

Vol. 256
No. 11



Monday,
14th March, 2022
23 Phalguna, 1943 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)
(PART-II)

CONTENTS

Obituary References (pages 1 - 3)

Opening Remarks by the Chairman (pages 4 - 5)

Announcement by the Chair (pages 5 - 6)

Papers Laid on the Table (pages 6 - 11)

Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home
Affairs - *Presented* (page 11)

[P.T.O]

©
RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

PRICE: ₹ 100.00

Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture - *Presented* (pages 11 - 12)

Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways - *Laid on the Table* (page 12)

Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment - *Laid on the Table* (page 12)

Motion for election to the Committee on Public Accounts - *Adopted* (page 13)

Motion for election to the Committee on Public Undertakings - *Adopted* (page 13)

Motion for election to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - *Adopted* (pages 13 - 14)

Matters raised with Permission —

Need to take measures for continuation of studies of Indian medical students who have recently returned from Ukraine (pages 15 - 20)

Need for budgetary grant for rare diseases (pages 20 - 21)

Need to create awareness programmes for plastic and waste management (pages 21 - 23)

New excise policy of Government of NCT of Delhi (page 24)

Custodial deaths (pages 25 -26)

Need for reservation for SCs/STs in higher judiciary (page 35)

Need to revamp the medical education in the country (pages 35 - 36)

Difficulties being faced by workers in the light of disinvestment of PSUs (pages 37 -38)

Issue of Inter-State Rivers and water sharing (pages 38 -40)

Welcome to Parliamentary Delegation from Austria (page 26)

Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee (pages 26 - 28)

[P.T.O

Special Mentions —

Need to give option of Hippocratic/Charak oath for Doctors (page 28)

Need for reduction of GST on health insurance policy for senior citizens (page 29)

Need for development of Kannur airport in Kerala (pages 30- 31)

Need for infrastructure for developing the Electric Vehicle Industry (pages 31 -32)

Need to permit Kerala Government to acquire HLL Lifecare Limited directly upon mutually agreeable terms (pages 32 - 33)

Need to accommodate medical students returning from Ukraine in Indian Medical Universities (pages 33 -35)

Oral Answers to Questions (pages 40 - 72)

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

Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2021-22 - *Laid on the Table* (pages 72 -73)

Supplementary Demands for Grants of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, 2021-22 - *Laid on the Table* (page 73)

The Budget of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, 2022-2023 - *Laid on the Table* (page 73)

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region - *Discussion not concluded* (pages 73 - 143)

Message from Lok Sabha - *Reported*

Regarding extension of time for presentation of the Report on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (page 143)

Website: <http://rajyasabha.nic.in>
<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>
E-mail : rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 14th March, 2022/23 Phalguna, 1943(Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain, Shri Rahul Bajaj, Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya and Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao, former Members of this House.

Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain passed away on the 28th of May, 2021, at the age of 98 years.

Born in March, 1923, at Pirakata Village in Jorhat District of Assam, Shri Buragohain was educated at the Cotton College, Guwahati and the Aligarh Muslim University.

An advocate by profession, Shri Buragohain took keen interest in the activities of educational and youth organisations and was actively involved in the development of agriculture and the welfare of the Backward Classes. Shri Buragohain served as the Chairman of the Jorhat Elementary Education Board from 1965 to 1966 and as the Principal of the Jorhat Law College from 1996 to 2007. He established the Kakojan College in Jorhat District and served as the President of its managing committee. Shri Buragohain also practised law in the High Court of Assam.

Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain served as a Member of this House representing the State of Assam from April, 1972 to April, 1978.

In the passing away of Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain, the country has lost a renowned academician, a dedicated social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Rahul Bajaj passed away on the 12th of February, 2022, at the age of 83 years.

Born in June, 1938, at Kolkata in West Bengal, Shri Rahul Bajaj was educated at the Delhi University, the University of Mumbai and the Harvard University, U.S.A.

An ardent proponent of the development of domestic industries to achieve self-reliance, Shri Bajaj had deep commitment and sensitivity towards the people and the nation. Taking over the reins of Bajaj Group in pre-liberalisation era, Shri Bajaj, with his unique entrepreneurial skills and able leadership, not only diversified the business into finance, insurance, lighting and steel sectors but also

propelled the home-grown company to establish itself as a renowned multinational company. The iconic '*Hamara Bajaj*' slogan on Bajaj two wheelers became a trademark, etched in the minds of middle-class Indians.

The visionary perspectives of Shri Rahul Bajaj on the development of Indian Industry led him to have a unique distinction of serving as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) twice. He also served as Chairman of the Indian Airlines and the Board of Governors of the IIT, Bombay.

He was awarded Honorary Doctorate by Rani Durgavati Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh and the IIT, Roorkee. Shri Bajaj was also the recipient of Padma Bhushan in the year 2001.

Shri Rahul Bajaj served as a Member of this House representing the State of Maharashtra from June, 2006 to July, 2010.

In the passing away of Shri Rahul Bajaj, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a towering personality deeply committed to the development of Indian Industry.

Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya passed away on the 13th of February, 2022, at the age of 88 years.

Born in November, 1933 at Barisal, now in Bangladesh, Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya was educated at the Krishnanagar Government College, West Bengal; the University of Calcutta, Kolkata and the London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom.

An educationist, Prof. Chattopadhyaya had a humble beginning, starting his career as a school teacher. He rose to become a Lecturer in the B.K.C. College, Kolkata, and served in that capacity from 1956 to 1964. Prof. Chattopadhyaya also served as Professor of Philosophy in the Jadavpur University and as an Honorary Professor of Philosophy in Andhra University, Waltair, Visakhapatnam. He founded the Indian Council of Philosophical Research at New Delhi and also served as its Chairman.

A widely read and well-informed personality, Prof. Chattopadhyaya authored and edited several books on culture and philosophy, notable being the Project of the History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture conceived by him, which crossed 120 volumes. He was also the recipient of *Padma Vibushan* in the year 2009.

Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya represented the State of West Bengal in this House for two terms - from July, 1969 to July, 1975 and again from July, 1975 to July, 1981. He served as Minister of State holding portfolios of Health and Family Planning, Works and Housing, and Commerce and as the Minister of Commerce in the Union Council

of Ministers from 1971 to 1977. Shri Chattopadhyaya also served as a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1987 to 1990, and as the Governor of the State of Rajasthan from 1990 to 1991.

In the passing away of Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya, the country has lost an eminent academician, an acclaimed philosopher, an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao *garu* passed away on the 28th of February, 2022, at the age of 102 years. Born in December, 1919, at Bodapadu Village in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao *garu* was educated at the A.C. College, Guntur, and the Law College, Chennai.

An agriculturist, Shri Venkat Rao *garu* worked assiduously for upliftment of the weaker sections of society and development of agriculture. He served as the Director of *Karshaka Parishad*, Andhra Pradesh, in 1987 and as the Chairman of Zila Parishad, Guntur, from 1995 to 1998. Shri Venkat Rao *garu* also served as the Founder Chairman of Sangam Cooperative Dairy, Guntur.

Shri Venkat Rao *garu* started his legislative career as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and served that Assembly from 1967 to 1983. He also served as Minister holding portfolios of Agriculture and Law in the Government of Andhra Pradesh and as the Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation.

Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao *garu* represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this august House from April, 1998 to April, 2004. He also served as the Chairman of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, from May, 2000 to May, 2002.

In the passing away of Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao *garu*, the country has lost a competent administrator, a champion of the rights of farmers and an able parliamentarian. He was healthy two months before his death.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain, Shri Rahul Bajaj, Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya and Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivansh ji, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi ji, the Leader of the House, Shri Piyush Goyal ji, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Ministers and hon. Members, I warmly welcome you all to the second part of the Budget Session beginning today.

We have witnessed some important events during the recess, including the situation in Ukraine and elections to the legislative assemblies of five States.

This august House has taken a 30-day recess for the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries for the year 2022-23. Given the importance of this exercise, hon. Members may like to know the work done by the eight Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees of the Rajya Sabha during the recess.

The eight Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees of the Rajya Sabha have held a total of 21 meetings for a total duration of 73 hours 33 minutes and examined the Demands for Grants of 18 Ministries comprising 32 Departments. I am happy to share with all of you that the average duration of these 21 meetings was 3 hours and 30 minutes per meeting which is the best in this regard so far. This marked an increase of 1 hour 17 minutes per meeting, a rise of 56 per cent over that of last year.

I am glad to note that 3 Committees met for an average duration of more than four hours per meeting. The Committee on Education reported the highest average duration of 4 hours 48 minutes per meeting, followed by the Committee on Personnel and Public Grievances with 4 hours 39 minutes and the Committee on Commerce with 4 hours 8 minutes. However, there has been a decline in the average attendance of meetings this year from that of last year. I understand that the recent Assembly Elections were a major factor that pulled down the attendance. I propose to soon hold another meeting with the Chairmen of all these 8 Committees on their functioning over the last five years.

Hon. Members, you may recall that the first part of this Budget Session that had 10 sittings marked a refreshing break from the turbulence of some previous sessions. There were no forced adjournments of the House during the first part. As a result, the productivity of the House was 101.40 per cent. The last eight full sittings of the first part of this session were free of disruptions and forced adjournments, for the first time in the last about three years.

I appeal to the Members to sustain this positive spirit during the 19 sittings of this part of the Session so that the House clocks productivity higher than 94 per cent of the Budget Session of last year.

Hon. Members, you are all aware of the situation in Ukraine. A large number of Indian students in Ukraine were required to be evacuated in the context of the situation there. This was a very challenging task. The Government of India and also the State Governments rose to the occasion in evacuating Indian students as well as some students of other nationalities. These efforts are praiseworthy. I have been informed by the Minister of External Affairs that he will be making a statement on the situation in Ukraine and also on developments with regard to Indian students.

Hon. Members, with the waning of the third wave of Covid-19, both the Houses of Parliament have returned to sitting from 11.00 a.m. during this part, as against working in two shifts during the first part of this session. We still need to be careful and hence, some of the hon. Members are being seated in the Galleries of this House though I don't see anybody sitting in the Galleries today. I urge upon all of you to follow Covid protocol and appropriate behaviour both within and outside the House.

I am happy to inform you all that the Secretariat has recently installed another safety measure in the Chambers of this august House to contain the spread of corona virus. Equipment has been installed to contain the spread of virus through Ultraviolet C-band radiation which is very effective in killing the virus. CSIR-CSIO has come out with this technology. I wish you all of you to have a happy and meaningful Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Hon. Members, during the first leg of the Budget Session of our House, I had accepted the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for permitting the Ministers of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to lay all the Papers listed under the heading 'Papers to be laid on the Table' in the List of Business for the day in the name of other Ministers on their behalf due to limited functional time available and the special seating arrangements. However, now, the situation has improved and the Members would be sitting in Rajya Sabha Chamber and its Galleries only, and the House will function as per its normal sitting, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., during this remaining part of the current Session. Therefore, all Papers listed under the heading 'Papers to be laid on the Table' will now be laid by the individual Ministers concerned.

This has to be noted by all the Ministers and I hope the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will guide them.

Hon. Members, regarding attendance in the meetings of Departed-related Standing Committees, a couple of Chairmen met me today and expressed concern over inadequate attendance in Committees that deal with specialized and technical issues. This calls for the need to nominate Members on Committees based on their background and interest in subject domain. I had flagged this issue at the time of constitution of Committees. Attending meetings should be given priority by the Members. Elections are important. I do agree. But attending Committee meetings need to be given due priority.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table. General (Retd.) V.K. Singh.

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

II. Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of the Rohini Heliport Limited, New Delhi; and AAI, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under Section 14 A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:-

- (1) G.S.R. 589 (E), dated the 25th August, 2021, publishing the Drone Rules, 2021, along with Delay Statement.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7026/17/22]

- (2) G.S.R. 108 (E), dated the 11th February, 2022, publishing the Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6664/17/22]

II. (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 Rohini Heliport Limited, 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 Company.

(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. 6662/17/22]

(ii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 28 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994:-

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(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. 6663/17/22]

Notifications of the Ministry of Mines

खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव): महोदय, मैं खान और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1957 की धारा 28 की उप धारा (1) के अधीन खान मंत्रालय की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :

(1) G.S.R. 856 (E), dated the 14th December, 2021 publishing the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Second Amendment Rules, 2021.

(2) G.S.R. 857 (E), dated the 14th December, 2021 publishing the Mineral (Auction) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2021.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 7027/17/22]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

II. Reports and Accounts (2020-21) of NBCC (INDIA) Ltd., New Delhi; HSCC (India) Limited, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh; and HSCL, Kolkata and related papers

आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कौशल किशोर) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :

I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Notification No. S.O. 5340 (E), dated the 23rd December, 2021, declaring that the provisions of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, shall extend to Gorakhpur Metropolitan Area in the State of Uttar Pradesh with effect from the date of publication of the Notification in the Official Gazette, issued under sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002.

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Notification No. S.O. 755 (E), dated the 17th February, 2022, declaring that the provisions of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, shall respectively extend to Patna Municipal Corporation and Danapur Nagar Parishad Area in the State of Bihar with effect from the date of publication of the Notification in the Official Gazette, under sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002.

(iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Notification No. S.O. 852 (E), dated the 25th February, 2022, adding to the Schedule of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978, the metro alignments of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-1, Phase-2 and Phase-2A and 2B Corridors in respect of the metropolitan area of Bangalore, as mentioned therein, under sub-section (2) of Section 32 of the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (iii) See No. L.T. 6685/17/22]

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:—

(i) (a) Sixty-first Annual Report and Account of the NBCC (INDIA) Ltd., New Delhi, for the year 2020-21, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6679/17/22]

(ii) (a) Thirty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the HSCC (India) Limited, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, [a subsidiary of NBCC (India) Limited], 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 Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6680/17/22]

(iii) (a) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL), Kolkata, 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 Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6681/17/22]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ajay Bhatt.

MoUs between the Government of India and BEL, MDL, HSL, GSL, GRSE and MDNL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI AJAY BHATT):
Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I rise to lay the Papers...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 'Hon. Chairman.' ...*(Interruptions)*.. Hon. Member, it is 'Hon. Chairman.'

SHRI AJAY BHATT: Sorry, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Were you in Lok Sabha earlier?

SHRI AJAY BHATT: Yes, Sir. I am so sorry, Sir. Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence) and the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), for the year 2020-21.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6709/17/22]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence) and the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6707/17/22]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence) and the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6703/17/22]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Defence) and the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, (HSL), for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6705/17/22]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence) and the Goa Shipyard Limited, for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6708/17/22]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence) and the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited, for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6702/17/22]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence) and the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6701/17/22]

Report and Accounts (2020-21) of NMDFC, New Delhi and related papers

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जॉन बर्ला): महोदय, मैं कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 394 की उप धारा (1) (ख) के अधीन निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :

- (a) Twenty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), 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 Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6687/17/22]

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

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

- (i) 238th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Home Affairs'; and
- (ii) 239th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of DoNER'.

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I present the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:-

- (i) Three Hundred Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants 2022-23) of Ministry of Civil Aviation;

- (ii) Three Hundred Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of Ministry of Culture;
- (iii) Three Hundred Sixteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways;
- (iv) Three Hundred Seventeenth Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and
- (v) Three Hundred Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of Ministry of Tourism.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T.G. Venkatesh would be setting a record of submitting a number of reports in each Session. Now, Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha.

**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS**

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the Eleventh Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on 'Demands for Grants' (2022-23) of the Ministry of Railways.

**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the Thirtieth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on 'Demand for Grants 2022-23' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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, I move the following Motion:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2022 and ending on the 30th April, 2023, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from amongst the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V. Muraleedharan to move a Motion for Election of seven Members to the Committee on Public Undertakings.

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, I move the following Motion:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2022 and ending on the 30th April, 2023, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from amongst the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V. Muraleedharan to move a Motion for Election of ten Members to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

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, I move the following Motion:—

"That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2022 and ending on the 30th April, 2023, and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten Members from amongst the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received notice from Shri K.C. Venugopal and Dr. Sivadasan with regard to the situation about the Ukraine-Russian War. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Rajasthan): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow, we are going to have a statement from the Minister, then, you can seek clarification but not now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already informed that I have taken note of it. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; whatever notices I have received, I have to mention. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, it is about EPF.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Matters to be raised with the Permission....
 ...*(Interruptions)*... You write to me and send a request. Viswamji, you have already gained some experience. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*.. . Everything is important, that is why the House is sitting. ...*(Interruptions)*.. . Please. This will not go on record....*(Interruptions)*... Do not give wrong precedents....*(Interruptions)*... Please write to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Chairman knows whether notices come or not. ...*(Interruptions)*... If he has given and if it is on the way, then expedite it. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: *

Need to take measures for continuation of studies of Indian medical students who have recently returned from Ukraine

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue pertaining to thousands and thousands of Indian students pursuing their medical studies in Ukraine and due to ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, a question mark has been put on their future.

Sir, many Indian students, including the students from Telugu States went to Ukraine to study medicines. On 24th February, 2022.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time, time. All these facts are known, what is it you want to say because there are three more Members and we are going to have a discussion tomorrow after the Minister makes a Statement? ...*(Interruptions)*.. . I allowed you to make a mention. It is Zero Hour.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: In this view, it is pertinent to laud here the efforts taken by the Central Government of India evacuating the students from the war-torn country. Sir, evacuated students are mainly pursuing medicines from Ukraine. Sir, though the safety and security of the students has been ensured, their future is at stake now. The war between Russia and Ukraine is not likely to come to an end in the near future. Therefore, I urge the Government to take necessary steps after

* Not recorded.

consulting with the stakeholders, including the National Medical Commission to absorb all the students returned from Ukraine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri K.C. Venugopal. I got the point. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri K.C. Venugopal. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not going on record what you are saying.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: *

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

* Not recorded.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*.. . Please, Shri Ravindra Kumarji. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the students who have returned from Ukraine due to the war are in a very, very difficult situation. And, their families are also very much concerned about their future. Therefore, what is going to be done to the students is a great concern in the country now. The education of those students has now come to a standstill. What is to going to be done by the Government, the Government has to clarify it because they have to provide a relief on that matter.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): While associating myself with the issue and with the concern raised about the students who have returned, I wish to make a few suggestions in line with the suggestion made by the hon. Chief Minister that you increase the seats by two to five per cent in all the private and Government medical colleges and also take care of the fifth year which has the clinical component in some ingenious method so that their education is not compromised.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, my submission is that due to scarcity of adequate medical education service system, they were forced to go to Ukraine for their medical studies. They have been brought back. They were forced to leave Ukraine. Our Government has taken the responsibility to complete their internship after they pass the eligibility test. But, my humble submission before the Government is, please take care of those students who were forced to leave their studies in between. Many of them are in first year, second year and third year. Some special steps should be taken to accommodate them here in India.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री संजय सिंह (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री नारायण दास गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री नीरज डांगी (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Santanu Senji, you are a doctor. You know the regulations of the Medical Council of India and also the other procedures. This has to be attended to, I do agree. But it is a complicated matter. Now, Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy.

Need for budgetary grant for rare diseases

SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Zero Hour submission is regarding the Budgetary grant for rare diseases in India. The National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, was formulated aiming at lowering the high cost of treatment of rare diseases. Although more than 450 rare diseases have been identified in the country, less than 50 per cent are treatable and the Drugs Controller General of India approved treatment, currently available only for 12 to 15 of them. The health expenditure incurred on these diseases runs very high and eventually effects the patients' families. The policy has created a voluntary crowdfunding digital platform, seeking contributions from individuals and corporate donors. So far, only Rs.1,15,000 has been raised and 237 patients with treatable conditions are awaiting support of crowdfunding. I request the Government to issue necessary guidelines for provision of sustainable treatment support by the Centre for treatable disorders with an increased budgetary amount by the Central Government.

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Need to create awareness programmes for plastic and waste management

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important issue. This issue concerns the waste management and the waste that is littered on the streets of our country. In November, 2019, the then hon. Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Forest had made a statement in the Lok Sabha floor that 40 per cent of plastic waste that is collected is lying and not getting collected by the agencies. Sir, this littering of waste on the roads, on the streets gives rise to pollution, health hazards to citizens and our young children. Those who are travelling by cars do not face this problem. Those who are travelling or staying in big houses do not have this problem but the children, the senior citizens get respiratory infections. So, there should be some kind of a method, and I urge the hon. Environment Minister as also the Minister of Education that there should be a top-

down and a bottom-up policy. Sir, just picking up the broom and collecting the garbage somewhere is okay, but then what happens to those heaps of garbage is not known to us. So, we have the mission as well as, there are ample laws. But, the implementation of these laws is required whereby the local agencies are held responsible or penalised for not ensuring that the roads are clean. If the litter is not picked up or it is incinerated or untreated, I think we are putting our children, our senior citizens and all our people exposing them to health hazards. This pollution has to stop and the civic sense has to be inculcated. Sir, continuously talking about community awareness is not going to solve the problem. We need to bring civic rights into our curriculum and I request the Government to bring a top-down and bottom-up approach to see to it that this pollution is stopped.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

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

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री नीरज डांगी (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next Zero Hour mention is of Dr. Sonal Mansingh; whoever wants to associate, please send your names.

