Kabi Bhimabhoi and Ranipur Jhariyal in Bolangir district, the nature invested historical Papanga Hills in Bargarh district and many other such places of immense architectural and historical values are to be protected, preserved and developed.

Although the Government of Odisha has been doing developmental works in all these places, I would request the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture of Government of India to prepare a blueprint, in consultation with the State Government, for all-round development and protection of these places by providing necessary infrastructure.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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#### **OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, just before we adjourn for a long recess, on behalf of hon. Chairman and on my own behalf, I would like to express our happiness over the manner in which proceedings of this august House took place during the first part of the Budget Session. The House has not witnessed any forced adjournments during the entire first part of this Budget Session and it functioned nearly half-an-hour more than the scheduled sitting time. The credit for this goes to every Member of this House. As a result, the Members could not only participate effectively in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and on the General Discussion on Union Budget, but they were also able to raise 51 Starred Questions, 71 Zero Hour Submissions and about 50 Special Mentions. I



compliment all sections of this august House for effective functioning of the House in a very positive way during this part of the Budget Session and hope that we would continue to be guided with the same spirit in the future.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 10.00 hours on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

*The House then adjourned at fifty-eight minutes past eleven of the clock till ten of the clock on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.*

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