New excise policy of Government of NCT of Delhi

डा. सोनल मानसिंह (नाम निर्देशित) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ कि आपने मुझे गंभीर सामाजिक मुद्दे पर बोलने का अवसर दिया। महोदय, दिल्ली सरकार की अत्यंत ही निंदनीय नई आबकारी नीति का दुरुपयोग करते हुए राजधानी के कई शराब के स्टोर्स पर एक बोतल की खरीद पर दूसरी बोतल मुफ्त दी गई। मैं आपको बताना चाहती हूँ कि जनता की ओर से इसका विरोध किया गया और कई जगहों पर प्रदर्शन भी हुए, लेकिन सरकार बेफिक्र रही। जब दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने संज्ञान लिया, तब इस स्कीम को आनन-फानन में बंद किया गया।

महोदय, वहीं जनता के विरोध पर निविदा के प्रावधान 3, 4 और 8 के तहत लाइसेंसधारक दुकानदारों के सिर पर ठीकरा फोड़ दिया गया। *

श्री सभापति: यह रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जाएगा। The issue which you wanted to flag, you have flagged it. The suggestion you want to give; just give it, that is all.

डा. सोनल मानसिंह : सभापति महोदय, अतः मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन है कि इस विषय का संज्ञान लिया जाए, जिससे समाज को पीड़ा देने वाली ऐसी नीतियों पर लगाम लग सके।

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

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Zero Hour, Members are not supposed to make allegations, insinuations or charges against any Government or parties. Zero Hour is meant to bring something important to the notice of the House thereby attracting the attention of the concerned and that is why it is given priority. And even before going to Question Hour, we have admitted this system; please keep this in mind. It will be paining for me to cut short somebody in between and then remind them about exceeding their brief. All of you, please take care of this.

The next Zero Hour mention is of Dr. Narendra Jadhav. आपको Excise Policy के बारे में मालूम है कि पूरे देश में अलग-अलग स्टेट्स में क्या हो रहा है? It is becoming the main revenue, unfortunately.

* Not recorded.

Custodial Deaths

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV (Nominated): Sir, as per the prison statistics 2018, out of the total 4.66 lakh convicts and undertrials in Indian prisons, 33.5 per cent were OBCs, 20.7 per cent were Scheduled Castes, 11.6 per cent were Scheduled Tribes and 18.8 per cent were Muslims. Sir, over the last twenty years, as many as 1,888 custodial deaths were reported across the country. Out of these custodial deaths, 1185 or 63 per cent were those persons who were arrested, but, yet to be produced before the court.

On the other hand, only 26 policemen have been convicted during this period as per NCRB data. Sir, this presents a grim picture of the Indian prisons. As per the NCRB data, 2019, seven out of ten people in prisons were undertrial prisoners. The reason why most of the prisoners were belonging to OBC, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority communities is because they are too poor to arrange for personal bond or even securities from someone to secure bails and the lack of competent and adequate legal representation. Not surprisingly, Sir, it is the prisoners from these communities who form the major part of the victims of custodial deaths. With only 26 policemen convicted over the past twenty years, when there are 1,888 custodial deaths, the question arises who will punish the law-enforcers. Through you, Sir, I urge the Government to kindly step in and introduce reforms that fix the liability of police officers, bring them to justice and provide for monetary compensation to the victims' families. Thank you, Sir.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SURESH GOPI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also 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.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM AUSTRIA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my behalf, and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria and Her Excellency, Ms. Christine Schwarz-Fuchs, President of the Federal Council of Austria and other Members of the Parliamentary Delegation from Austria who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Sunday, the 13th March, 2022 and are now seated in the Special Box. The Delegation visited Agra yesterday and will be visiting Hyderabad before their final departure from India on Thursday, the 17th March, 2022. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the National Council as well as the Federal Council of Austria, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Austria.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we had a Business Advisory Committee meeting today. It was agreed upon, after discussion, that Development of North Eastern Region, Tribal Affairs, Railways, Labour and Employment are the four subjects of

Demands for Grants of the respective Ministries, they will be taken into consideration for discussion in this part of the Session and each of the Demand has been allocated four hours. If necessary, if the Members so wish, they have to sit extra time in the evening so that they can also participate in the discussion. Whoever is asking to include their names, they will, definitely, get time, but after the scheduled time is over. I have already advised the Deputy Chairman also to be liberal and give opportunity to the hon. Members in this regard. Not only the Deputy Chairman, whoever is the Panel Chairman at that time.

The Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held today i.e. on 14th of March, 2022 has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows:-

Business	Time Allotted
1. Discussion on the working of the Ministries of:-	
(i) Development of North Eastern Region	Four hours
(ii) Tribal Affairs	each
(iii) Railways	
(iv) Labour and Employment	
2. Consideration and return of the appropriation Bills relating to the following demands, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-	Four hours
(i) Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2021-22	(To be
(ii) Excess Demands for Grants for the year 2018-19	discussed
	together)
3. General Discussion on the Budget for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2022-23.	
	Four hours
	(To be
4. Consideration and return of the appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands, after they passed by Lok Sabha:-	discussed
	together)
(i) Supplementary Demands for Grants of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the Financial Year 2021-22.	
(ii) Demands for Grants of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2022-23.	

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bill relating to Demands for Grants for 2022-23, after it is passed by Lok Sabha. | Four hours
(To be
discussed
together |
| 6. Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 2022, after it is passed by Lok Sabha. | |

The Committee also recommended that the sitting of the House fixed for Thursday, the 17th March, 2022, may be cancelled because of *Choti Holi*, on request of the Members.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to give option of Hippocratic/Charak oath for Doctors

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a notice recently issued by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board of the National Medical Commission, has created a lot of confusion amongst the medical fraternity. It is the long-standing practice to take a Hippocratic Oath after passing MBBS. But it seems that the said notice says that in the future instead of taking the Hippocratic Oath, they would be taking the Charak oath. The age-old practice of the Hippocratic Oath should not be stopped suddenly. Ayurveda doctors should continue taking the Charak oath. At the most, it might be kept optional for doctors of all systems of medicine, instead of making it mandatory as it would hurt the prevailing sentiment.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I 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.

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

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for reduction of GST on health insurance policy of senior citizens

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India's health system has been put to severe test during the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the NITI Aayog's recent report, titled Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle, around 30 per cent of the population, that is, 40 crore Indians, are devoid of any health insurance. Under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the various State Government schemes only the bottom 50 per cent of the population is covered. The remaining 20 per cent of the population is covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance primarily designed for high-income groups. Studies indicate that senior citizens are some of the most under-insured groups with only 15 per cent health cover buyers in the age group of 60-80. Presently, a standard 18 per cent GST is applied on insurance premium. As the age of the insured gradually increases, the cost of financial protection from medical risks also increases. At age 75 and above, individuals roughly pay Rs.6,858 as 18 per cent GST as compared to Rs.4,116 between age 61 and 65. The Supreme Court in the Bandhua Mukti Morcha Vs. Union of India in 1997, held that the right to health is a part of the citizens' fundamental rights and is to be interpreted as social security from disease and assistance in times of sickness. Therefore, to provide relief to our senior citizens, it is necessary to reduce the existing GST rates on health insurance policies from 18 per cent to 5 per cent, or exempt senior citizens from any GST on purchase of health insurance. Thank you, Sir.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

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

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need for development of Kannur airport in Kerala

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, the Kannur international Airport is the newest airport in Kerala and we expect positive interventions from the Government of India to expedite its progress. The airport has great potential for growth and it should be granted the 'Point of call status' urgently. At present, foreign carriers have no right to operate from the airport. It has severely affected the development of the airport. Therefore, the Kannur international airport should be opened up for foreign carriers. Another urgent requirement is the permission for "Haj Embarkation". The airport should also be included in the ASEAN Open Skies policy, which would help foreign carriers from ASEAN countries to operate to Kannur. The tag would help foreign carriers from Malaysia and Singapore to operate to Kannur. The Government should consider these matters and take required action so that the Kannur Airport can operate at its full potential and contribute to the economic progress of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Kannur International Airport is functional, isn't it?

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Sir, it is functional. But, we are requesting for Haj embarkation. Secondly, we are seeking 'point of call' status. Another request is that the Government should allow the international carriers into the Kannur international airport. These are our requests.

AN HON. MEMBER: They have not permitted the foreign carriers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't speak while sitting!

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

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

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need of infrastructure for developing the Electric Vehicle Industry

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards the potential of the Electric Vehicle industry in India. Currently the fifth largest in the world, it is slated to become the third largest by 2030. Since EV's space is at a nascent stage, it offers the world's largest untapped market, especially in the two-wheeler segment. The report "Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India" has estimated that the transition to electric vehicles will require a cumulative capital investment of Rs 19.7 lakh crore in EV charging infrastructure and batteries over the next decade. With a market size of Rs 3.7 lakh crore for the financing of EVs in 2030, barriers like insufficient charging infrastructure, the current high pricing of EVs, limited options and higher dependency on imports hinder our path towards becoming a green economy. Given that there have been positive developments to increase the uptake of electric vehicles in numerous States, it is high time that we fuel this zeal further by infusing the requisite capital in the production. Hence, I urge the Ministry of Power to consider speeding up the reforms on the above-mentioned challenges to accelerate progress. I strongly feel that in India's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 33-35 per cent till 2030, the contribution of the progress in boosting the sector can reap multiple spill over benefits, considering that the contribution of the automobile sector to the manufacturing GDP is close to 50 per cent. Thank you.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Fauzia Khan.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Fauzia Khan.

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

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

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Fauzia Khan.

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Fauzia Khan.

Need to permit Kerala Government to acquire HLL Lifecare Limited directly upon mutually agreeable terms

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, HLL Lifecare Ltd., being the only PSU under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, played a pivotal role in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic as a nodal agency of the Government. It shows the necessity to continue keeping it in the public sector as the Government needs such an arm in cases of health exigencies. It is equally pertinent to note that HLL Lifecare has been making profits for the last three years. It is equally pertinent to note that the Government of Kerala had played a significant role by handing over about 19 acres of land at prime locations free of cost, which would fetch several hundreds of crores now, for establishing the units of HLL Lifecare Ltd. in the State. However, it is learnt that the Central Government has decided to disinvest the same and has now denied permission to the State Government in participating in strategic disinvestment of HLL Lifecare Limited. There are several instances of taking over of Central PSUs by the State Governments during the past years. Hence, it is highly necessary to permit the Kerala Government to purchase HLL Lifecare directly upon mutually agreeable terms. Thank you.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri John Brittas.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri John Brittas.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri John Brittas.

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

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

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri John Brittas.

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

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Regarding the Special Mentions, whatever is given in the notice should be read. I am repeating again for the convenience of the Members who have not understood it. Now, Shri Vijayasai Reddy. Shri Reddy, this issue was raised by Members in Zero Hour. Whatever additional points you want to say, you can mention it now.

Need to accommodate medical students returning from Ukraine in Indian Medical Universities

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, at the outset, I applaud the Government's initiative to evacuate stranded Indians from war-torn Ukraine, but it is concerning that more than 20,000 of these Indians are students pursuing medical education in Ukraine and in the light of the ongoing conflict, the fate of their education hangs in balance. Apart from the trauma of escaping war-like conditions, these students are facing the agony of disruption in their medical careers. The situation in Ukraine continues to remain unsafe with no certainty of normalcy in the near future

and hence, Indian students cannot be expected to return to Ukraine to resume their studies. In such unprecedented circumstances, immediate steps should be taken on humanitarian grounds to accommodate such students within Indian medical universities as an exceptional case. When an ongoing medical college in India is shut down, we have a proper procedure through which students are appropriately dispersed into other medical schools in India. A special transfer procedure, along similar lines, can also be formulated for medical students returning from Ukraine on a temporary basis until it becomes safe for them to return to Ukraine. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to be sympathetic to the plight of these students and to take all necessary measures for protecting their future by enabling seamless continuance of their studies in Indian medical colleges. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

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

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

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

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION - *Contd.*

Need for reservation for SCs/STs in higher judiciary

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Central Government is doing its best to ensure equitable representation. There is one institution that needs urgent reformation. The higher judiciary's statistics of representation shows an immediate need to take steps in favour of diversity and minority representation. The data shows that since 1950, there have been only five Scheduled Caste judges, namely, Justice K. Ramaswamy, Justice K. J. Balakrishnan, Justice B. C. Ray, Justice A. Varadarajan, Justice B. R. Gavai and, recently, Justice Sivakumar were appointed in the Supreme Court after two decades from the Scheduled Castes. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes in its 2016 Report on "Reservation in Judiciary" states that as of 2011, there were only 24 judges belonging to SC/ST against a total of 850 judges in all the 21 High Courts. Moreover, 14 out of the 21 High Courts did not have a single SC/ST judge. It is my humble request that this issue be immediately corrected via legislation.

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

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

Need to revamp the medical education in the country

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to make this submission.

Sir, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has exposed the inefficiency plaguing the Indian medical education system as sheer number of Indian students pursuing medical education abroad has become apparent.

Medical education in India is unaffordable and competitive forcing aspirants from lower and middle income families to pursue medicine in countries where it is cheaper and less competitive.

Fee charged in India, on an average, ranges from Rs. 14 lakhs in Government colleges to about Rs. 60-70 lakhs in private colleges. Additionally, Sir, it is alleged, the qualifying marks for NEET are kept low at 19 per cent to expand the pool of students who can afford fee as high as Rs. 1.25-1.5 crore. This acts as filter forcing poorer but meritorious students to seek education abroad, following which they are required to appear the Foreign Medical Graduation Examination to practice medicine in India.

Sir, with this thought in mind, I earnestly urge the Government to take expeditious measures to revamp the country's medical education infrastructure and make it more responsive to the needs of the common man. Thank you.

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

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Binoy Viswam. It is a Zero Hour submission.

See, whenever I exhaust submissions made by Members who have been permitted under Zero Hour, if still time is available, I started the practice of taking up the remaining notices. But, there is a problem in taking up remaining notices. Some Members have given notice about issues, for example, which can be discussed today under the Appropriation Bill. The same thing cannot be taken up during Zero Hour. So, keep that in mind.

Difficulties being faced by workers in the light of disinvestment of PSUs

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I thank you very much for your generous approach. We all appreciate it. I am grateful to you.

Sir, the issue I am going to raise is relating to workers of this country. There is no doubt they are the wealth-creators. The Government often talks about wealth-creators. We believe, the wealth-creators are not the superrich. The real creators of wealth are the workers and the peasants.

The workers in India are facing a lot of problems. Their living conditions are going down. The Labour Codes are affecting them very badly. In this situation, we are facing a situation where all the PSUs of the country are put on sale!

The country is always hearing the Government emphasizing on Atmanirbhar Bharat. But, the very same Government is inviting FDI to come and conquer India's own industries and establishments! In such a situation, the most affected group is the workers. So, they are forced to go in for a strike on 28th and 29th of March, 2022. Sir, this is a national strike. It is for the future of the country, for the upliftment of the common masses and it is for the cause of Atmanirbhar Bharat. I know very well that the BMS — even though not party to the strike — share the views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You make your point, whether it is BMS or any other union.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: They also share the views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is okay.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: So, I request the Government to intervene urgently, discuss with Indian trade unions and see how these questions can be addressed in a responsible way. Thank you.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी श्री बिनोय विस्वम द्वारा उठाये गये विषय के साथ अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी श्री बिनोय विस्वम द्वारा उठाये गये विषय के साथ अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

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

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

Issue of Inter-State Rivers and water sharing

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding the inter-State water dispute. Most of the States, especially in South India, are facing a lot of problems with regard to water sharing. For example, Cauvery issue is a very big issue in the State of Tamil Nadu. We have repeatedly been raising in the House that Karnataka Government is constructing Mekedatu Dam. Since they are constructing this dam, it will affect the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The hon. Supreme Court has already given a decision that they must not construct any new dam without the mutual consent amongst Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. When that is the case, how can the Karnataka Government announce its intention to construct Mekedatu Dam? It is going to affect our farmers. As is well known, there is scarcity of water. Of course, when there are floods, they are allowing the water sharing. But, when there is water scarcity, they do not share any water. The Supreme Court has also given directions many a times in this regard. Also, the Commission constituted for this purpose has been insisting for water sharing. But, the upper riparian Karnataka is not honouring any directions.

Again and again raising of this issue is unnecessarily creating problems. Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and direct Karnataka Government not to construct the Mekedatu Dam, which will adversely affect the farmers of Tamil Nadu and the people of Puducherry. Thank you.

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, the hon. Member has ...(*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not reply to him. If you want to say some other thing, then, ...(*Interruptions*).. I understand your point. But, it will again create controversy. That is why, I was also cautiously listening to him as to what he was saying. We should not create further tensions between the States. The Rajya Sabha, being a forum of the States, I have to naturally permit the Members. But, within a limit, so that expressions are not created or charges are not made against other States. If there is any reference to any other State, making a particular charge, it will be deleted from the records. This is a general observation, not just for this issue.

Hon. Members, the House today will take up discussion on the North-Eastern States. We will start the discussion on the Demands for Grants by initiating the discussion on the North-Eastern States today. So, Members should take advantage of the same. I have been to Mizoram and Sikkim and came back just yesterday. Earlier, I had spent six days in the North East. That means, I had spent a total of eight days in the North-Eastern States. A lot of progress is being made there. But, there are a lot of issues too, concerning each State of the North-Eastern Region. They are very important for us even from the security and strategic point of view. Keeping that in mind, whatever you feel is useful for the development of the North-Eastern Region, can be raised here. Members from other regions are also free to participate in the discussion because they are also interested in the welfare of the North-East. I have already told the Deputy Chairman and the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, if necessary, time may be extended beyond 6 o'clock in the evening. In addition to that, the other subjects, which have been read out, will also be put in the Bulletin. Members are requested to study those subjects also and come prepared to the House. Often Members complain that they are not given adequate time. When time is given and if there are no sufficient Members to participate in the discussion, the Chair cannot do anything. The other House, I am not supposed to make a

comparison, is sometimes sitting till mid night. And, we are Elders. So, please keep this in mind and try to take advantage of this liberal attitude of sitting beyond 6 o'clock and then participating in the discussion.

Also, I have observed that certain Members indulge in discussion among themselves. Some of them are wearing masks. I have seen that the people, who are wearing masks and other appliances, are not able to understand what sort of sound they are making to others. So, please see to it that if you have something very urgent and important, both the Members can quietly go out, discuss with each other in the lobbies or at any other place and, then, can come back together or separately. I have no problem either way. But, in the House, Members or Ministers or anybody should not talk among themselves because it will add noise in the House and will distract the hon. Member who is making his submission in the House. So, please keep that in mind. Now, Question Hour. Question No. 121, Shri Anil Desai. Now, Shrimati Vandana Chavan will be presiding over the Question Hour.

12.00 Noon

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN) *in the Chair.*]

Resumption of air flights operations

***121. SHRI ANIL DESAI:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of COVID-19/Omicron pandemic, Government has restricted some national and international flights to protect passengers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when the operation is likely to resume in domestic and international sectors; and
- (d) whether Government has maintained any control over the fare charged by the companies from the air passengers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d)
A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India were suspended with effect from 22.03.2020. Domestic passenger services were suspended with effect from 25.03.2020 but were resumed with effect from 25.05.2020 to a limited extent and completely with effect from 18.10.2021. To facilitate international travel by passengers, the Government formalized air bubble arrangements with 37 countries and flights under Vande Bharat Mission (including air bubble arrangements) remained operational. Scheduled international commercial passenger services are being resumed effective from 27.03.2022.

(d) In order to safeguard the passenger interest and ensure operational viability of airlines, the Government notified fare caps as a special measure during the Covid pandemic. These fare caps are applicable only for domestic passenger services, whereas, fares in the flights under Vande Bharat Mission (including air bubble arrangements) are dependent on market forces.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Madam Vice-Chairperson, the Minister in the written reply, which has been given, has said, "In order to safeguard the passenger interest and ensure operational viability of airlines, the Government notified fare caps as a special measure during the Covid pandemic." Now, the Russia-Ukraine war has created a severe impact on crude prices and that would, in turn, make air travel unaffordable to the passengers if air fares are not controlled by the Government. Not only for domestic airlines but also for international airlines, the Government needs to initiate a dialogue and resolve this issue or come to a conclusion whereby it becomes affordable. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken by the Government in this direction?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, through you, I would like to apprise the hon. Member that as far as the domestic sector is concerned, as he had also mentioned, I have stated in my answer that to protect the interest of the passengers as well as to ensure that there is competition and no predatory pricing, we have instituted this system of air fare caps. As far as the international sector is concerned,

that is not something that is in our power to do. However, I am very confident that with the opening up of the international sector, as we have announced, on 27th of March, when the summer schedule comes in of all airlines, there will be enough supply of seats, both for coming into India and going out of India. Therefore, I think the pricing issue is something that the market will, certainly, take into account by itself.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Madam Vice-Chairperson, during the last two years of pandemic, thousands of employees from aviation sector have lost their jobs. Not only aviation sector employees but ground handling employees also, the workers who come from the downtrodden society, have lost their jobs. Because of this, thousands of families literally are on roads and they are pinning all hopes on the Government. First of all, all those jobs which have been lost should be restored. They are pinning hopes on the Government. May I know from the hon. Minister what exactly are the steps being taken by the Government in this regard? Did they have talks with the airlines and made any attempt or are they contemplating to have this kind of measure, which would restore the jobs of the employees who have lost their jobs?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, the hon. Member has rightly pointed out that the civil aviation sector should not be concentrated necessarily only on airlines and airports but on the whole ecosystem. The ecosystem, as the Member has rightfully pointed out, includes ground handling, cargo, Flying Training Organisations (FTOs), MROs, etc. We have been seeing that this is a sector which has been affected very, very deeply on an economic front globally. It is a sector which has been affected the most in terms of its economic output and in terms of its profitability.

Having said that, it is also a sector which has bounced back with equal amount of growth as soon as Covid-1 wave and then Covid-2 wave and now Covid-3 have petered-out. In the case of Covid-2, we had brought back this sector to 100 per cent capacity on the 18th of October, and I am pleased to report to the House that pre-Covid, the maximum number of passengers in India per day were close to about 4 lakhs and we reached a level of 3.83 lakh per day in the month of December. So, we were very well on our way back to recovery, roughly about 5 or 6 per cent off from pre-Covid levels. But then Omicron came along, and we had wave-3. And again I am pleased to report to the House today that as of yesterday's numbers, after going down to almost about 1,60,000 passengers a day in wave-3 from the pre-Covid level of 4 lakhs and post Covid-2 level of 3.83 lakhs, we have yesterday reached the number of roughly about 3.8 lakh passengers per day. So, we are looking at a

resuscitance of the sector, and with that resuscitance, we are extremely hopeful that we will also see a rebound in terms of employment opportunities.

DR. SANTANU SEN: I would like to draw the kind attention of our learned Minister to a ground reality that so far as maintenance of Covid protocol at different airports is concerned, the passengers are being asked to show their Covid vaccination certificate at some airports; at some airports, they are being asked to show their Covid report of last 24 or 72 hours; and, at some airports, they are being asked nothing. So, there is a confusion amongst the general passengers. My request and my question before our learned Minister is, why don't we bring uniformity at all the airports of our country?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, through you, I would like to apprise our learned Member about this. It is a very important point that he has raised. As you are aware, these are the decisions that are taken at two levels, one is the Health Ministry at the Centre, and, secondly the States. This is also a subject which is on the Concurrent List, and therefore, a diktat cannot be issued by us. An advisory can be issued, and then each State has its own power to decide what the rules need to be. As far as we are concerned, the Health Ministry at the Centre issued the advisory again on the 10th of February, 2022. The passenger has two choices. Either you upload a Covid-negative report from the past 72 hours onto the Air Suvidha portal, or, you upload your double vaccination certificate onto the Air Suvidha portal, and that should suffice subject, of course, again as I had emphasized, to the State Government protocols because each State Government must have that liberty to ensure what the rules should be for that particular State.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I have understood that the Government of India had minimized or restricted flights for the benefit of the passengers because of Covid-19. It is good that it has given good results today. But, Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that it is time to reschedule flights again. For example, my State, Tamil Nadu ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question, please.(*Interruptions*).... VasANJI, question.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: I am coming to the point, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): You have to be brief.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: For example, in my State, Tamil Nadu, there are around five airports. Trichy is a very important airport.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Vasanji, you will have to be brief; and only put the question.(*Interruptions*).... Vasanji, only the question.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: There is only one flight in the morning and in the evening. The same is the case with Madurai, Coimbatore and Thoothukudi. I would request the hon. Minister that rescheduling has to be done in the interest of the passengers after Covid-19. I think the economic position of the country will definitely improve because of the flight service. This is the need of the hour.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): I request all the Members to be very, very precise so as to be able to accommodate maximum questions.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, through you, I would like to apprise the hon. Member that there is certainly a great demand for greater connectivity across all major cities in India, but also, I do see civil aviation becoming the backbone of transportation across the country in the near future. Therefore, we are also looking at a high level of growth in the sector. The CAGR, the compounded annual growth rate, of this sector, pre-Covid -- because, obviously, during Covid it went through the most difficult times in its history -- is close to 10.6 per cent per year. However, as I mentioned, Madam, in the domestic sector we have brought it back to 100 per cent capacity on the 18th of October. Even through the third wave of Covid we did not restrict capacity. So, all airlines were free to operate at 100 per cent capacity. Similarly, on the international sector, by the order issued last week, we have said that by the start of the summer schedule, which starts on the 27th of March, international flights can also operate at 100 per cent capacity. Now, it is for the free market to choose in terms of the routes, and it is our effort to make sure that we take greater connectivity, as the hon. Member mentioned, to Tier-II and Tier-III cities, which is what we are endeavouring to do.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, the hon. Minister is trying to see to it that all the flights are revived. I have read his statements that at the end of the month there would be no restrictions and flight operations would be back to normal. I have only one

important observation to make and, maybe, seek a response, which is about the fuel prices. Fuel prices have touched around 130 dollars. We saw in 2008-09, when I was also in his position, that fuel prices had reached 140-145 dollars and that caused a great deal of financial losses and hardship to all the airlines in India and subsequently, even led to the closure of some airlines, because those losses were very huge. Today the price of fuel is around 130 dollars and the Rupee is at 77, compared to 40-45 then. Also, 40-45 per cent of operating cost is fuel. I think the Minister is trying very hard to reduce tax on ATF, which is levied by the Centre and the States. I wish that he takes this issue up very seriously, because if these levels of fuel prices continue for a longer period, this could cause massive losses to airlines and probably even closure of many an airline. I hope he is aware of it and is taking some concrete and positive steps in this regard.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, I would like to thank the Member for bringing up this issue in the House. He is absolutely right that fuel consists, not up to 45 per cent, but close to 37 per cent, of the cost structure of an airline. In a sector which is going through a very high level of hemorrhaging losses, close to about Rs. 19,000 crore last year due to Covid, that also becomes the proportion of the revenue structure. Fuel prices have gone up. I may just point out that in 2020, prior to Covid, ATF was close to about Rs. 21,000 per kilo litre and today it is Rs. 93,000 per kilo litre. So, fuel price itself has gone up close to 4.5 times. Therefore, this is a very, very key issue for us. I would like to thank the Member for giving me this opportunity, but I would like to point out that the States charge VAT on ATF, ranging from about 10 per cent to 30 per cent on these levels of fuel. Therefore, as soon as I took over in the month of July, I took it upon myself to pursue with the States, to plead with the States, our case and the fact that we bring greater connectivity through airlines and that we bring greater economic growth. Therefore, if you look at the Laffer Curve example in Economics, if you lower tax rates, you would actually increase buoyancy of revenues. I am very glad to report to this House that prior to my taking over, we had twelve States that charged VAT on ATF at rates between one and five per cent and we had 24 States that charged VAT rates between 15 and 30 per cent. Through you, Madam, I would like to thank the Chief Ministers of all those States because we have reversed that equation. Twelve States have reduced their level of VAT from 25-30 per cent down to 1-4 per cent. Today that equation has reversed. There are 24 States that charge VAT only between 1-4 per cent and only 12 States that charge(Interruptions)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, be brief, please.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, this needs a little bit of your time. I would like to take that liberty from you because it is a very important point.

There are only 12 States that charge between 15 and 30 per cent. This also calls about the federal structure. I would like to thank all the Chief Ministers of those States -- large States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh; hill States like Himachal, Uttarakhand, Haryana; Island States like Andaman and Nicobar. Many, many States have done that and, through you, I would like to thank the administration of those States. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question No.122; Shri John Brittas.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, this is not going on record.

Demand to bring down taxes and cess on petroleum products

*122. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand to bring down various taxes and cess on petroleum products by Government;
- (b) the details of basic excise duty, cess and special additional excise duty collected during the last three years; and
- (c) the year-wise and category-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

* Not recorded.

Statement

(a) The Central Government reduced the Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 per liter respectively effective from 4th November, 2021. The measure was aimed to give a further fillip to the economy and to boost consumption and keep inflation low, thus helping the poor and middle classes. Many States/UTs have also reduced the VAT on petrol and diesel subsequently.

(b) and (c) The details of the amount collected by the Union Government by levying excise duty (including cesses) on petroleum products during the last three years and current year are given as under:

Rs.in crores				
Particulars	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Apr.-Sep. 2021-22
Excise Duty	2,14,369	2,23,057	3,72,970	1,70,894

Based on data from 16 major oil and gas companies

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, today, the Chair has been very liberal to everybody and I do expect the hon. Chair also to be a little liberal to me because this is my second maiden question.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please ask the question.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Let me congratulate Hardeep Singh Puriji for his contribution to the election victory of the BJP because he made it a point that the petrol prices didn't go up during the election time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Member, please ask the question.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, it has been revealed from the answer that there is a double-engine * that is happening. On the one hand(Interruptions)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Kindly ask the question. This is not a speech.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, let me formulate it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Only the question, please.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: In 2021-22 alone, the Government collected Rs.3,72,970 crore in the form of cess and excise duty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Will he stop the practice of bringing in cess and surcharge which means that he denies the rightful share of the State Governments? The part (b) of my question is that since the Government had the logic that when they increase the tax(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Let that come as a second supplementary.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, this is part (b).(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): No, there is no part (b). There is only one question. Hon. Minister may reply now.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, in the spirit of liberalism that my distinguished colleague has referred to, let me also, if you just give me a minute or two, explain to him how this system functions. The price of petrol at the retail point or at the bunk is determined by international price, cost of insurance, freight, exchange rate and a number of other factors. This particular issue of how much cess and tax has been collected has to be seen in the overall context in which we are operating. The period that he has mentioned is 2020-2021. I should say that 2020-2021 means 1st April of 2020 to 31st March of 2021. That is precisely the period during which there was complete lockdown in the economy. The financial year starts from 1st April and the lockdown took place from 25th March which meant that at that point of time there was virtually no activity. At that point of time, certain taxes were raised and they were raised for a particular purpose. But the ultimate test of this is, what is the price at which petrol or petroleum products are made available to the consumer and I have a very interesting analysis.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, please be brief so that the second supplementary can come.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, I will be very happy to be very brief but let me also share with the hon. Member some facts. The fact of the matter is, when the situation so warranted, from 4th November, 2021, we brought down the excise on petrol and diesel by Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 respectively. I thought that all the elected representatives would be rejoicing at the fact that the price paid by the consumer has remained steady during that period but I did not see that. In fact, one prominent youth leader made a statement on 5th March...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, please reply to his answer. This is not a debate. Please give a direct reply to the question.(*Interruptions*).... Please reply to the question directly and keep it short.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I am very happy to answer the question. The question is, raising of taxes, levying of taxes are done depending upon the situation at that point of time. Today, we have brought down the taxes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please ask second supplementary, Mr. John Brittas.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, he has not answered my first supplementary.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): There is a procedure for that. If you are not satisfied with the answer, please follow that procedure. Now, ask your second supplementary.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, give me some time. I will try, with my limited ability to satisfy the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): This is Question Hour. You have to be precise in your question and your answer.(*Interruptions*).... Hon. Member, please ask your second supplementary.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, he is standing. How can I ask second question?(*Interruptions*)... .

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, the issue is that we brought down the Central excise; nine States still have not brought down the VAT. We are willing to take such steps as are necessary to control the price.(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: As far as cess and surcharge is concerned, you are denying the State Governments(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Member, please ask your second supplementary.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Out of the tax collected, 45 per cent or so goes to the State Governments and 55 to 60 per cent...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, please. Let the second supplementary question be asked. Mr. John Brittas, please put a short question, and, hon. Minister, as far as possible, a short answer.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, the hon. Chairman has been very liberal. I do not know why do you seem to be so stiff about? Though the hon. Minister has not replied to my first supplementary, my second supplementary is... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please put your second supplementary.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, I request the Chair to protect the Member and not the Minister.(*Interruptions*)... .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please put your question.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, there have been lot of reports that Russia is offering discounts at the crude oil front. I would like to know whether there are any discussions happening between the Government of India and the Russian Federation with regard to buying crude oil from Russia at a discounted rate. If so, what would be the facilities, which India would be getting, and what would be the mode of payment? Will it be the Rupee or Rouble? And which currency will be the reference point?

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, let me again reiterate that in a situation like the one characterised by the pandemic in the last two years and in the last few weeks by a war or a military action taking place between Russia and Ukraine, the Government will explore all options which are available. There are reports and there are contacts. I myself have had a conversation at the appropriate level of the Russian

Federation. Discussions are currently underway. There are several issues which are required to be gone into like how much oil is available either in Russia or in new markets or with new suppliers which may be coming in the market. Also, there are issues relating to insurance, freight and a host of other issues including the payment arrangements. I will be delighted to share these things on the first opportunity after these arrangements are worked out between our oil companies and their counterparts in the Russian Federation or our oil companies in Iran or any other countries, wherever more oil could come from. It is a dynamic evolving situation characterised by military action. I would be happy if some of the 'military quotient' is less here (in the House), and, I will get a chance to explain things to my distinguished colleague in greater detail.

श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय मंत्री जी ने यहाँ पर जो तीन साल का ब्रेक अप दिया है, 2020-21 में as compared to 2018-19 and 2019-20, आपने डेढ़ लाख करोड़ रुपये ज्यादा वसूल किए हैं। उसके बाद पाँच रुपये और दस रुपये कम करने के बाद भी आपका अप्रैल-सितम्बर का जो ब्रेक अप दिखा रहा है, उसका कोई फायदा नहीं है, आप उतना ही टैक्स ले रहे हैं। आप पेट्रोल में दस रुपये और डीज़ल में पाँच रुपये कम करते हैं, जबकि डीज़ल किसानों और आम आदमी के लिए बहुत अहम है, तब भी आपने डीज़ल के दाम पेट्रोल के जितने ही कर दिए हैं। मैं आपके जरिए मंत्री जी से यही जानना चाहता हूँ कि डीज़ल के दाम आज तक कम ही रहते थे, जिससे किसानों और आम आदमी को फायदा होता था, तो डीज़ल का शुल्क और कम करने के लिए सरकार तैयार है या नहीं?

श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी : मैडम, मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूँगा कि जो पेट्रोल और डीज़ल के दाम हैं, तो पेट्रोल के दाम जून, 2010 में और शायद अप्रैल, 2014 के आस-पास ये deregulate कर दिए गए हैं। Deregulation का मतलब यह है कि ये जो दाम हैं, these will be determined by international prevailing prices. Administered Price Mechanism को खत्म कर दिया गया था। यह क्यों कर दिया गया था, उसके क्या कारण थे, we can have a detailed discussion on that. मैडम, आज स्थिति यह है कि जब हमने देखा कि consumer को तुरंत relief पहुंचाने की जरूरत है, तब माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 4 नवंबर, 2021 को ये दाम कम किए। इसके साथ ही, हमने और भी कदम उठाए हैं, हम और भी कदम उठाने के लिए तैयार हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Kindly answer the specific question.**(Interruptions)**...

श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी : देखिए, डीज़ल का दाम और कम करना है या नहीं करना है, these are decisions**(Interruptions)**... Tax is one component.**(Interruptions)**....

श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल : आपने पाँच रुपये, दस रुपये कम किए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... डीज़ल के भी दस रुपये कम कीजिए, यही मेरा क्वेश्चन है। ...**(व्यवधान)**..

श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी : डीज़ल का भी किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पेट्रोल का दाम पाँच रुपये कम किया है और डीज़ल का दस रुपये कम किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... राज्यों ने नहीं किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जब मैं यह कहता हूँ, तब जो राज्य हैं, उन्हें यह बात थोड़ी चुभती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Nine states, ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह महाराष्ट्र ने नहीं किया, केरल ने नहीं किया, और स्टेट्स ने भी नहीं किया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... देखिए, the taxation is only one aspect of it. At the end of the day, we have to provide relief to the consumer at the point of consumption, and a number of steps have been taken in that direction. And prices have not gone up. I would like to share some price data.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Kindly give a written reply to the Member later because we cannot have**(Interruptions)**.... This is becoming a debate.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: It is not, Madam. Can I complete? This is a crucial data.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Short answer, please.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I have the comparative data for the USA, Canada, Germany, the UK, France, Spain, Sri Lanka and India. In all those countries, the price of petrol during this representative period has gone up by 50 per cent, 55 per cent, 58 per cent, 55 per cent. In India, it has gone up only by 5 per cent. We should be rejoicing that. Instead, what we are hearing from the distinguished Member is why it has not gone up.**(Interruptions)**....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, kindly give a detailed reply later to the Member. I think that would suffice. Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao.

SHRI G.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO: Madam, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister for reducing the excise duty by Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 on petrol and diesel. But many States have not reduced VAT. The highest prices of petrol and

diesel are today in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Kerala. These are the four States where the highest prices are there for petrol and diesel.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO: I know this is a fact. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: He is saying ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Member, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question, please.

SHRI G.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO: My question is this. These States have not been sensitive because the hon. Member's question was about growing demand for lowering prices. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO: Such a demand exists in Kerala also. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would take up this issue with the concerned State Governments and request them to reduce VAT so that the people can get relief.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we have not only done that in the past, but I would also be happy to continue that effort to use whatever limited margin of persuasion we have with the State Governments to request them also to reduce the VAT charged by them. In some of the cases, the VAT which is levied as percentage is exceptionally high, especially when the price is high. But I still see that one point which is being missed that the price at the bunk has not gone up. In India, it has gone up by five per cent, while in the rest of the world it has gone up by fifty per cent. We should be celebrating that in the interest of our consumer rather than doing nitpicking by saying that you have done this and I have done that.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I would like to know about this from the hon. Minister. Petroleum prices are a matter of national concern. Earlier in the previous question, the Minister of Civil Aviation was also referring to the high aviation fuel prices. It's a larger spiralling effect on the economy. When the GST was introduced, it was agreed in principle, when the Government and the Opposition talked -- at that time, late Shri Arun Jaitley *ji* was the Finance Minister -- that the petroleum products eventually would be brought under the GST. Has any progress been made by the Government in the GST Council? And what is the response of the States? Will the hon. Minister speak to the Finance Minister and try to have this matter resolved?

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I can quote the specific article under which this has to be done. I think there have been several discussions, if my own memory serves me right, and I believe also that the Kerala High Court at one stage specifically suggested that this be brought on the agenda of the GST Council. Since this requires the unanimity of the GST Council, the issue was, I think, taken up during a meeting of the GST Council, if I remember correctly, in Lucknow, and the proposal did not find favour.

Madam, the God's honest truth is that the States acquiring high revenue from the sale of petrol and petroleum products, and if I may also add liquor, they are normally reluctant to reduce their revenue from these two sources. I am particularly pained when, in one particular State, which I don't want to name here, they did not reduce VAT on petrol, but they are willing to reduce the revenue on liquor. These are priorities which State Governments have to set for themselves and these are also part of the philosophy on what you wish to encourage.

With a sense of responsibility, I tell this House that the Government has ensured and the Government will in the coming months also take whatever measures we have to take to make sure that our consumer gets relief to the extent we can. The price of oil has gone up from 19 dollars 56 cents a barrel to 130 dollars at one stage and today it is down to 109 dollars or so. Those are the situations emanating from a war-like situation. But within that whatever space and margin of persuasion we have, we shall continue to exercise that in the interest of the Indian citizen and the consumer.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question Nos. 123 and 125 are of the same nature and therefore they will be taken up together. Shrimati Chhaya Verma.

Crude oil price

*[±] 123. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate of crude oil in international market had reached 100 US dollar per barrel on 24th February, 2022;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether increase in the price of crude oil was more than 30 per cent during January and February?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes sir. The price of Indian basket of Crude Oil on 24th February, 2022 was 100.71 \$/bbl.

(c) No Sir. The average price of Indian basket of Crude Oil for the month of January, 2022 and February, 2022 was 84.67 \$/bbl and 94.07 \$/bbl respectively.

Decontrolling fuel prices

*[±] 125. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decontrolled the fuel price and it is not intervening in fixing the price at which the fuel retailers used to sell;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the crude prices are increasing on daily basis in international market during the last two months and despite that prices of petrol and diesel have not been increased once during this period; and

[±] Question Numbers 123 and 125 were taken together.

(d) if so, the reasons that the prices are not increased despite increase in crude prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d): Prices of petrol and diesel have been market-determined with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively and are linked to the price of respective products in the international market. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decisions on pricing of petrol and diesel.

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से प्रश्न पूछना चाहती हूँ। वैसे तो कहते हैं कि पेट्रोल और डीज़ल स्वतंत्र नियामक हैं, लेकिन मेरा यह मानना है कि सरकार इन पर अवैध तरीके से कब्जा करके बैठी है। इनकी जब मर्जी होती है, तब ये उनके दाम बढ़ा देते हैं और जब चुनाव आते हैं, तब ये उनके दाम को स्थिर रखते हैं। कांग्रेस की पिछली सरकार के समय में जब कच्चे तेल की कीमत 100 रुपये अमेरिकी डॉलर प्रति बैरल थी, तब एक लीटर पेट्रोल की कीमत 73 रुपये के आस-पास थी। जब कोरोना काल में लॉकडाउन लगा, तो उस समय पेट्रोल और डीज़ल की शून्य डालर प्रति बैरल हो गई थी लेकिन इनकी कीमत में कोई कमी नहीं आई। मतलब, पेट्रोल और डीज़ल पर इनका अवैध तरीके से कब्जा है।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, कोरोना काल के समय यह कहा गया था कि पेट्रोल की कंपनियां सरकार को धनराशि देंगी, जिससे कोरोना की वैक्सीन लगेगी, तो मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि कोरोना काल में पेट्रोल कंपनियों से कितनी धनराशि आई, जिससे लोगों को वैक्सीन लगाई गई, जबकि बजट में 35,000 करोड़ की राशि वैक्सीन के लिए निर्धारित की गई थी? माननीय मंत्री जी इसे स्पष्ट करें।

श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्या को बताना चाहूंगा कि सरकार का इस प्रोसेस पर कोई कब्जा नहीं है। अगर कब्जे की बात होती है, जब जून, 2010 तक पेट्रोल पर administered price mechanism था। जब deregulation हुआ, उसके बाद, the price is determined by the international price of crude, prevailing insurance and freight rates, dealer commission and exchange rate. इसलिए इसमें सरकार के किसी कब्जे की बात नहीं है। Oil marketing companies, in a situation of deregulated process, take the decisions. कभी ऐसा होता है कि कुछ पीरियड में इससे उनकी रिकवरी बढ़ जाती है और कुछ समय ऐसा होता है, जैसे मुझे लगता है कि आजकल वह समय है, उसमें under recovery हो जाती है। इसमें उनको ये marketing decisions लेने चाहिए।

जहां तक चुनाव का ताल्लुक है, मैं आपको बड़े स्पष्ट तरीके से बताना चाहूंगा और आपको इसके बारे में ज्यादा जानकारी होती है, हमारे यहां 5 साल तक चुनाव होते रहते हैं, अभी 5 स्टेट्स में चुनाव हुए हैं, आपको उसके बारे में जानकारी है, अभी और 5 स्टेट्स में चुनाव शायद अक्टूबर से होने वाले हैं, वे भी होंगे। अगर किसी मार्केटिंग कम्पनी को कोई मार्केटिंग का निर्णय लेना है, तो वह लेगी। उसमें हम क्या कर सकते हैं - हम यह कर सकते हैं कि जब हमें लगे कि इसमें inflationary है, जैसे हमने 4 नवम्बर, 2021 को दाम कम किए। हमने अपने कुछ strategic petroleum reserve से अन्य देशों के साथ मिलकर कुछ quantity भी release की। हम और भी कदम उठाएंगे, लेकिन इन दो चीजों को जोड़ना बिल्कुल सही नहीं होगा। जैसा मैंने कहा कि अभी 5 स्टेट्स में चुनाव खत्म हुए हैं, अन्य स्टेट्स में चुनाव शुरू हो जाएंगे। तो Oil marketing companies को निर्णय लेने पड़े।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Kindly be brief.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, as I said, the price of 19 dollars 56 cents on 25th March, 2020, went up to 130 dollars and now it is down to 109 dollars. Oil marketing companies will take their decisions. They will proceed once they can no longer bear it. If they don't have the margin or cushion, they will take the appropriate step. Now, as far as we are concerned, we are taking a number of other steps. One, we are doing more ethanol-blending. We have brought it up. It was 1.4 per cent in 2014. We have brought it up to 10 per cent. We are doing other things. माननीय सदस्या ने वैक्सीन और रेवेन्यू खर्चे के बारे में भी पूछा। आज मुझे उम्मीद थी कि शायद ऐसा प्रश्न पूछा जाएगा। आज हमने शायद 1.8 करोड़ vaccine doses administer किए हैं। इसमें 35 हजार करोड़ रुपये का खर्चा हुआ है। महोदया, महामारी के दौरान सिर्फ वैक्सीन पर 35 हजार करोड़ रुपये का खर्चा ही नहीं हुआ है, बल्कि 80 करोड़ से अधिक नागरिकों को दिन का तीन समय का खाना उपलब्ध कराना और एक स्कीम, जो मार्च तक चल रही है - हमारी 'उज्ज्वला योजना' के तहत सिलेंडर बांटने से लेकर अनेक ऐसे कार्यों की lists हैं, जिन्हें हमें महामारी के दौरान करना पड़ा। मुझे लगता है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने ये निर्णय लिए। कोई भी सरकार होती, if they are sensitive to the requirements of the people, these are the steps that they had to take when economic activity comes down. And I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister and so is the nation, as has been witnessed in the events of the last two years.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Second supplementary. Shrimati Chhaya. Okay! Now, Shri K.C. Venugopal.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, whatever may be reasons, despite rising crude oil prices, the price of petrol and diesel has not been increased since November.

....(*Interruptions*).... Comparing to the period of January 1, 2021 and July 9, 2021, you increased the price of petrol 63 times and the price of diesel 61 times. Anyway, since November, we are very much relieved because the Government is not increasing the prices even though crude oil prices are high. The country needs an answer from the Minister: Is the relief going to continue or not?

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, decisions regarding increase are taken by companies. About those 63 occasions, I would like to remind the hon. Member that some were for increase and some were for decrease. On 5th March, a political leader made a statement, saying, fill up your tanks quickly because petrol prices are going to go up as elections are over.(*Interruptions*).... And the consumption went up by 20 per cent.(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, what is this?(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: It is a matter of shame that one statement led to hoarding of 20 per cent.(*Interruptions*)... I think we should be conscious of that. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am very happy to name the person. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, kindly avoid any controversy and please give specific answer to the question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: No; they are talking about prices. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please avoid controversy and be specific. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Here, it is an amazing situation. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: This is Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I am not yielding. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am not yielding, please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: He is accusing.....(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please give a specific answer to the question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I would give a specific answer. ...(*Interruptions*)... I find it amazing that instead of celebrating that prices have not gone up, my hon. friend is lamenting that they have not gone up. ...(*Interruptions*)... And another one makes a statement, and hoarding takes place, increasing by 20 per cent after that. ...(*Interruptions*)... So, what is it? Should we be controlling prices or should we be making statements to encourage hoarding? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: He is accusing a Member outside of this House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Second supplementary. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: This is the issue.

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे : यह प्लेटफॉर्म पोलिटिकल डिस्कशन करने के लिए नहीं है।...(**व्यवधान**)... हम जो प्रश्न पूछते हैं, आपको उसका रिप्लाय देना चाहिए।...(**व्यवधान**)... आप प्रश्न का रिप्लाय देने के बजाय किसी ने कुछ कहा, किसी ने कुछ कहा, यह कह रहे हैं।...(**व्यवधान**)... यह प्रश्न का रिप्लाय नहीं है।...(**व्यवधान**)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. LoP, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... . Hon. LoP, I have already told the hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे : माननीय सदस्य यह पूछ रहे हैं कि ये प्राइस क्यों बढ़े और ये प्राइस ऐसे ही continue रहेंगे या नहीं? यह क्वेश्चन है।...(**व्यवधान**)... किसी ने क्या किया, नहीं किया...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी : मैंने उसका उत्तर दे दिया है।...(**व्यवधान**)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. LoP, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... . Next supplementary question, K.C. Venugopalji.

...(Interruptions)... Please sit down and maintain order. ...(Interruptions)... We would have the hon. Member ask the second supplementary. ...(Interruptions)... Now, K.C. Venugopalji. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, I am happy.....(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): He is asking the question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, I am happy the hon. Minister is trying to appease his bosses using this platform of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)... I am happy to know that but the question is that the * by imposing taxes on petrol and diesel. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): We want a specific question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Whenever a question of common people comes, you divert the issue. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Member, kindly ask the question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Is the Government going to stop this * ...(Interruptions)... That is my question. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: No, no. ...(Interruptions)... Let me answer this. ...(Interruptions)... Who was looting the country? ...(Interruptions)... 97 per cent of their candidates lost their deposits. That is what the country's answer to this is. ...(Interruptions)... 97 per cent of their candidates lost their deposits. ...(Interruptions)... That is the answer. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: This is not an answer. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: You come from Punjab. ...(Interruptions)... Your Party lost. ...(Interruptions)... You are from Punjab. ...(Interruptions)...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I am now also. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is their answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Now, Shri Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am calling the next Member, Shri Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Your Party lost in Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are from Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): K.C. Venugopalji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... No controversial statements here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Has he not campaigned for BJP in Punjab? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Mr. John Brittas. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. John Brittas, kindly do not disturb the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Binoy Viswam, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Madam, the word * should be deleted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please maintain order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Viswam is asking the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Please remove the words * ...*(Interruptions)*... It is unparliamentary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please be seated. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Binoy Viswamji.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Thank you, Madam. Not having controversy, ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, the Minister's speech also would not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please, Binoy Viswamji is ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: That is applicable to Minister also ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: The hon. Minister is from Foreign Service ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): We would check the records. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Binoy Viswam, only what you say is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please ask the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): John Brittasji, please sit. ...*(Interruptions)*... We would see that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, Binoy Viswamji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the hon. Member ask the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Binoy Viswamji, only what you say is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please ask the question quickly. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Yes, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*... My question is this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Those Benches are creating problems here, not we people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please ask the question.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: The hon. Minister, being from the background of Foreign Service, is well aware of the country called Venezuela. From that country, we used to import oil. In 2020, we imported 3,71,000 barrels of crude oil from Venezuela. That country is still there. They still have the resources.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question please.

* Not Recorded.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: I ask the Government: Why was that import stopped? Has the Government a plan to restart that?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Short and crisp answer please.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, short and crisp, since a reference was made to * I would remind them that oil bonds were released. ...*(Interruptions)*... Oil bonds were floated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): He has not raised that question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: No; to the previous one, let me ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): No. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are only concerned with Binoy Viswamji's question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Oil bonds were floated for Rs.1,40,000 crores on which we have had to pay Rs.3,20,000 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, we are concerned with only Binoy Viswamji's question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: And 2G, coal scam, CWC, I do not want to get into who is * whom? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: What happened? ...*(Interruptions)*... All have been investigated but what happened? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: On Venezuela, I would like to.....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Hon. Minister, please do not play a controversy.*(Interruptions)*.... Come to the answer directly.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

....(Interruptions).... He has put a direct question.(Interruptions).... Short and crisp.(Interruptions)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, I am answering, through you, that Venezuela is a country which was an oil supplier, where the oil....(Interruptions).... where the oil....

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: For the last three years ...(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): All other Members, please sit down.(Interruptions).. . . All other Members, please sit down.(Interruptions)... Mr. John Brittas.(Interruptions)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, Venezuela is a country which was subjected to sanctions by another country. ...(Interruptions)... . It is our hope and expectation that oil, not only from Venezuela, but other countries under sanction, will become available and that apart from oil which will become available by countries who, hitherto, were not supplying on account of sanction, existing OPEC plus will increase their production. I am hopeful that we will all use collectively, our margin of persuasion, including the hon. Members, to request the international community to make more oil available including from the country that the hon. Member has named, Venezuela. When sooner that oil comes into the market, oil companies will enter into agreements, equally is Iran, it is another country which, on account of a particular deal with the United States, I think, it is a nuclear issue. There are reports in the public domain that that issue is also likely to be resolved. That will also bring more oil into the market. As far as the Government of India and the oil companies are concerned, we have not floated any oil bonds and passed the burden on to the next generation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Kindly, be brief.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: We will take all the other steps. We are not indulging in any of those things which, as the culture of impunity, which I mentioned, 2G, CWC, etc.(Interruptions).... We will take all legitimate steps to try and maintain the price of oil at the bunk, at a reasonable level. Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Now, Shri Mohamed Abdulla.

SHRI MOHAMED ABDULLA: Madam, mine is Q. No. 124.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Yours is Question No. 123 or 125. Then, later. Now, Dr. Ashok Bajpai.

डा. अशोक बाजपेयी : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि देश में पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट के मूल्यों में एकरूपता लाने के लिए क्या देश में पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स को जीएसटी की परिधि के अंदर लाने पर सरकार विचार करेगी और इसके लिए प्रयास करेगी? महोदया, राज्य सरकारें अपने संसाधनों को बढ़ाने के लिए पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स पर अपने मन से निरंतर टैक्स लगा लेती हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Thank you for the short and crisp question. Mr. Minister, short and crisp answer.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I will also try to be short as I said in response to the previous question that the issue of taking it before the GST and having GST coverage on this will depend in equal measure on the State Governments. As I said, we tried once, on an earlier occasion, and we did not find the response that was required in order to have GST coverage on this.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Madam, any tax that is levied by the Central Government is shared with the States and any cess and surcharge that is levied will not be shared with the States.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Exactly. That is the point we asked.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please do not interfere.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Can the hon. Minister explain to this august House on what parameters these taxes and cess on petroleum products is decided by the Central Government? How frequently the taxes and cess are reviewed and revised by the Central Government?(Interruptions)...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I am very happy that my learned friend has asked this question. The precise formula, I think, would lie in the domain of the hon. Finance

Minister, and the Finance Ministry bureaucracy. But, I can share some facts with him. The total contribution of the petroleum sector to the exchequer for the years 2018-19 down to 2020-21 and April to September, 2021-22, the Central Exchequer and the State Exchequer, I tell you. In 2018-19, it is Rs. 5,75,632 crores, 60 per cent Centre and 40 per cent went to the States. Similarly, the figure is 60 per cent, 60 per cent, 68 per cent and then it comes out 62 per cent and 38 per cent. It is not as if the taxes are only being levied by the Centre. Centre legitimately levies taxes, excise and uses them for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Covid, Sochalaya, Ujjawala, a number of them. States also levy taxes. I said that the percentage is as high as 40 per cent in most of the time. The formula which is used, and I would be very happy to sit with my distinguished colleague and also learn from the Finance Ministry, myself as to what is the precise manner in which the Central levies and the State levies, and how the sharing takes place.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Q. No.124.

Annual water requirement

†*124. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual water requirement for drinking and irrigation purposes in the country;
- (b) whether the water available in the country is as per the present requirement; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken by Government to overcome the low availability of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) Report-1999, water requirement of the country for irrigation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and domestic sectors for high demand scenario for year 2025 is 611 billion cubic meters (BCM) and 62 BCM respectively.

As per the study titled “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019” conducted by Central Water Commission (CWC) in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), the average annual water resources availability in the country is assessed at 1,999.20 BCM. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1,126 BCM which comprises 690 BCM of surface water and 436 BCM of replenishable ground water.

(c) The water availability has been estimated to be more than present water requirement subject to spatial variability.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India has taken various steps to ensure water availability for drinking and irrigation purposes in the country. Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country at the service level of 55 litre per capita per day by 2024. For ensuring tap water supply in drought-prone and water-scarce areas with inadequate rainfall or dependable ground water sources, provisions have been made under JJM for bulk water transfer from long distances and regional water supply schemes. In addition, provisions have been made for source recharging, viz. dedicated bore well recharge structures, rain water recharge, rejuvenation of existing water bodies, etc., in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, State schemes, CSR funds, etc.

Government of India has launched AMRUT 2.0 on 1st October, 2021 for a period of 5 years (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26), with the objective of providing universal coverage of water supply through functional household tap connections in all statutory towns in the country. AMRUT 2.0 focuses on making cities water secure through recycle/ reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and for

expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introducing sustainable water conservation practices, etc. During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) on-going major/ medium irrigation projects in the country having balance estimated cost of Rs.77,595 crore under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefifits Programme (AIBP) have been prioritised in consultation with States for completion in phases. The extension of PMKSY for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has been approved by Government of India, with an overall outlay of Rs. 93,068.56 crore.

‘Sahi Fasal’ campaign was launched by National Water Mission (NWM) on 14.11.2019 to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which use water very efficiently, are economically remunerative, are healthy and nutritious, suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics of the area, and are environment friendly.

National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM) is being implemented by CGWB as part of Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM & R) Scheme, a Central Sector scheme. NAQUIM envisages mapping of aquifers (water bearing formations), their characterization and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of groundwater resources in the country. NAQUIM outputs are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.

Government of India is also implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, in 8774 Gram Panchayats of 81 Districts of Seven States namely Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The focus of the scheme is on community participation and demand side interventions for sustainable ground water management in identified water stressed areas.

NWM initiated the campaign “Catch the Rain” in 2020 with the tag line “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” to nudge the States and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata, with people’s active participation, before the onset of monsoon to ensure storage of rainwater. So far, it has seen participation of over 2.90 crore people in 23.86 lakh activities.

Hon’ble Prime Minister launched the “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR) with the theme “Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls” on 22nd March 2021, the World Water Day, to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country during 22nd March 2021 to 30th November 2021 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period. JSA: CTR campaign had five focused interventions: (1) rainwater harvesting and water conservation (2) enumerating, geo-

tagging and making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation (3) setting up Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (4) intensive afforestation and (5) awareness generation.

श्री नारायण दास गुप्ता : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहूंगा कि देश में एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या है कि कुछ इलाकों में सूखा पड़ता है और कुछ इलाकों में बहुत बारिश होती है और ज्यादा बारिश के पानी से flood situation की स्थिति बन जाती है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इन दोनों को balance करने का प्रयास कर रही है, क्योंकि कई जगहों पर सूखा पड़ता है और कई जगहों पर पानी waste होता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, प्रधान मंत्री जी के द्वारा और सरकार के द्वारा नदियों को आपस में जोड़ने का एक project चल रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसकी आज क्या position है?

दूसरा, जो बारिश का पानी है, वह बहुत अधिक मात्रा में waste हो रहा है और आने वाले समय में और ज्यादा waste होगा, उसके लिए rainwater harvesting होनी चाहिए, ताकि water का level और बढ़े, जिससे कि पानी की समस्या का निदान हो सके। मैं इस विषय में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि हमारी सरकार की आज क्या position है, क्या status है?

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत : धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया। मुझे लगता है कि पानी के संबंध में पूछा गया प्रश्न सदन में पैदा हुई गर्मी को कुछ कम करने में सहायक होगा। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं माननीय सदस्य का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर प्रश्न पूछकर प्रकाश डाला है। यह निश्चित ही सत्य है कि देश में विभिन्न भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों के चलते देश के लगभग 18 प्रतिशत हिस्से में हर साल बाढ़ का प्रकोप होता है और लगभग 13-14 प्रतिशत हिस्से में हर साल सूखा पड़ता है। देश में climate change के impacts के कारण, इनकी frequency, erratic, scanty rainfall के कारण, rainfall pattern में change आने के कारण से इसमें निश्चित रूप से इजाफ़ा हुआ है। माननीय अटल जी के समय में यह सपना देखा गया था कि देश में ideally ऐसा हो कि deficit basin में surplus basin से पानी transfer किया जा सके। उस समय माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने भी निर्देश दिया था, जिसके आधार पर आदरणीय सुरेश प्रभु जी के नेतृत्व में एक कमेटी बनी थी। उसने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की थी, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से उस समय सरकार परिवर्तन हो जाने के कारण से उस विषय पर 10 साल तक आगे कोई काम नहीं हो पाया। उसके पश्चात् 2014 में आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के प्रधान मंत्री बनने के बाद से फिर हमने उस पर तेज़ गति से काम करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया। हमने 31 ऐसे links को identify किया है, जहाँ surplus basin से deficit basin में पानी transfer करके इन समस्याओं का स्थाई समाधान किया जा सकता है। उनमें से अधिकांश की pre-feasibility report भी बनी और लगभग 11-12 की Detailed Project Reports भी बन चुकी हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Mr. Minister, please be brief.

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत : जल राज्यों का विषय है, राज्यों को आपस में समझौता करना है। मैं अत्यंत प्रसन्नता के साथ कह सकता हूं और आपके माध्यम से देश को और सदन को इस बारे में बधाई दे सकता हूं तथा इस पटल पर खड़े होकर मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, उत्तर प्रदेश के माननीय मुख्य मंत्री जी को और मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जी को कि उन दोनों ने केन और बेतवा नदियों को जोड़ने का समझौता करके एक नये युग का सूत्रपात इस देश में किया है। इस बजट में 4,400 करोड़ रुपये की इस परियोजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की गई है। मैं यह मानता हूं कि इसके कारण से बुंदेलखंड में जिस तरह से परिवर्तन होगा, उससे प्रेरणा लेकर अन्य राज्य भी इस दिशा में काम करेंगे।

जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने दूसरा प्रश्न rainwater harvesting के संबंध में पूछा है, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 2019 से लगातार इस विषय पर चर्चा की है। हमने 'जल शक्ति अभियान' के माध्यम से, 'अटल भूजल योजना' के माध्यम से और 15वें वित्त आयोग में जो कुल allocation है, उसका 30 प्रतिशत allocation पानी से जुड़े हुए विषयों पर किया है। 'नरेगा' में 65 per cent of total allocation Natural Resource Management पर tie up करके इस बारे में इस तरह का वायुमंडल बनाने की कोशिश की है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Please be brief.

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत : मैं यह मानता हूं कि आज पूरे देश में इसको लेकर एक नई सोच डेवलप हुई है और लोगों ने rain water harvesting पर काम करना शुरू किया है तथा अनेक प्रदेशों ने भी इसमें बहुत उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है।

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Madam, groundwater has been one of the important sources of water for irrigation and drinking purposes. But surprisingly, as per the CGWB survey report, it indicates that about 30 per cent of the wells that have been monitored, have registered a decline in ground water level in different parts of the country. Madam, secondly in the mining sector and in industries, they are also exploiting groundwater without any restriction. This is posing a great danger. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken or has the Government taken any steps by making regulation or law to put restriction in excessive use of groundwater in the mining sector, in the industries and even for other usages?

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया है, उस संदर्भ में मैं उन्हें बताना चाहता हूं कि भारत निश्चित रूप से दुनिया का सबसे ज्यादा भूगर्भ से जल निकालने वाला देश है। हम अपनी आवश्यकता की आपूर्ति का लगभग 65 प्रतिशत हिस्सा भूगर्भ के जल से लेते हैं। पेयजल का लगभग 85 प्रतिशत हिस्सा भूगर्भ के जल से आता है और इस कारण से हमारे भूगर्भ जल स्रोतों पर दबाव भी है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो 30 प्रतिशत ब्लॉक्स की चर्चा की है, उस पर मुझे लगता है कि थोड़ा तकनीकी विषय होने के कारण शायद उनके समझने में फर्क हो

सकता है, परंतु मैं माननीय सदस्य से आग्रह करूंगा कि यदि वे कभी मुझे अवसर देंगे, तो मैं उनके साथ बैठकर इसको और विस्तार से एक्सप्लेन करूंगा कि यह जो 30 per cent over-exploited, critical exploited है, इसके benchmarks क्या हैं। जहाँ तक over-exploitation को रोकने की बात है, इसको रोकने के लिए माइनिंग या इंडस्ट्री को या commercial usage को regulate करने का जो विषय है, उसके लिए मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि हमने उसके regularization के लिए already norms बनाए हैं और हम इनके ऊपर बहुत strictly काम कर रहे हैं। हमने उसमें telescopic prices mechanism दिया है। जो व्यक्ति जितना ज्यादा पानी, जितने ज्यादा critical zone से draw करेगा, उसको उसी के अनुरूप cess अदा करना पड़ेगा और जो पैसा आएगा, वह उस क्षेत्र में वापस groundwater recharge के लिए उपयोग हो सके, इसे सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा।

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मंत्री जी ने जो विस्तृत आन्सर दिया है, मैं उसके लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के मैक्सिमम पार्ट में, नीचे के अदर पाटर्स में आर्सेनिक है। वहाँ आर्सेनिक, फ्लोराइड बहुत ज्यादा पाया जाता है। महोदया, इस कारण से असम में कैंसर पेशेंट्स और किडनी पेशेंट्स की भी बढ़ोतरी हो रही है। क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो आर्सेनिक एंड फ्लोराइड एरिया है, असम के बहुत सारे एरियाज में यह पाया जाता है, आपने इसके लिए क्या व्यवस्था की है? ड्रिंकिंग वॉटर हो या इर्रिगेशन के लिए भूजल का पानी हो, उनको व्यवहार में लाने के लिए क्या रिस्ट्रिक्शन्स हैं और मंत्री जी ने इस पर क्या व्यवस्था लेने की सोची है?

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, हालांकि यह प्रश्न मूल प्रश्न से संबद्ध नहीं है, लेकिन मैं माननीय सदस्य और सदन की जानकारी के लिए निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में हम 'जल जीवन मिशन' पर काम कर रहे हैं। 'जल जीवन मिशन' में उचित गुणवत्ता का पानी, समुचित मात्रा में पानी और निरंतर पानी हर घर तक पहुंचे - हम इस लक्ष्य को लेकर आगे बढ़े हैं। हमने राज्यों को 'नेशनल रूरल ड्रिंकिंग वॉटर प्रोग्राम' के तहत भी क्वालिटी सबमिशन में यह आग्रह किया था और उन्हें 2017 से लगातार एडिशनल फंडिंग देकर जहाँ इस तरह की परिस्थितियाँ हैं, चाहे आर्सेनिक है, फ्लोराइड है, हैवी मेटल्स हैं, आयरन है, सेलिनिक या और किसी तरह का दूषित पानी पीने के लिए लोग मजबूर हैं, वहाँ इस पर प्राथमिकता से काम किया जाना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, अभी 'जल जीवन मिशन' में भी हमारी प्राथमिकता quality-affected habitation को लेकर है। हमने राज्यों से कहा है कि वे जहाँ पर स्थायी समाधान नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, देश भर में जहाँ कहीं भी ऐसी परिस्थिति है, वहाँ community water treatment plant लगाकर at least पेयजल तक की जितनी मात्रा में जो पानी है, वह देश भर में ग्रामीणजनों को उपलब्ध हो सके - इस दिशा में काम करें। मुझे अत्यंत प्रसन्नता है कि लगभग सभी राज्यों ने उस पर तेज गति से काम किया है। एकाध राज्य को छोड़कर बाकी सभी जगहों पर बहुत इफेक्टिव काम हुआ है और आने वाले 2024 के अंत तक - माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी का जो संकल्प है कि देश में एक भी ग्रामीण आवास नल के जल से विमुक्त न रहे, उस पर मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि इस दिशा में जिस गति से देश काम कर रहा है, वह प्रशंसनीय है। आज हम 9 करोड़ घरों तक

पीने का पानी पहुंचा चुके हैं और आने वाले समय में देश को इसका स्थायी समाधान मिलने वाला है।

SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Regarding drinking water to Bangalore City, Bangalore City is having a population of 1.3 crore. Now, Bangalore City requires about 54 T.M.C. water but we have only 17 T.M.C. water at present.

We are constructing Mekedatu project to store flood water in Bay of Bengal. The State of Tamil Nadu has already constructed three hydroelectric projects without any consultation with the neighbouring State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Keep your question short so that you will get an answer.

SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Madam, I want to know from the Minister as to what is the Central Government's stand in this regard and today, what the status of drinking water is. The whole world says that drinking water is priority.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN): Question Hour is over; the House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

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

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two minutes past two of the clock.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair*

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2021-22

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary.

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पंकज चौधरी) : महोदय, मैं अनुपूरक अनुदान मांगें, 2021-22 को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 2021-22

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पंकज चौधरी) : महोदय, मैं 2021-22 के वर्ष के लिए संघ राज्य क्षेत्र जम्मू और कश्मीर (विधानमंडल के साथ) के संबंध में अनुपूरक अनुदान मांगों को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

THE BUDGET OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 2022-2023

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पंकज चौधरी) : महोदय, मैं संघ राज्य क्षेत्र जम्मू और कश्मीर (विधानमंडल के साथ) के संबंध में अनुमानित प्राप्तियों और व्यय के विवरण (2022-23) (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. Shri Ripun Bora. ...*(Interruptions)*.. It is the prerogative of the Opposition to initiate it. So, I have given the chance to you. Shri Ripun Bora.

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to initiate the discussion today, which is one of the most important and sensitive issues, that is, the functioning of the DoNER Ministry. Before initiating the discussion, Sir, I want to salute my leaders, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi because of whom today I am here in this august House. I also salute the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose brainchild was this Ministry of DoNER. Since Independence, our Congress Government had taken up a series of schemes, policies for the all-round development of North-Eastern States. Many positive results also have been attained. Despite that, in 2001, the former Prime

Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, established the Ministry of DoNER as the nodal authority of the Central Government to deal with the matters related to the socio-economic development of the eight States of the North-Eastern Region, namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. Another purpose was the planning, execution and monitoring of the development of the entire North-Eastern Region. The third objective was to work as a facilitator; the Ministry of DoNER, in addition to the above, it was envisaged to work as a facilitator. There are other objectives too, like removal of infrastructural bottlenecks, making a provision of minimum basic services, creating an environment of private investment and to remove impediments towards lasting peace and security. Sir, these were the salient features, which constituted the background for the creation of development of the North-Eastern Region. The basic purpose was to ensure an accelerated development, to remove the regional imbalance of the North-Eastern Region.

But, to our utter surprise, I would like to draw the attention of this august House that the dream of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has not been translated into a reality by the BJP Government. The Ministry of DoNER was created in 2001. It started functioning from 2003-04. From 2004 to 2014, continuously, the Congress-led UPA Government was there. The Congress-led UPA Government did enough to translate into reality the dream of establishing the Ministry of DoNER, by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. What has the BJP Government did from 2014 to 2022? I am proving it statistically. All the data quoted by me are from the website of the Ministry of DoNER. There is nothing from my side. The figures will substantiate how the concept or ideology or the dream of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is diluted by the BJP Government. For example, in Arunachal Pradesh, altogether, 126 projects have been taken up by the Ministry of DoNER till February, 2022. Out of these 126 projects, 118 were taken up by the UPA Government. Similarly, so far as Assam is concerned, a total of 123 projects were sanctioned. Out of these, 114 were sanctioned by the UPA Government. Only nine projects were taken up during the period from 2014 to 2022. Similarly, for Manipur, out of 85 projects, 64 were taken up by the Congress Government and only 21 projects are by the BJP Government. For Meghalaya, out of 86 projects, 72 were taken up by the Congress Government and 14 projects were taken up by the BJP Government. For Mizoram, out of 96 projects, 69 were taken up by the Congress Government and 27 were by the BJP Government.

For Nagaland, out of 112 projects, 90 projects were taken up by the Congress Government and 22 projects were taken up by the BJP Government. For Sikkim, out of 78 projects, 73 projects were taken up by the Congress Government and only five

projects were taken up by the BJP government. Tripura is a very small State. Tripura has a total of 46 projects. Out of these 46 projects, 41 projects have been taken up by the Congress Government and only five projects have been taken up by the BJP Government. Not only that, there is the 'Other Agency'. In total, seventy-seven projects have been given to 'Other Agency'. Out of that, it is a very significant thing that 19 projects have been taken up by Congress Government and 58 projects by the BJP Government. Now you can see, Sir, that in all the projects, the BJP Government is just in the double figure, but Congress Government never encouraged 'Other Agency'. The Congress Government always gives priority to the State Governments, but the BJP Government during this time has encouraged 'Other Agency'. Undermining the State Governments, they have encouraged 'Other Agency' or the 'Other Agency' was sanctioned 58 projects. From this data it is very clear how much sincere was Vajpayeeji! Vajpayeeji said that for the speedy development of North-Eastern Region the DoNER was established, but how much serious is the BJP Government? Over the last eight years, they have given six projects or seven projects or eight projects to one State. This is one thing. The second thing is, as far as the ongoing projects are concerned, in Arunachal Pradesh there are 16 number of ongoing projects; in Assam, there are 66; in Manipur, there are 92; in Meghalaya, there are 55; in Mizoram, there are 34; in Nagaland, there are 91; in Sikkim, there are 23; in Tripura, there are 31; and 'Other Agency' is 150. Totally, there are 604 projects. You can see the concern of the DoNER Ministry! What concern are they having? Since inception of DoNER Ministry, 1495 projects have been sanctioned to these eight States and out of these 604 projects, slightly below half, are still ongoing and most of the projects are from 2010-11 till date. This is a horrible condition. This is the sincerity of the BJP Government for the all-round development of the North-Eastern Region. Not only that, I now want to come to another point. The BJP Government is expert in changing names. They are name-changers, not game-changer. In Congress regime, there were so many schemes. With all these schemes, they have only changed the name and the same thing happened in North-Eastern Region also. There was a very popular scheme/concept during Dr. Manmohan Singh's time, i.e. the Look East Policy. The entire Government of India had taken up a policy and that was the Look East Policy. North-East is the most important part of the country and therefore, it is a focus area. The entire Central Government's focus was Look to East, but the BJP Government has changed the name. What is that? The name is very good. It is not 'Look East', but 'Act East'. So, is this your act? But, this is your 'act!' What is the Act East Policy? I wanted to highlight what the Act East Policy is.

The Congress Government launched the North-East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy for industrial development of the North-East Region. It was launched in 2007 for a ten-year term, i.e., up to 2017. But, in 2014, the present BJP Government, after coming to power, immediately abolished this Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy! What does this Industrial Policy say? This Policy says that 30 per cent capital subsidy is given on plant and machinery, so that big industries and investors are encouraged to come and invest in the North-Eastern Region. But, the BJP Government, after abolishing this Policy, introduced another policy. What is that policy? It is North-East Industrial Development Scheme. Under this Scheme, 30 per cent capital subsidy was abolished and, in lieu of that, only Rs. 5 crore is given as capital subsidy! Who will come for this paltry benefit? Do you think that people will come to get Rs. 5 crores by spending Rs. 400 crores on a project? So, this is one of the reasons why the entire development of the North-Eastern Region has been slowed down. This is your Act East Policy!

Now, I come to another point. There is no mega project. During these eight years not a single mega project has been sanctioned to the North-Eastern States! There is not a single project sanctioned! There is Hollongi Airport in Arunachal Pradesh. There is extension of three other airports. All these are the projects of the UPA Government. Sir, not a single mega project has been given by this Government to the North-Eastern Region. This is one thing.

Another thing is relating to Bharat Ratna Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Guwahati. This airport has also been privatized! There are two profit-making PSUs in Assam. The first one is Nagaon Paper Mill and the other one is Cachar Paper Mill. They are under public sector and have been closed down since 2015! And, Sir, till date, employees have not been paid a single penny as salary! Sir, 180 employees have already died for want of medical care, want of money and 15 employees have committed suicide. So, this is your Act East Policy!

Not only this, there is no infrastructure on the border areas. What is happening as a result of that? There are no godowns in the border areas. Whenever any material is to be sent from one State to another, there are no godowns to store. So, track-to-track transportation and loading and unloading is done. It is also one of the important bottlenecks for the development of the North-East Region.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister, whenever he visits Assam or other areas of the North-East, always says, कि मैं नॉर्थ-ईस्ट रीजन को अष्टलक्ष्मी का देश बनाऊँगा। असम को, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट रीजन को मैं अष्टलक्ष्मी का देश बनाऊँगा। He used to say this every time he visited the North-East. But, now, Sir, the conditions are horrible in 'अष्टलक्ष्मी देश!'

I wish to make another important point. It is very surprising that NGOs have been given projects for the development of the entire North-Eastern Region! The NGO will only create awareness among public, this or that small thing. But what big project will the NGO do? So, from 2016 to 2021, the projects of North-East development have been given to 80 NGOs. As a result, all these projects are lying undone or half done. So, this is *Maha Ashta Lakshmi Desh*!

Now, I come to the point as to why top priority should be given to the North-Eastern Region. Top priority should be given to the North-Eastern Region because this region is the most vulnerable area. This is the most sensitive area in the country from the defence point of view. All the North-Eastern States are surrounded by Tibet, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. So, from this point of view also the North-Eastern Region should have got top priority for the development. But, I am sorry to say that it is not so. The UPA Government had done tremendous development. There were just jungles; no roads; no connectivity; no communication; no education; no health. But the Congress Government had taken a lot of care for the upliftment of the Region, for the accelerated development of the Region. But, the BJP Government, after coming to power in 2014, completely damaged whatever projects, whatever development we had done in the North-Eastern Region.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards one thing. The House must know that there was a perception that the people in the North-East Region are backward; they are tribals; they live in jungles; they live in hills. But, though these people lived in jungles, though they lived in hills, yet these people had made no less contribution to any part of India in the freedom movement of our country. You will be surprised to know that after taking over entire country, the British were able to take the North-East Region only by the Treaty of Yandabo on 24th February, 1826. This is the the North-East Region! They resisted British right from the very beginning. And, when Assam was annexed to the British on 24th February 1826, just after two years the people of Assam revolted against the British. Gomdhar Konwar and Dhananjay Borgohain were sentenced to death by the British.

As per Indian history, the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 was the beginning of the struggle for Independence. But, that is not correct. Much before the Sepoy Mutiny, in 1828, the people of these hilly areas -- the people who were known as the backward people, the people who were known as illiterate people -- had started revolt against the British.

Now, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the contribution of the North-Eastern States in the Freedom Movement of India. In 1861, in Nagaon district, the farmers of Phologuri had revolted against the British. As a

result, 39 farmers were killed by the British police firing and two farmers -- Krishnakanta Goswami and Sofiun Neesa -- were banished to Andaman. After that, on 28th January 1894, the farmers of Pathorughat revolted against the British. That is, there were 140 farmers in Patharughat of Darrang district who revolted against the British. The Britishers fired on them and 140 farmers died on the spot. This is North-East Region, Sir, this is Assam! So courageous! Kushal Konwar, Piyoli Phukan and Moniram Dewam, these great freedom fighters were hanged by the British for revolting against them. In my area, during 1942 Quit India Movement, one young 16 year-old girl, Kanaklata Barua, and a young boy, Mukunda Kakuti, went to bring down the Union Jack at the Gohpur police station. The police fired on them and both of them died on the spot. On 18th September, during Quit India Movement, 1942, in Nagaon, one lady, namely, Bhogeswari Phukanani, was killed at Dhekiajuli. About 13 people were killed at the same time. So, this is Assam! This is North-East Region! They have fought for the independence of our country. They are no less than people of any other part of our country.

Now, I come to other States. Why I am citing these historical examples, I will tell you later on, while concluding my speech. Sir, I will take only three minutes more. Now, let us come to Manipur. Earlier, I was telling about Assam. It is not that only Assam participated in the Freedom Movement, other States also did. In Manipur, Bir Tikendrajit, who was Raja there, revolted against the British and he was sentenced to death. In Tripura, Shanti Bushan, under inspiration of Surya Sen, made a plan to capture the weapon store of British. There was a weapon store of British in Chittagong. He formed a rebel group to capture the weapon store of British in 1930. So, so courageous the people of Tripura are! So courageous the people of North East are! In Nagaland, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose first established the Azad Hind Administered Village in Ruzasho village. The Azad Hind Administered Village was established in Nagaland. My friend, Kenye is here. The people of Nagaland extended fullest cooperation to Azad Hind Fauz of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. But, now, we neglect the people of Nagaland; now, we neglect the people of Manipur stating that these people are tribal people, these people are backward people, these people do not know anything, these people live in jungle. We under-estimate these people. But these people have made supreme sacrifice for the unity, integrity and freedom of our country. Not only that, Sir, the House will be surprised to know that one small girl, -- a 16 year old girl, her name is Gaidinliu -- who was a spiritual leader, revolted against the British and the British gave her life imprisonment in 1932. In 1937, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Shillong, he went to see this girl in Shillong jail. There, Nehruji gave her the title of 'Rani'. From

then on, she is known as Rani Gaidinliu. I am citing all these major historical events, the contribution of the North East Region in the freedom movement to tell you how courageous the North East people are. But, despite having such a huge contribution to the freedom movement of our country, to the mainstream of our country, the Government is giving step-motherly treatment to the North East Region. What offence have the people of North East Region done? What offence have we done that every time, we are getting a step-motherly treatment? It is now eight years. Eight years is a long period. This is how the DoNER Ministry is functioning today. What is its achievement? Not a single project has been completed. Not a single mega project has been given. Whatever projects were launched by the UPA Government, have also been lying half done. There is no office of the DoNER Ministry in the North-East Region. Nothing; everything is on paper only.

Therefore, my humble suggestion to the hon. Minister of DoNER and to the Government is that you must think very seriously. You must think of the importance of North-East Region from a strategical point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Bora, you will have to conclude now. Your time is up.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, just one minute.

You have to think of this North East Region from the defence point of view. This is number one. Number two, you must address the feelings of alienation, the feelings of deprivation, the feelings of injustice and the feelings of step-motherly treatment to the people of North-East Region. You must address it.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH) *in the Chair.*]

Therefore, I request the Government to make a strong attractive industrial policy, so that the big investors will go to North-East Region. They would invest there and we can make rapid industrialization of the North-East Region; and the moment the rapid industrialization starts, the unemployment problem and the other problems will be solved. That will be addressed at the earliest possible time.

So, Sir, with these few words, I once again urge upon the Government of India and the Minister of DoNER to take seriously, to think seriously and do implement, do translate the dream of Vajpayee into reality by giving accelerated development to the States of North-East Region. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH): Thank you, Ripun Boraji. Now, Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important Ministry which will be discussed today, and I request all my friends here to take interest in this. I am grateful to the hon. Chairman who has said that the time, although it is four hours, may be extended. I am grateful for that.

If we go to the North-Eastern Region, the North-Eastern Region has about 3.78 per cent of the population of India but the happy note is that 10 per cent of gross budgetary support is given to North-Eastern States. Over the years, since its inception when the DoNER Ministry was formed in 2001, the Ministry has been looking after the development works over there and a separate fund from the Budget has been allocated for DoNER Ministry, which has increased during last eight years more and more. It is not only the allocation of the DoNER Ministry but even the allocation of other Ministries has increased in the last one decade, which is something exemplary. The interest in this Ministry, led by *Adarniya* Narendra Modiji, shows that the Prime Minister visits North-Eastern Region every now and then. He has visited there more than 40 times, which no other Prime Minister has visited. That is the interest. And, symbolically, wherever he goes in public, he goes with a **ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱ**, which is a symbol of respect to Assam and North-Eastern Region. Why am I telling you this? Sir, this is something which was rare before.

Sir, every Ministry is sending the Ministers there. The Ministers visit the North-Eastern Region every fifteen days. And, it is not just a visit; they go there and review all the projects, including the DoNER projects. I do not know why the hon. Member from North East, from the other side, has a complaint about changing the 'Look East' policy to 'Act East' policy. The meaning is clear. Earlier, it was 'Look East', just 'look' and not act. That is what used to happen earlier. Now it is 'Act East' policy, the policy that connects the North Eastern Region to South East Asia. The roads that are built there today provide connectivity to Thailand and Myanmar. As you all know, connectivity is the most important factor that is needed for development. Where there is connectivity, there is development. Connectivity has been the top priority of this Government. Other infrastructure has also been developed in the region. I would touch upon that a little later. What connectivity means is that road connectivity, air connectivity and waterways connectivity has been given importance and, in the last few years, you must have seen that many new things are coming up there. Many new airports have been added. The airports that had been closed down during Congress

rule have been revamped, renovated and made operative. One such airport is the Rupsi Airport. New airports have been added to Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Today, we can say that air connectivity to the North Eastern Region is complete. It is not only the State capitals but also some of the district headquarters that have been provided connectivity. This is something that was not happening earlier. It is happening now. This is because the Government believes in taking action, not just making announcements and laying foundation stones. This Government, led by *adarniya* Modi *ji*, is committed to completing things and not just making announcements. They believe in completing the construction and making things operative. That is the guiding principle of this Government.

Sir, talking about rail connectivity, today, most of the State Capitals are connected by rail. One demand that was pending for a long time was connectivity to Imphal, the Capital of Manipur. It would be very soon getting a passenger train. A trial run with goods train has already been made. We know all about it. So, going to Imphal by train was a dream. Going to Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, by train was a dream. But now, these dreams are coming true and it has become a reality. Trains are being run and they are becoming operative. There is better connectivity between State Capitals with conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge and both goods and passenger trains have become operational. The problems that we had once because of the lack of road and rail connectivity are not there now. There was a time when the North Eastern Region was starving because essential commodities did not reach there; it took months for essential commodities to reach there.

Now, all the States of the North-Eastern Region get their essential commodities by rail and, of course, by road. As you all know, the North-Eastern Region doesn't have the connectivity in terms of ports. Now with the help of Myanmar Sittwe Port, we are getting the port connectivity. Waterways have been developed on the Brahmaputra for water connectivity. Today it is not a problem to send goods and services to the North-Eastern Region. Now, people can send anything and it goes there in record time. As you all know, the highway project was started during the Prime Ministership of our respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee *ji*. The development of highways was started during that time. Now, the project is completed everywhere. That is the road connectivity. We know that PMGSY is connecting the villages with main roads or the urban areas. The PMGSY connectivity was started during the Prime Ministership of hon. Atal Bihar Vajpayee *ji*. Now, we are proud to say that Assam and all other North-Eastern Regions are well-connected with roads under the PMGSY. These are not just announcements; these are the activities; these are the projects which are completed and done. As you all know, hon. Member

has mentioned about *Bharat Ratna* Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport. Who gave *Bharat Ratna* to hon. Gopinath Bordoloi? It was the BJP Government which gave *Bharat Ratna* to Gopinath Bordoloi and the international airport facility was also given during this Government. His objection is that flights are not running now. Under UDAN Scheme, many of the South-East Asian airports are being connected and some of the operation works have already been done. So, this is what the DoNER and this Government are doing which, at one point of time, was a dream for the people of North-Eastern Region. Today, this dream has come to reality. Going by the infrastructure development and industrialisation of the area, in the beginning, I want to refer to what our friend from the Opposition has said. His objection is to the present NEIIPP. The NEIIPP was also established during the BJP Government earlier.

But that was for ten years - 1997 to 2007. In 2007, this was reviewed and extended for another ten years. So, during that time, we all know what was happening. Many industrial houses came, but what happened? There were more sign board industries than the actual industries. For the 30 per cent subsidy, many sign board industries came to corner the subsidy amounts without making any industrial contribution or setting up actual projects. This was going on. We know that even today, some of those industries are still running. They are being arrested. Why? They are being arrested because they do not manufacture; they only give the label. So, that is not the real industrial development. That was not expected of the NEIIPP. Instead, rapid industrialisation of the North-Eastern Region was expected. Not one or two States, but the industrial development of entire North-Eastern Region was the aim. But, it did not happen the way it was expected to happen. So, under the new NEIDS, a new policy for the North-Eastern Industrial Development has been framed. And as you all know, whenever there is a policy, we work under the policy framework and utilise it for the benefit of the people, for the benefit of the State and add infrastructure to it. But, when the expected results come, the change is inevitable. As far as the NEIIPP is concerned, every ten years, that is reviewed and when we find something wrong in the review, the same is corrected. So, it is a continuous process. I do not know why my friend, hon. Member, has objection on that.

If we shift from connectivity and go to other sectors, these are infrastructure sectors, and the sector which is most necessary for infrastructure is power. As you all know, the ongoing projects in the power sector are: Subansiri (Lower) Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam; North-Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project; and the Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening Power Transmission and Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. Over

these few years, the distribution sector and the generation sector have been segregated and distribution sector has been made independent by forming independent companies for the benefit of the people. Today, because of this policy, power is not a problem in setting up any infrastructure industry or any other industry. So, that has been made possible by a change in the policy during these few years. If we compare what is going on now with what was going on during the Congress rule, there is a sea-change. Every Member who goes there sees the change. I am not telling you that only the present Government has done it, but the present Government has done it in a superior manner, implemented the projects in a superior manner and completed the projects. The construction of bridges, flyovers, over-bridges, rail projects and airports has been done at a faster pace now. Why? It is because this Government does not believe in announcement, this Government believes in completion of projects so that the benefit goes to the people.

Sir, as we all know, there are other achievements but since we are discussing only the Ministry of DoNER, I will not go into details of what has been done over the years and what is being done now. Sir, if we see the health sector, you will see that the North Eastern Region faced minimum damages even during the pandemic period. Today, we are happy to announce that so far as Covid-19 cases are concerned, it has come to zero in the State of Assam. During the period, so much health infrastructure was built particularly in the State of Assam -- of course, it was done in other States also -- that we could take care of its people and we could take control of the situation. Sir, today, we are proud to say that with our health infrastructure, we are fully prepared to face any pandemic that might come in the future.

Sir, what was the situation before? Earlier, there were only three medical colleges. Now, seven new medical colleges are coming up. Five are already operational and functioning. They have done a lot of work during the pandemic period to save the people of Assam. Apart from taking care of the people, in the case of immunization or vaccination, the State Government has completed the vaccination of first dose everywhere.

It is not that the Ministry of DoNER has performed only in the health sector. As Assam is the main focus, the State of Assam has not only concentrated on its own people, but with its health system, Assam has covered and looked after the people of other neighbouring States also so that they remain safe and can prosper. Sir, so many oxygen plants have come up in Assam. During the pandemic, so many oxygen plants were given by the Central Government but Assam completed the Oxygen Plants in record time. During the pandemic, when there was oxygen shortage in other States and it became a big issue, the North-Eastern Region did not have the

shortage of oxygen, because Assam, being the main State, not only helped its own people but also helped all other neighbouring States.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH): Kalita ji, your time is over.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I will take a few minutes more, Sir. Today, we are in a position that...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH): Twenty minutes' time given by the Party is over.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, I will not go to other sectors. Other speakers from my Party will cover those points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH): There are three speakers from your Party.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: But, I must mention one thing and that is about the Sports sector. Today, the North Eastern Region is on the Olympic map of the world. Today, the sportspersons, both men and women, from the North Eastern Region find place in the Olympics. They win medals and bring glory to the nation. The North Eastern Region deserves more importance as it is giving you medals also. Sir, I am very happy to say that the National Sports University is being established at Manipur.

Can anybody say that a remote State of the North-Eastern Region, situated on the other corner of the country, is leading the country? My friend, Mr. Kiren Rijiju, is there. The plan to prosper in the Olympic Games was initiated by him. Today, we can very proudly say that the North-Eastern Region is on the fast track in the field of sports, in the field of Olympic Games.

Sir, I will finish by saying only two things, which I mentioned in the beginning, about our link with the neighbouring states during this period. My friend had objection over our Act East Policy. The Agartala-Akhaura land link between India and Bangladesh is under implementation. Our connectivity with the neighbouring country will be smoother after its implementation. Sir, I have already mentioned about the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project which will give us access to the port in Myanmar. I have already mentioned about our connectivity with South-East Asia. With the completion of India-Myanmar trilateral highway project, we will connect the North-East with the South-East Asia. Our connectivity with countries like Myanmar,

Thailand and beyond will be smoother and the North-East Region, which was neglected earlier, will prosper better than the other region. I see that the DoNER Ministry, after its formation, the most effective period is during the last decade, has been given due importance, and through the DoNER Ministry, the problem of infrastructure of Assam and the North-East Region has been looked after very well. Today, we can say that in prosperity and development, we are going to be one with the national average, and I know that if this Government continues for a few more decades, there will be no difference between the backward North-Eastern Region and the forward other regions of the country. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH): Thank you, Kalita ji. The next speaker is Ms. Sushmita Dev.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to thank my party for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very, very important Ministry, which is the DoNER Ministry. The workings of the DoNER Ministry have a direct impact on all the States of North-East. I come from the State of Assam. As I speak today, I am proud to say that it is the All India Trinamool Congress which has given a public representative from the North-East an opportunity to come to this House. Earlier, there was a nominated Member, Dr. B.B. Dutta. But I am the first elected Member who has come from Assam through the Legislative Assembly of Bengal. Sir, I have heard very carefully what hon. Member of Parliament, Ripun Bora ji, said. I have heard very carefully what Kalita ji has said. I think neither Ripun Bora ji nor any other Member of any party can disagree that the vision to set up a Ministry to look into the inclusivity and development of the North-Eastern States was a visionary idea. But, in doing that, we must look at the history of North-East. The North-Eastern States, the development of those States, the connectivity of those States, the growth of those States took a drastic hit after the partition.

3.00 P.M.

The then East Pakistan is now what we know as Bangladesh is a friendly neighbouring country of ours which was created after partition. The only connectivity that the entire North-Eastern States have with the mainland India was through the Siliguri Corridor, which is part of Bengal and which is commonly called 'chicken's neck'. It was increasingly felt that the North-East needed special attention and it was

in 1971 that the North East Council was first set up through an Act of Parliament. It acted like a Regional Planning Commission from what I have read and it prepared specific development strategies for the North-Eastern States. After 1971, the next step that was taken for the development of the North-Eastern States is the Ministry that we are discussing today. However, in 2001, it was only a nodal department under the Home Ministry. It was in 2004 that it got the status of a full-fledged Ministry. I ask myself this question. When the North-Eastern States actually have 8 per cent of the country's geographical area, when the North-Eastern States actually have 3.8 per cent of its population and, if I may say so, are strategically the most important part of the country by the sheer fact that 90 per cent of its borders are shared with other countries like China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, etc., should we still continue to review the work of this Ministry through the prism of security and the Home Ministry?

Sir, I have to say that it is just today that the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Shri Anand shama ji, has laid on the Table this Report which includes the report on the performance of the NEC and this Ministry which we are discussing today. I have not been able to peruse it, because within one hour of his laying it on the Table of the House the debate started. If the data that I have is a little backdated, I hope that you will forgive me that minor error. I am pained to say that these States of the North-East which have the highest number of indigenous people, which have the highest number of biodiversity spots and the highest numbers of national parks, which have the highest literacy rate, which is one of the richest areas in natural resources whether it is oil, coal or gas, there is no denying that any part of the country we go to we see young children from the North-East who are working in various industries, especially hospitality management industry. We cannot deny that despite this situation today the North-Eastern States lack basic health and education facilities. Kalita Sir said before me that the Prime Minister of India has been to the North-East some 14 or 16 times ...*(Interruptions)*.. . Forty times. He forgot to say it is a big thing that he stays the night also in the North East. You forgot to say that. Anyway, Sir, let me give some data. We all know that the DoNER Ministry operates on ten per cent of the entire budget of 54 Ministries of the country which used to be called the NLCPR and has now been renamed. I would like to put some figures in front of you of 2022-23. These are just some examples because my time is short. The allocation of the Ministry of Road and Transport is the lowest -- 5 per cent. The allocation of Health and Family Welfare is 8 per cent, which is the lowest. The allocation of Rural Development is five per cent of the gross budget. The allocation of Telecom, while we talk about poor communication in the North-East, is merely one

per cent. It is just to give some data to my friends. We all agree that the North-East needs more inputs and more money. I would like to say that since 2015-16, the allocation of this Ministry was some Rs.2,363 crores, and as of 2022-23, it is Rs.2,800 crore. From 2015-16 to 2022, which is how many decades you can calculate yourself, what has been the increase in the Budget allocation of this Ministry?

It is a matter of record. I would not like to criticize the Government for the sake of criticism. I would like to point out what my hon. colleague, the Member of Parliament, said as to how many projects have been implemented in reality under DoNER. Sir, I speak in favour of strengthening DoNER; I don't speak in favour of weakening DoNER. The biggest problem which the Ministry of DoNER has is that it does not have any line Departments. Today, whatever money is sanctioned in the States of North East, they are dependent on the administrative strength of the North Eastern States. Sir, you know better than me and you are very learned as to how many administrative reforms the North Eastern States have till today. In the State of Assam, पिछले दो-चार साल से पूरा का पूरा एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन सिर्फ एन.आर.सी. का ही काम कर रहा है तो डोनर का वे क्या काम करेंगे और किसी अन्य डिपार्टमेंट का और क्या काम करेंगे?

Sir, I have one important data. I don't want to repeat some of the things which the Opposition leaders have already said that this is the state of investment. Mr. Kalita said that the new 2017 Industrial Policy has injected impetus into the economy of the North Eastern States. I am pained to say that under the 2007 policy, at that time, the national share of investment in North Eastern States was 8.3 per cent. In the new policy, that share was at 0.02 per cent in 2019, 2.30 per cent in 2018 and 0.49 per cent in 2020.

Last but not the least, I would like to say that one huge issue in the North East is our ecology and environment. Land is the issue where different tribal people of the North Eastern States in various areas have been repeatedly agitating. Land is everything to the identity of the indigenous people. I am sorry to say but recently, in May, 2020, there was Baghjan-Assam Oil India fire, where gas well caught fire. Official documents have shown that Oil India company expanded operations into ecologically sensitive zones without public hearings. This is your document which says this. Today, I would like to point out that illegal coal mining is one of the biggest issues. It is one of the biggest issues of the North Eastern States. As you know, without coal, no industry can function. I urge upon NEC and the Ministry of DoNER to take a policy decision on coal mining for the North East क्योंकि कोल चाहिए और जितना इल्लीगल कोल border से जाता है, कोल जो सिंडिकेट के थू जाता है, उससे स्टेट का नुकसान होता है और पैसा कोई और बनाता है। Today, you have NEDFi. आज NEDFi भी एक एजेंसी है।

It is a Non Banking Financial Institution which works under DoNER. We appreciate the work of NEDFi. In the two industries of the Hindustan Paper Corporation -- one in Barak Valley, which is the Cachar Paper Mill, and another one is Nagaon Paper Mill -- assets worth thousands of crores of rupees are going to be sold for peanuts. Do you know that Cachar Paper Mill is being liquidated today only because an amount of Rs.92 lakh was owed to some creditor? Could NEDFi not have restructured this debt and saved that industry? So, you need to relook at the functions of NEDFi too. Startups are extremely important issue, which impacts the young entrepreneurs of North East. I request NEDFi that you must have seed money for pre-revenue period. Today, to start any entrepreneurship, you know that there has to be due diligence of the industry, you have to do enough research to see whether this industry will work, whether this business will work or not, etc. Please think of giving seed money to startups of young entrepreneurs. I hope that whatever planning NEC does, whatever planning the Ministry of DoNER does, for the development of North Eastern States, it should not be unplanned development and it should not be a policy of only extraction of our natural resources.

And I hope that finally North-East can get out of the rut. कुछ लोग बोलते हैं कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में development नहीं होता है, क्योंकि insurgency है और कुछ लोग बोलते हैं कि चूँकि insurgency है, इसलिए नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में development नहीं होता है। NEC has a role to play. 2013 में एक Amendment Bill आया था और NEC की power बढ़ाई गई थी कि inter State, North-Eastern States के बीच में जो मुद्दे हैं, NEC उनका भी समाधान कर सकती है। मैं यह पूछती हूँ कि NEC ने Assam-Mizoram border dispute में ऐसा क्या कदम उठाया? आज असम और मेघालय के बीच border का dispute है, आज नागालैंड और असम के बीच border का dispute है। So, NEC should not be a mute spectator to these issues. Development of an area cannot just be about roads and bridges and building water treatment plants. You must solve the border disputes between the North-Eastern States without which you are creating bad precedents. And what is that precedent? सर, क्या आपने कभी सुना कि एक राज्य की पुलिस दूसरे राज्य की पुलिस को गोली मार कर कत्ल कर रही है? यह मिज़ोरम और असम के border पर North-Eastern States के इतिहास में पहली बार हुआ है। आज तक सिवाय compensation के, 50 लाख के compensation के कोई और कार्रवाई नहीं हुई। So, NEC must look after the interest of the North East as a whole. Today, Assam should not take precedence over Mizoram and Mizoram should not take precedence over Assam and vice versa. That is the job of North East.

I also appeal to the Government of India that DoNER Ministry must have an office in the North East States. सर, पहले NEC को जो chair करते थे, वह राज्यपाल करते थे। A Governor of any of the North East States, by virtue of seniority, size or whatever, on rotation, used to run the NEC. So, they could look after the security issues. They

could look after the regional issues because as you realize, North East is a very unique place when it comes to its regional politics and regional ethnicity. Now, it is the hon. Minister of DoNER who chairs the NEC. So, one should also consider whether we should go back to the old model of letting the Governor of one of the North East States on rotation to head the North East States.

More importantly, I request that the DoNER Ministry should be funded and given the sufficient human resource to have an office in one of the North Eastern States so that we can access the DoNER Ministry locally rather than having to come to the mainland in Delhi. It would be convenient for all Chief Ministers.

सर, मैं एक और चीज कहूँगी -- मैं असम में MLA भी थी, मैं लोक सभा की MP भी थी, आज मैं राज्य सभा में हूँ -- कि एक objectivity लाने की जरूरत है। Objectivity के मायने मैं यह कहना चाह रही हूँ कि project का selection कौन करता है। आज NEC के पास इतना पैसा होना चाहिए, DoNER के पास इतना पैसा होना चाहिए कि they should do a district-wise survey of what the infrastructure deficit is. मैं ऐसा आपसे इसलिए कहती हूँ, it is very simple. आप किसी को stadium दें, हम खुश हैं, sports के stadiums जरूर बनें, पर असम में ऐसे उदाहरण हैं कि ऐसे projects बन रहे हैं, which could have been second or third priority. Today, what is the urgency? For instance, erosion is a very big issue in Assam. If erosion is such a big issue, who is prioritizing? आज stadium बनना चाहिए या erosion का काम करना चाहिए, यह कौन तय करता है? That is where the nepotism and corruption starts in DoNER at the State levels. मैं किसी specific मुख्यमंत्री या सरकार को नहीं कह रही हूँ, favouritism starts from there. The NEC and the DoNER Ministry must have some mechanism to inject, to ensure objectivity in the selection of projects. यह मेरा चहेता है, चलो, इसको DoNER में project दे दो, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। आज उस constituency से किसी भी पार्टी का विधायक या सांसद हो, it must be need-based. And it must be scrutinized as to what the criteria of the schemes that are being sent from the State Government to the DoNER Ministry are. Sir, with these few words, I thank you for your patience and I thank my Party.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a good gesture that out of the five Ministries that we have chosen to discuss on its working, we have given priority to the DoNER Ministry, which is a good sign to the people that we are giving importance to them. Moreover, Sir, I am the first Member to speak from the southern end of this country, and not from the North-Eastern Region. It means, that the issue of a certain area of the people should be taken up not by only those people. If it is really a nation which, as we project, to outside, I should address the concerns of the people who are in the North-East as well as in the North, and so also, they should be concerned about the people in the South. That is 'Unity in Diversity'. This

is unity, and this unity cannot be brought by way of uniformity as some other people think. The North-Eastern Region comprises of eight States, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. This North-Eastern Region is connected to the rest of India by a narrow Siliguri Corridor. Of course, as everyone pointed out, I think, all the three Members who have spoken, are from the North-East. It is bestowed with rich natural resources like forests, biodiversity and potential for hydro-electric power, and also the strategic situation of this region acts as a very good trade market for the countries of the east through the 'Act East Policy'.

Sir, furthermore, it is rich with culture and different ethnicities and captures the hearts of the people with its culture and traditions of the natural inhabitants there. They are all living in the hills. Many think, as Shri Ripun Bora told that since they are in the hill region, they are all backward. No; not that. There are certain examples to the people in the other parts of the country. The region is rich in water resource with 33 per cent of the country's total and it also receives an annual average rainfall between 2,480 mm to 6,350 mm which can be used for irrigation and enhancement of agriculture. The region is seeing such development under which the irrigation potential for 46,500 hectares has been created. Organic farming has been gaining pace under the region and is a testament to the region's uniqueness and potential. Recently, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh sent to all the Members of Parliament, I think so, a pack of Kiwi fruits, all by way of organic farming, and he has given a detailed letter of how it is being produced and also sought encouragement from the other sections of the people.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJUJU): I hope it is very tasty also.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Yes, of course. Normally, anything which is produced in the hills will be tasty and this is totally organic. He has also cited that many other things they are venturing and he needed support. Of course, also, we appreciated in return 'that, 'Yes', you should be supported in other means also.'

The economic and infrastructural development of the region is progressing at a faster pace with increasing fund allocation for construction of roads and highways connecting cities and districts. However, the post-colonial development in this region has faced, and is facing, challenges which hampers the development that we should not forget. In what manner because it has led to lower pace of growth, both economic and social, and also in terms of industrialization and development and

contributes little to India's overall GDP and that is only because of the challenges which the region is facing. We may sanction more funds but what happens, actually, is that the region suffers a decreased connectivity in terms of railways and road networks and continues to face civil disturbances.

I expected any one of these Members from the North-East could have focussed on that which I would like to. Why a region is not able to come up to the extent it should have been? There are many reasons, out of which the main reason is the civil disturbance. Most of these States border our country and we know pretty well as to who our neighbours are and how friendly they are. So they face a very big problem by means of insurgency, terrorism and other things and also the local issues that have not been addressed for long, which has led to the unrest of the people and the youth in that area. The area still witnesses military involvement and the unjust shootings and killings of civilians, just like the case that came to limelight three months ago when 15 civilians lost their lives in the Oting area of Mon district in Nagaland due to a case of 'misidentity'. That issue was raised in this House also. Misidentity led to unnecessary death of 15 civilians who were presumed to be terrorists and faced an open fire from the security forces. The aftermath was equally disturbing where more lives were lost on both sides in the clash between the villagers and the armed forces later. The region has had a history of civil conflict and this was not the first case of such kind. A month before, an Army Colonel along with his family and four other personnel from the paramilitary force were killed. The main reason for that is, parts of North-East Region, as identified by experts, experience a hostile environment because of the Act, that is, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). What is that AFSPA? I will not go into the detail because of lack of time. But when did this Act come into existence? The Act has a long history dating back to the colonial times. To sabotage the Quit India Movement in 1942, the British Government brought this Act and later in 1947, four such Ordinances were brought into place to deal with the internal turmoil of the partition. One of the hon. Members who spoke here also mentioned about it that because of the partition problem, the Ordinance was promulgated. In 1948, a single Ordinance subsuming all the four was promulgated. It was finally repealed in 1957. But, in 1958, after seeing the growing disturbances owing to the Naga rebellion, the Act was brought back. What is the purpose of the Act? It is very, very important and I think the Government should take it into consideration. The Act comes into force when an area is declared as a disturbed area by the State Government, the status which is maintained for a minimum period of six months. The Act grants the armed forces to exercise increased force and grants a higher degree of considerable impunity for maintaining internal

security. One of the Sections in the Act, Section 4 explains as to how it empowers armed forces in a democratic country, in a republic country. It says, "Any commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned or any other person of equivalent rank in the armed forces may, in a disturbed area, fire upon or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death, against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the disturbed area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons." It says, "Destroy any arms dump", which is okay. Then it says, "Arrest, without warrant, any person who has committed a cognizable offence or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit." It says, "Enter and search without warrant." And Section 6 of the Act is very, very important and it says, "No prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted, except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act." Sir, the unrest that is prevailing, it is not because of the issues only, but because of such Acts also. When the armed forces are empowered with such an enormous power, there are instances it could be misused. But when they say that there could be no prosecution, no suit could be filed, then, what will happen? It is high-time. Not only the State which is concerned with it, that is, Nagaland, but the other States surrounding the North-Eastern Region are also suffering only because of that.

It is high time that the Government reconsidered whether this Act should continue. It is high time to repeal. Sir, I am speaking on the North-East Region. They spoke about the development. I am speaking about the safety of people; the psychological, mental condition. When such an Act is there and Armed Forces are wandering with enormous powers with no control upon them, the people will react in their own manner because you know the hilly people there. So, Sir, it is an appeal. What is the necessity? Why should the people be killed unnecessarily? There may be issues anywhere. Of course, there will be issues. People will rebel in a democratic country; they have got right. But, does it mean that they can be killed and they cannot be even questioned, is a very thing to be worried about. Sir, the Supreme Court has also observed, 'if an offence is committed even by an Army personnel, there is no concept of absolute immunity from trial by the criminal court constituted under the Criminal Procedure.' But, there have been instances of even flouting the judgment of the Supreme Court. I would like to say one more thing. The regions, with less insurgent activities, continued to have heavy presence of Armed Forces which are protected under the AFSPA, which should be reconsidered

immediately as I appeal. Sir, even after six years of signing the Framework Agreement between the National Socialist Council of Nagaland and the Central Government, there has been an inordinate delay in the continuance of the Naga Peace Talks in finding a concrete solution. The region is abundant with resources including farmland and talent pool and truly efforts can lead to them being able to join hands on the path of growth and contribute significantly in the overall growth. Then, rather than to rely upon the Army, the Government should find some other way to coordinate with the people and find a peaceful solution and wish, as all would wish, the North-East Region should flourish as it should be. Thank you very much.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, many hon. Members have expressed their views on this subject of North-East Region and Sushmita Madam has elaborately explained so many things; what had been done, what is not being done, what has to be done, all these issues have been elaborately explained by her as well as Ripun Boraji and Sivaji. Sir, one thing what I could understand is now, at this point of time, the entire North-Eastern Region, --the hon. Minister is also present, -- is being ruled by Modi ji-led NDA as of today. ...(Interruptions)... I will explain to you. The first Cabinet Minister from Arunachal Pradesh is sitting here. And, the outlined States feel, under this Government, I can say -- I will explain to you the negative aspects also later -- more integrated to this country under Modi ji's rule. And, I call this as a national integration, despite the fact that Sushmita ji has explained many things. And, why have the North-Eastern Region people voted for NDA when it is not doing what has to be done by it? Sir, what I can say is, can it be construed as quid pro quo, a quid pro quo between the people of North-Eastern Region and the Congress Party which has ruled the North-Eastern Region. It was a bastion for Congress Party till the recent past. Now, Congress Party has lost the ground. Why? Why have the people of North Eastern Region rejected the Congress Party? It may be because of the reason that it has neglected them and, therefore, I can confidently say that I call this as a quid pro quo between the people of North-Eastern Region and the Congress Party, vis-à-vis.

The people of North-Eastern Region, like the people of Andhra Pradesh, have taught a lesson to the Congress party. The people of North-Eastern Region also have taught a lesson to the Congress party. Sir, under the leadership of Modi ji, cross-border trade is improving year after year and month after month. There is good infrastructure development. Sir, I have not seen all the North-Eastern States except one or two. But, according to newspaper reports, there is good development and good integration with mainland India, and there is no insurgency. By and large,

North-East Region is peaceful as of today. Sir, if I talk about Jammu and Kashmir, when Jammu and Kashmir was a State, the total revenues were worth Rs.10,000 crores whereas the Budget was Rs. 1 lakh crore. There also is the BJP Government. I think today or tomorrow, we will be discussing about the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir Budget also. I think it will be around Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000 crores. Sir, I have explained about the first two issues. The third issue is counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North East Region. These counter-insurgency operations have ensured the safety of the citizens. Now, the people of North-Eastern Region feel definitely safe as of today and are able to control the anti-national elements. These all are the positive aspects which the Government has really achieved and due to this, the Congress has lost and NDA has gained in North Eastern Region. Sir, there is increased allocation to North Eastern States. In the year 1996, the Government announced several initiatives for North-Eastern Region, and earmarked 10 per cent of the Budget, but, Madam has just now said that it is not 10 per cent and in reality 10 per cent allocation is not there. The figures will reveal whether there is 10 per cent allocation by the Central Ministries or Departments for the development of North-Eastern States or not. Going forward, the Central Government is consistently increasing the allocation to North-Eastern States which has almost doubled in the last seven years or so. To quote one example, in 2021-22, these all are the figures available in the Budget itself, according to the Revised Budget Estimates of 2021-22, the allocation was Rs. 68,440 crores, which has increased by 11 per cent to Rs. 76,040 crores in 2022-23. Sir, the Minister is sitting here, he has to take cognizance of one concern of the North-Eastern Region which is under-utilisation of allocated funds. He is bound to agree because these facts and figures are available on record. Sir, while seeing the increased allocation, I would also like to point out in the last few years there has been under-utilisation of earmarked allocated funds. In 2019-20, the expenditure was Rs. 90.93 against Rs. 100; only 90 per cent has been spent. In 2020-2021, 94 per cent has been spent. Sir, in the current year, 2021-2022, up to 31st December, the expenditure was only 56.19 per cent. If nine months' expenditure is 56 per cent, if it is increased proportionately, probably 70 per cent of the allocated Budget would be spent for this financial year. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to take cognizance of this under-utilisation and address this problem instantaneously.

Sir, the Centre has set up North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme, i.e., NESIDS to ensure speedy development of infrastructure which is a good step. According to NLCPR, which is a State scheme, a total of 1635 projects worth Rs. 16,233 crores have been sanctioned to North Eastern States. It is a

welcome step. However, this underutilization issue has to be addressed by the hon. Minister. So, I request the hon. Minister to further double its efforts and ensure timely completion of all infrastructure projects in the North Eastern States. The last point, which is very important, concerns my State. The moot question now is, how has this development come. Why was this development possible? This development was possible, whether the BJP accepts it or not, only because of the Special Category Status that has been granted to North Eastern States. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Yes, I am coming to that point. ...*(Interruptions)*..

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

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: The Congress Party had assured but it has not enacted. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Thanks to my colleague, Rameshji. ...*(Interruptions)*.. He is the author of the AP Reorganisation Act. He claims himself. ...*(Interruptions)*.. He told me that he is the author of the AP Reorganisation Act.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I have never said. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: It is loosely drafted. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is author of several books, I know. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: The present BJP Government has taken advantage of the loopholes that he has left out. Now they say that Special Category Status is not possible. There is no assurance and it is only that the then Prime Minister had assured only on the floor of the House which has not been recorded in the Register of Assurances.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now conclude, Mr. Vijayasai Reddy. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Please give me two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already taken two minutes more. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I have only two points. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Now, this development of North East is possible because of the Special Category Status. What has been promised by them should be honoured and adhered to by the BJP Government because Government is a continuous body.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I urge the hon. Minister for Development of North Eastern Region. ...*(Interruptions)*.. He is from Telangana, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Let me conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The debate is not on Telangana. ...*(Interruptions)*.. It is on North East.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: He was in the composite Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Kishan Reddyji hails from the same region. He is well aware of all the issues arising out of the AP Reorganisation Act. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already taken more than five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I am not going to allow it now. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Let him be the Minister for South Eastern Region also. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I request the hon. Minister to appoint him as the South Eastern Region Minister.

श्री उपसभापति : झरना दास बैद्य जी, कृपया आप बोलें, केवल आपकी बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जाएगी।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: *

श्री उपसभापति : झरना दास बैद्य जी, कृपया आप बोलें, केवल आपकी बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जाएगी।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: *

* Not recorded.

श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य (त्रिपुरा) : सर, अभी नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न रीजन के डेवलपमेंट के बारे में हाउस में डिस्कशन हो रहा है। यह सदियों से चल रहा है। नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न रीजन का डेवलपमेंट होना चाहिए, लेकिन यह कब तक होना चाहिए? हम लोग इसके लिए कितने साल तक इंतजार करते रहेंगे? प्रश्न यह आ जाता है कि insurgency है, लेकिन insurgency क्या है, इसको कौन क्रिएट करता है? Insurgency खुद क्रिएट नहीं होती है, बल्कि इसको क्रिएट किया जाता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न रीजन में ST population ज्यादा है, इसलिए वे लोग ज्यादा deprived हैं। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए different schemes में जो बजट sanction हुआ है, वह sufficient नहीं है। वहाँ की जो कमियाँ हैं, उनमें एक poverty मुख्य है। वहाँ पर असम को छोड़ कर कहीं कोई इंडस्ट्री नहीं है। त्रिपुरा, मिज़ोरम, नागालैंड, सिक्किम ऐसी स्टेट्स हैं, जहाँ पर ST population ज्यादा है। यहाँ पर DoNER Minister बैठे हैं। हम सब जानते हैं कि मीटिंग भी होती है, डिस्कशन भी होता है, लेकिन डेवलपमेंट के लिए जितना फंड चाहिए, वह नहीं दे पाते हैं। सर, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के डेवलपमेंट के लिए मेरा proposal है कि पहले social empowerment, economic empowerment and partnership linkages की जरूरत है। इनके बिना कुछ नहीं होगा। Social Empowerment; the most disadvantaged people in the community are women and youth. For building qualities and their institutions, they must be encouraged to participate more effectively in the developmental process supported by projects and increase their assets and control over assets and services. यह जरूरत है। Economic development; enhance capacities of the communities in terms of knowledge, skill and inputs. Involve them in implementing the economic development programmes. सर, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए बहुत सारी स्कीम्स announce की गई हैं। आज जो होम मिनिस्टर हैं, वे अभी हाउस में नहीं हैं, तब वे उसके President थे। वर्ष 2018 में बहुत सारे proposals, बहुत सारे प्रोजेक्ट्स को implement करने के बारे में announcements की गई, लेकिन क्या कुछ भी implement हुआ - जीरो, एक भी implement नहीं हुआ। मुझे लगता है कि सिर्फ announce करने से कुछ नहीं होता है, बल्कि उसके implementation की भी जरूरत है। जो नाम आज हैं, वे पहले नहीं थे - उन्हें चेंज किया गया है। 'इंदिरा आवास योजना' को 'प्राइम मिनिस्टर आवास योजना' कर दिया गया है। ऐसे नाम परिवर्तन करने से डेवलपमेंट नहीं होता है, बल्कि बजट ऐलोकेशन कितना होता है, वह sufficient है कि नहीं, डेवलपमेंट इसके ऊपर निर्भर करता है। सर, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में resources ज्यादा हैं, हम उन resources का use कर सकते हैं। मैं गौरव का अनुभव करती हूँ कि मेरा जन्म नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में हुआ। मैं अभी भी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट से ही representative हूँ। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में बहुत resources हैं। वहाँ जो self-help groups हैं, उन्हें sufficient funds देने चाहिए। Self-help groups के द्वारा ही cottage industries चल रही हैं, लेकिन lack of funds के कारण वे लोग कुछ नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। वहाँ unemployment बहुत ज्यादा है। वहाँ ज्यादा कंपनीज़ भी नहीं हैं, महाराष्ट्र या other States जैसी बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनीज़ तो हैं ही नहीं, तो वे लोग वहाँ क्या करेंगे? इसके साथ ही, जो group community development है, उसे भी डेवलपमेंट की जरूरत है। सर, मुझे बहुत दुख होता है कि बहुत साल पहले, 1988 से भी पहले त्रिपुरा में एक पेपर मिल sanction की गई थी,

उस पेपर मिल के लिए बिल्डिंग कंस्ट्रक्शन में करोड़ों रुपये खर्च हुए, लेकिन वह पेपर मिल शिफ्ट कर दी गई। सर, क्यों? त्रिपुरा में पेपर मिल के लिए bamboo की कोई कमी नहीं है। वहाँ पर पेपर मिल बन सकती है। इससे unemployment भी कम हो जाएगा, लेकिन उसे वहाँ से शिफ्ट कर दिया गया।

सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस हाउस से एक अपील करती हूँ कि Sixth Schedule के बारे में जो 125th Constitution (Amendment) Bill है, उसे पास कराने की जरूरत है, इसलिए ADCs, जो Sixth Schedule में आते हैं, उनके लिए वह बिल पास कराना बहुत जरूरी है। एससी/एसटी का sub plan बन्द कर दिया गया। उसमें सब कुछ होता था, लेकिन वह बन्द कर दिया गया। मेरी मांग है कि उसे चालू करना चाहिए। ...(समय की घंटी)...

सर, आप रबड़ प्लांटेशन के बारे में जानते हैं। मेरे दो प्वाइंट्स हैं। आप जानते हैं कि ट्राइबल लोगों के लिए पार्लियामेंट में जो आइन पास हुआ है, उसमें बहुत सारी लैंड है, लेकिन उसके पास फंड नहीं है, पैसा नहीं है। इसलिए उसको पट्टे में जितनी जमीन मिली है, वह खाली है। केवल त्रिपुरा में 1,32,000 परिवारों को जमीन का पट्टा मिला है, लेकिन वह जमीन खाली है। उनको जमीन का पट्टा तो मिला है, लेकिन वह खाली है। उस पर रबड़ प्लांटेशन हो सकती है। उस जमीन पर रबड़ प्लांटेशन के लिए, उन लोगों के डेवलपमेंट के लिए पैसा चाहिए।

सर, मैं एक और प्वाइंट यह कहूँगी कि हम महिलाओं का डेवलपमेंट चाहते हैं। "बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ" जैसे बहुत सारे स्लोगंस हैं। मेरा यह कहना है कि जो निर्भया फंड था, उसका क्या हुआ? उसमें कितना पैसा रखा है, यह मैं जानना चाहती हूँ। अगर पैसा नहीं रखा है, तो उसमें पैसा रखा जाना चाहिए। थैंक यू, सर।

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak and support Government measures for the development of the North-Eastern Region. I want to recall the days when I was the Cabinet Minister in Vajpayeeji's Government handling the Ministry of Law and Justice as well as the Ministry of Surface Transport and I was also handling many other portfolios at that time. Many of the Chief Ministers from the North-Eastern Region used to come to meet me asking funds for roads. I remember that. They were so eager to see that. They wanted some funds and assistance from the Central Government to develop that area. Even Congress Members who spoke praised Vajpayeeji. It was the BJP Government at that time. Therefore, Vajpayeeji's Government means BJP Government. I was also a Minister at that time. At that time, they had taken a decision to develop the North-Eastern Region, to develop DoNER. North-Eastern people are donors for us because they are protecting our borders, the security of our nation. They are very rich culturally and are contributing for our country. We know that and there are also tea estates, oil etc. They are the donors and we are the receivers. The Vajpayeeji's Government had taken steps to establish DoNER and saw that it is developed. Our hon. Minister, Shri G. Kishan Reddy is

handling this portfolio and has been entrusted the work to develop that area. I am very grateful that he has taken a lot of steps. Important questions were asked in the Parliament. He was asked, 'What are the steps taken by Modiji's Government to develop that area?' He answered them. In this Budget, we are speaking about a new scheme. The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East has been announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 which will fund infrastructure in the spirit of Prime Minister's Gati Shakti Social Development Projects based on the fair needs to the North-East.

So, I remember, as Minister at that time in 1998-99, whenever the issue of infrastructure connecting roads comes in, we always think about the North-Eastern Region. Sir, Ahmedabad-Guwahati road was sanctioned by the Vajpayee Government. I was Minister of Surface Transport at that time. When we had envisaged the Golden Quadrilateral, we gave a thought of how to develop other areas and how to connect the North-Eastern areas. So, after sanctioning Ahmedabad-Guwahati project, so many roads developed in the North-Eastern Region. Therefore, this is done by the BJP Government and that is why people are voting for the BJP. Now, BJP is winning so many States. So, the aim of the Government is development and that is why people are voting for BJP, not what Mr. Reddy said that it is because people wanted to punish Congress for what they had done to Andhra Pradesh. That is not the thing. Punishment cannot be given; voters are the masters. They will decide who has to rule, how to rule, which party is contributing for development, which party is sincere, etc. That is why most of the States are ruled by the BJP. BJP is ruling because of Modi's model and the model is development. This is what is helping the BJP. So, I am appreciating that.

Sir, hon. Minister, Shri Kishan Reddy, in reply to a question, on 7th February, 2022, mentioned the contribution made by this Government to the North-Eastern Region, especially after Modiji took over as Prime Minister of the country. In 2014-15, Rs. 36,107 crores was given to the North-East. The allocation has consistently gone up. There is no reduction at all. In 2021-22, Rs. 68,020 crores was allotted. In 2022-23 Rs. 76,000 crores has been allocated. That is the Modi model. That is development. Therefore, we have to appreciate this Government for taking steps to develop the North-Eastern areas. It is necessary, as he said, because it is a strategic area where Chinese are creating a lot of problems. Even if you look at it from the security point of view, it is an important region. So, it is high time that we have to give more importance to the North-Eastern Region. That way, I am very happy to appreciate and support measures taken by Modiji Government, especially measures taken by Shri Kishan Reddy, as Minister. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Abdul Wahab, not present. Shri K.G. Kenye.

SHRI K.G. KENYE (Nagaland): Sir, at the outset, I place it on record our heartfelt gratitude to the hon. Chairman of this august House for personally undertaking a tour to eight North-Eastern States, lately. Coming from a man of his stature, a leader of this country, it speaks volumes of his concern and affection for the region. On behalf of the people of this region, I place it on record our deepest gratitude.

I cannot help it; but, reflect on the principal Act of the North-Eastern Council enacted by the Parliament. It was made in the year 1971 and the NEC became functional the next year in 1972. The original intent and objective of having this Council has to be reviewed and revisited again. It is exactly half-a-century that the NEC came into being and the Act had undergone some changes after about two-and-a-half decades.

While recollecting the visionary objectives of the leaders of successive Governments, successive Prime Ministers, and the tall leaders of this country and the reason behind creating this Council, we may take into account and acknowledge the original factors that had motivated them. One factor we can attribute to is that most of the States, in this region, had joined the nation only in the Third and the Fourth Five Year Plans. They had become full-fledged States during those years. So, we could not be given attention and attributions required for running States at par. Maybe, another is, for the first time, after all the hostilities and the ambivalent attitude of the Centre, the 1971 war with Pakistan, and the liberation of Bangladesh were about the integrity, commitment, and the contributions of the people of this region. It is a very strategic region, geopolitically. It is surrounded by five countries. So, the vulnerability and the sensitive issues are connected to the people of this region. Now, why the NEC has been constituted and why it has, as Members in the Council, all the Governors, and all the Chief Ministers of the eight States? Rotationally, the eight Governors will take turns to be the Chairman of this Council. So, all the needs, all the requirements of the indigenous people in that region were brought to this Council in a deliberated and considered manner. The schemes and the projects in the various States of this region were taken up on priority. This is because they are there in the region. They understand the sentiments and the emotions of the people of this region. They also understand the basic requirements of the people of this region. So, they were the best representatives to represent their States and act as Members in this Regional Planning Council. That was the reason the North-Eastern Council came into being.

After about two-and-a-half decades, an amendment took place, whereby they brought out the Department of Development of the North-Eastern Region, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. And, this became the administrative unit, monitoring the affairs of the NEC. Soon, due to the shortfall of resources, the magnanimity of our Prime Ministers and the leaders of this country mooted an idea to pool in 10 per cent of the 49 Ministries of the Centre, which would be fed into the NLCPR, as we call it, non-lapsable resources. Now, this was at the disposal of the North-Eastern Council for many years.

4.00 P.M.

But in 2004, again, this Department was converted into a full-fledged Ministry and, thus, the Ministry of DoNER came into being. Underlying the working system of these two components, the North-Eastern Council and the Ministry of DoNER, there are too many areas where they have overlapping in the administrative as well as financial powers. Sir, I request you to give me a little more time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI K.G. KENYE: Today is my last day in Parliament. I will be very brief.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just for information, there are seven more speakers and only 27 minutes are left now. Your time is already over but you can take a few more minutes.

SHRI K.G. KENYE: Thank you, Sir. This is my last day in Parliament. My term is over today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI K.G. KENYE: So, they have areas where they are overlapping financially as well as administratively. What I would like to say today is, I would not like to charge or accuse the Government, whether it be the Government of the day or the previous Governments, I would not like to. We are here as ambassadors of our people and I wish to place this before the Central Government that they must review the working system to make it more effective so that the benefits are accrued and targeted to the people for whom it is meant. I think there has to be a serious streamlining in the working system. The NEC should not be sidelined. It is a very important regional

planning body, being represented by the most honourable people in the region. So, due acknowledgement should be given to them and they have to be infused with the funds and resources that have been pooled from this Ministry. If the planning, the execution and the selection of the schemes and the projects are taken up and decided by this regional planning council, I tell you, it will cover 99 per cent of the loopholes that these funds are facing today. It should not go waste. We do not have big industries or small functioning viable industries or so. Our economy is rural in nature. Our requirements are also minimal. It is very, very less. Now, I want to bring to the notice of the Chair that the guidelines and the working system of the DoNER is faulty. It is faulty. Please don't misconstrue me as criticising or trying to find faults in the Government, in the Ministry. But I am saying this because I have the welfare of the people at heart, just like how 10 times more religious who have conceived this idea must have had. If you see through this, Sir, they have already..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kenye, please conclude now. You have taken twice the time what was allocated to you.

SHRI K.G. KENYE: Sir, this is my last point. ...*(Interruptions)*..

श्री उपसभापति : आपकी पार्टी ने जो समय लिखकर दिया, वह हमने ऑलरेडी दिया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI K.G. KENYE: Sir, I will take two minutes more. They have constituted NLCPR Committee in the Ministry of DoNER, pulling in various bureaucrats and officers from the Finance and from other related Ministries. This Committee selects the projects. This Committee chooses and decides how much to give, not to give or to reject it. This is the Committee which, again, advises and briefs the Minister of DoNER as to how he should act or respond to the demands of the States. Now, how in the world will this Committee understand the sentiments, the needs of the people back there in the North Eastern Region. It is highly inappropriate and it is unacceptable that a committee constituted by the Centre, functioning here in Delhi, would decide the fate of the people of the region. It is not acceptable, really not acceptable. So, I am giving this paper, Sir, to your good office so that you will read, and you will have to advise the Ministry to review its system of functioning. Thank you.

श्री संजय राउत (महाराष्ट्र): डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, यह खुशी की बात है कि आज नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के विकास के बारे में, उनकी समस्याओं के बारे में इस सदन में चर्चा हो रही है। मेरे से पहले बोलने

वाले स्पीकर ने ठीक ही कहा है कि DoNER मंत्रालय की, इस विशेष मंत्रालय की स्थापना माननीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने की थी, क्योंकि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के राज्यों के बारे में उनका एक सपना था, एक ड्रीम था। इस काम को डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी आगे लेकर गए और अभी के प्रधान मंत्री जी से हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि वे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के विकास को राजनीति से दूर रखेंगे। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में कोई भी राजनीतिक अड़चन पैदा नहीं होनी चाहिए। इनके विकास को आगे ले जाने की जरूरत है। इस देश में कुछ ऐसे राज्य हैं, कुछ ऐसे प्रदेश हैं, जिनके बारे में हमें राजनीति से ऊपर जाकर देखने की जरूरत है, जिसमें नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के राज्य हैं। हम कश्मीर की चर्चा करते हैं, तो पूरा सदन उस चर्चा में सहभागी होता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के कई प्रदेश देश के बॉर्डर पर स्थित हैं। इसमें असम, नागालैंड, मणिपुर, मेघालय, मिज़ोरम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, सिक्किम और त्रिपुरा राज्य हैं। विकास के साथ-साथ अपनी आंतरिक सुरक्षा, इंटरनल सिक्योरिटी का भी मामला नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। इसलिए मुझे सदन को यह बताना है कि ये सभी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के प्रदेश देश की सुरक्षा में बड़ा योगदान देते हैं। जो बॉर्डर के प्रदेश हैं, उनमें रहने वाले जो लोग हैं, जब इस देश पर कोई संकट आता है, तो पहला घाव उनके शरीर पर आता है, उनके मन पर आता है। यहां रहने वाले सभी लोग देश की रक्षा में बड़ा योगदान देते हैं। अगर कश्मीर के ऊपर पाकिस्तान की बुरी नज़र है, तो अरुणाचल प्रदेश पर चीन की बुरी नज़र है। इसके बारे में हम सभी को सोचना चाहिए। चीन हमारे अरुणाचल प्रदेश को दक्षिणी तिब्बत मानता है। अभी-अभी हमने देखा है कि चीन ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश के 15 जिलों का नाम ही बदल डाला है। China has constructed a second cluster of, at least, 60 buildings in Arunachal Pradesh. इन सब बातों की भी चर्चा हमारे DoNER मंत्रालय की चर्चा में होनी चाहिए। यहां के जो लोग हैं, वे अपने आपको उपेक्षित मानते हैं, जैसे हमने सुष्मिता जी की बात सुनी, रिपुन बोरा जी की बात सुनी - उपेक्षा की छाया में, भ्रम की छाया में वे जीते हैं, इसलिए हमें उनकी तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए। वहां पर इन्सरजेंसी है, जैसे कश्मीर में है और प्रदेशों में है, उसी प्रकार से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के नागालैंड में है, मेघालय में है, लेकिन जब कश्मीर में घुसपैठ की बात आती है, तब हम ज्यादा अलर्ट हो जाते हैं, क्योंकि उधर पाकिस्तान है। हिन्दुस्तान-पाकिस्तान की राजनीति की जाती है, लेकिन जब तवांग में चीन घुसता है, मेघालय में और कोई घुसता है, असम में और कोई घुसता है, तो हम उतनी चिंता नहीं करते हैं, जितनी कि हम कश्मीर की चिंता करते हैं। हम कश्मीर की बेरोजगारी की बात करते हैं, कश्मीर के युवा आतंकवादी क्यों बनते हैं, क्योंकि वहां पर बेरोजगारी है। उनके हाथों में काम नहीं है, लेकिन यह बेरोजगारी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बहुत से प्रदेशों में है। आप जाकर देखिए, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के हजारों लोग, पढ़े-लिखे युवक देश के हर शहर में, हर कोने में काम करते हैं। वे इतने प्यारे बच्चे हैं, वे इतने खूबसूरत बच्चे हैं, इतने होनहार बच्चे हैं, इतने प्रामाणिक बच्चे हैं कि प्रशंसा के योग्य हैं। हम उन्हें मुंबई में देखते हैं, महाराष्ट्र में देखते हैं, बड़े-बड़े फाइव स्टार होटल्स में, एयरलाइन्स में काम करते देखते हैं। वे बहुत प्यारे लोग हैं। मैं पूरे देश की बात कर रहा हूं। वे लोग पूरे देश में जाते हैं, वे बच्चे पूरे देश में काम करते हैं, लेकिन हम जो उनकी उपेक्षा करते हैं, उससे उनके मन में एक भावना है कि यह देश हमसे थोड़ा टूटा हुआ है। आप अरुणाचल प्रदेश में जाइए। मैं पूरे देश में इतनी सुंदर हिंदी कहीं नहीं सुनता हूं, जो वहाँ जाकर सुनता हूं, जब अरुणाचल प्रदेश के लोगों से बात करता हूं। आप वहाँ जाइए, वे लोग हमसे हिंदी में बात करते हैं। यह इसलिए है, क्योंकि वे हमारे देश से जुड़े हुए लोग हैं। अगर चीन से अरुणाचल प्रदेश की रक्षा किसी ने की है, तो वहाँ के

लोगों ने की है। वहाँ फौज है, हर बॉर्डर पर फौज है, लेकिन वहाँ के लोगों के मन में राष्ट्रभक्ति का जो जज़्बा है, उसकी वजह से ये सभी सातों, आठों प्रदेश हमारे देश के बॉर्डर पर डटकर खड़े हैं। सर, मुझे लगता है कि हमें इस प्रदेश के बारे में ज्यादा ध्यान देने की जरूरत है, इसका बजट बढ़ाने की जरूरत है, जो प्रोजेक्ट्स रुके हुए हैं - मैंने अभी सुष्मिता जी के भाषण में बहुत से प्रोजेक्ट्स के नाम सुने हैं, उन प्रोजेक्ट्स को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए।

उपसभापति जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि टूरिज्म पर भी खास कर ध्यान देना चाहिए। यह एक ऐसा सुंदर प्रदेश है, जो लुभाता है। हमारे लोग गोवा जाएंगे, शिमला जाएंगे, दार्जिलिंग जाएंगे - वह ठीक है, लेकिन सरकार की तरफ से इस ओर भी लोगों को आकर्षित करने के लिए कुछ योजना बनानी चाहिए - जैसे यूपीए सरकार में 'लुक ईस्ट' योजना लेकर आए थे। पूरे देश में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में ध्यान देने की जरूरत इसलिए है, क्योंकि लोग यह देखें कि हमारा देश क्या है, हमारे देश के लोग कैसे हैं, यह कितना सुंदर प्रदेश है। आप कोहिमा जाइए, कोहिमा इतना सुंदर प्रदेश है कि वह अतुलनीय है, आप तवांग जाइए, वह भी बहुत सुंदर है, लेकिन पूरे देश में इस प्रदेश के बारे में एक अज्ञान है कि हम वहाँ कैसे पहुंचेंगे, हम कहाँ जाएंगे, हम कैसे जाएंगे, वहाँ क्या है, वहाँ के लोग कैसे हैं, हम वहाँ क्या खाएंगे आदि-आदि। यदि आप इस बारे में जागृति कराएंगे, तो इस प्रदेश में टूरिज्म बढ़ेगा। यदि इस प्रदेश में टूरिज्म बढ़ेगा, तो इकोनॉमी बढ़ेगी, इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर बढ़ेगा। रास्ते बन रहे हैं, bridges बन रहे हैं, इंडस्ट्री बढ़नी चाहिए - ये सभी बातें ठीक हैं, लेकिन टूरिज्म भी एक ऐसी इंडस्ट्री है, जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में बढ़ सकती है। मैं डोनर मंत्रालय के लिए सरकार से यह कहूंगा कि आप नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को एक ऐसा प्रदेश बनाइए, एक ऐसा सुंदर प्रदेश बनाइए, जहाँ सब जाना चाहें। आप इसको अपने लिए सिर्फ एक पोलिटिकल रास्ता मत बनाइए कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट भी हमारे साथ है, हमने मणिपुर भी जीत लिया, हमने मेघालय में भी सरकार बना ली, हम असम भी जीत गए आदि-आदि। यह नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की कोई राजनीतिक लड़ाई नहीं है, यह देश की लड़ाई है। आप उनकी वेदना को समझ लीजिए। मणिपुर में एक साल पहले कर्नल विप्लव त्रिपाठी..(समय की घंटी)..उसका बच्चा, उसकी वाइफ को आतंकवादियों ने मार डाला। मणिपुर में इस प्रकार के हादसे हमेशा होते हैं, लेकिन हम उन पर चर्चा नहीं करते। इन पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए, तभी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का विकास भी होगा और वह देश से जुड़ा रहेगा। मुझे विश्वास है कि सरकार इस बारे में सोचेगी।

श्री उपसभापति : धन्यवाद संजय राउत जी। माननीय श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा (असम) : उपसभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे डोनर मिनिस्ट्री पर बोलने के लिए परमिशन दी है। मैं इसके साथ ही अपनी पार्टी को भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने के लिए कहा गया।

उपसभापति महोदय, पूरे देश की पोलिटिकल पार्टी के बड़े-बड़े लीडर्स यहाँ डोनर मिनिस्ट्री पर बोल चुके हैं। डोनर मिनिस्ट्री एक फुल फ्लेज्ड मिनिस्ट्री 2004 में बनी, लेकिन यह जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का कम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम है, कम्युनिकेटिव पोलिटिक्स है, उसमें इसका महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रहा। कम्युनिकेटिव पोलिटिक्स का मतलब... इस मिनिस्ट्री को ऑनरेबल वाजपेयी जी ने उस समय में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को देश के साथ जोड़ने के लिए बनाया था। उन्होंने देश को नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के

साथ जोड़ा। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का डेवलपमेंट ठीक हो और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के आदमी को, जैसे लोग सोचते थे कि cut off land का एक आदमी है, एक स्टेट है, उन्हें थोड़ा महसूस न हो, इसके लिए डोनर को बनाया था। इससे पहले 1971 में जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल बनी, उसे आप सभी लोग जानते हैं। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट काउंसिल well-equipped नहीं थी, इसलिए डोनर को बनाया गया था। कांग्रेस के जो बड़े सदस्य हैं, वे बोल रहे थे तो उनके बोलने पर मेरे मित्र ने बोला कि आप ज्यादा yield मत कीजिए। लेकिन यह क्यों हुआ, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में इस तरह से सोचने का मौका सब लोगों को क्यों मिला, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट बोलने के लिए मन में क्यों आया? इससे फिर आप कांग्रेस वाले लोग झगड़ा करेंगे, करेंगे या नहीं, पता नहीं।

1962 में जब चाइना वार हुआ, जब चाइना बॉमडिला तक पहुंच गया, तब जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी ने बोला, "My heart goes out to the people of Assam." यह बात अभी तक वहां गूंज रही है। तब ऐसा बोला कि असम को इंडिया ने चाइना के हाथ में छोड़ दिया था, ऐसी बात महसूस हुई थी और वह पूरा प्रचारित हुआ था, इसीलिए आज तक हम लोगों के मन में यह बात है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में ऐसा क्यों हुआ? जब कांग्रेस के शासन में बंगलादेशी लोग, illegal migrants पूरे असम में घुसे, पूरे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में घुसे, तब असम में 1979 में एक एजिटेशन हुआ, असम के लोगों ने AASU को लेकर, ए.जी.पी. को लेकर इसकी शुरुआत की। बाद में उन लोगों ने 800 लोगों को मार दिया, उसके लिए आज तक भी कांग्रेस ने स्टेट से कभी क्षमा नहीं मांगी। पूरे असम के लोग शहीद हुए, बेशक यह असम एजिटेशन था। अगर एक स्टेट के डेवलपमेंट के लिए एजिटेशन करनी पड़े, एक जगह के डेवलपमेंट के लिए extremists होना पड़े तो ऐसा कैसा देश है जो देश आपने बनाया था!

अभी केन्ये जी बोल रहे थे, उनका लास्ट भाषण है, He is a very learned man. उनकी स्टेट के लोगों ने कभी भी कांग्रेस को वहां पर नहीं रखा, वे हमेशा कोई न कोई दूसरी पार्टी रखते थे। वहां पर ऐसा क्यों हुआ, क्यों वहां के लोग इतने दुखी हैं? अभी माननीय सदस्य बोल रहे थे, मैं डोनर की मीटिंग की बात सुन रहा था, इसमें inter-State problem क्यों है, इंटर-स्टेट में असम के साथ मेघालय का झगड़ा, मेघालय के साथ असम का, असम के साथ अरुणाचल प्रदेश का झगड़ा, असम के साथ इनका झगड़ा क्यों हुआ? क्यों यह समाप्त नहीं हुआ था? ये अगर नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को नॉर्थ-ईस्ट मानते हैं, दिल्ली से वहां देखते हैं तो दिल्ली के आदमी ने दिल्ली में बैठकर यह क्यों नहीं सोचा? यह किसने सोचा, यह नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की गवर्नमेंट ने सोचा और माननीय अमित शाह जी ने सोचा। हमें नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के लिए यह बात बोलनी पड़ेगी, हम लोग बार-बार बोलते रहेंगे, गुजरात से आकर दिल्ली में एक प्राइम मिनिस्टर बना, जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में 50 बार गया। बाकी लोगों ने यह बात क्यों नहीं सोची? प्रधान मंत्री जी वहां गमछा लेकर घूमते हैं। यह क्यों हुआ? असम और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में ज्यादा से ज्यादा पांच करोड़ लोग होंगे, लेकिन इन्होंने उसे देश की इज्जत बनाकर वहां रखा। आज सब लोग वहां जाते हैं, मां कामाख्या जी के वहां से दर्शन करके आते हैं। आप लोग जानते हैं कि वह कितना महत्वपूर्ण है।

ऐसा हम लोगों को क्यों महसूस हो रहा है, हम लोग न हिन्दी अच्छी बोल पाते हैं, न इंग्लिश ज्यादा बोल पाते हैं, हम लोग असमीज़ हिन्दी में मिक्स होकर बोलते हैं तो वह उल्टी लैंग्वेज बन जाती है, यह क्यों होता है? पता है, यह क्यों हो रहा है, क्योंकि यह एरिया मेन लैंड से कटा हुआ था। पोलिटिकली हम लोग पहले बोलते थे, एक बहुत बड़ी कहावत है कि कांग्रेस के

टाइम में मुंह नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में था और दूध देने वाली साइड दिल्ली में थी, वहां हम लोग खिलाते थे और दिल्ली में दूध लेते थे, ऐसा था। अभी हम लोगों ने इसे बदल दिया है, हम लोगों ने दूध देने वाला हिस्सा उधर कर दिया और मुख इधर कर दिया है। अब ऐसा हो रहा है। अब डेवलपमेंट उल्टा बन गया।

पहले इंटर स्टेट प्रॉब्लम क्यों थी, अभी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का जो 69th Plenary Session था, वहां पर ऑनरेबल अमित शाह जी ने बैठक ली और सारी स्टेट्स के चीफ मिनिस्टर्स को बोला कि इंटर-स्टेट प्रॉब्लम्स को सॉल्व करिए। हमारे असम के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने इनीशिएटिव लिया और इनीशिएटिव लेकर जो इंटर-स्टेट प्रॉब्लम है, उसे वे सॉल्व कर रहे हैं। अभी इसके लिए नागालैंड के साथ चीफ मिनिस्टर बैठे, अरुणाचल प्रदेश के साथ बैठे, मिज़ोरम के साथ बैठे। आप लोग क्या चाहते हैं, क्या मिज़ोरम की पुलिस को असम पुलिस गोली मार दे? ऐसा हो सकता है क्या? उस समय में कोई इंसिडेंट हो गया, कोई मिसअंडरस्टैंडिंग का इंसिडेंट हो गया, इसे आप इश्यू बनाना चाहते थे, लेकिन वह इश्यू नहीं बना, क्योंकि हम लोगों का चीफ मिनिस्टर समझदार है, दोनों चीफ मिनिस्टर्स ने समझदारी से उसे संभाला।

डोनर जैसी मिनिस्ट्री की जरूरत उस समय में पड़ी थी, जब Assam agitation हुआ था, वाजपेयी जी ने वहां पूरा नॉर्थ-ईस्ट घूमा, एक ही नेशनल लीडर वाजपेयी जी थे, जिन्हें पूरे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को घूम कर यह बात महसूस हुई कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में कुछ बनना चाहिए, इसलिए उन्होंने डोनर मिनिस्ट्री बनाई। आप लोगों ने प्राइम मिनिस्टर तो बना दिया, लेकिन आप उनको भेजते ही नहीं थे, तो उसमें हम लोगों का क्या दोष है, उसमें हम लोगों को क्या बोलना है! कांग्रेस ने प्राइम मिनिस्टर तो वहाँ से बनाया, लेकिन वह उनको वहाँ भेजती नहीं थी। अभी मोदी जी वहाँ जा रहे हैं, हर दिन कोई न कोई सेंट्रल मिनिस्टर वहाँ जा रहे हैं। यहाँ पर जितने सेंट्रल मिनिस्टर्स बैठे हुए हैं, हरदीप सिंह पुरी जी से लेकर हम लोगों के जितने मंत्री हैं, राणे जी हैं, जितने लोग यहाँ पर बैठे हुए हैं, DoNER Minister तो हैं ही, हर दिन कोई न कोई मंत्री नॉर्थ-ईस्ट जाते हैं। यह क्यों हुआ? ऑनरेबल भूतपूर्व प्राइम मिनिस्टर, देवेगौड़ा जी यहाँ बैठे हुए हैं। उन्होंने बोगीबील ब्रिज की शुरुआत की, लेकिन इसको कांग्रेस ने समाप्त नहीं किया, बल्कि यह हम लोगों की गवर्नमेंट के समय में समाप्त हुआ। यह जो ढोला-सदिया ब्रिज था, जो अरुणाचल प्रदेश और असम को link करता था, उसको पूरा करने में कितने दिन लग गए! इसके लिए हम लोगों के ऑनरेबल प्राइम मिनिस्टर, मोदी जी को initiative लेना पड़ा।

आप extremist problem के बारे में बोल रहे हैं, अभी संजय राउत जी बोल रहे थे। जीतने के लिए, politics करने के लिए हम लोगों की BJP को power नहीं चाहिए, बल्कि काम करने के लिए power चाहिए। यह एक उदाहरण है कि मणिपुर में जो election हुआ, वह शांतिपूर्ण election हुआ। आपको इसको देखना चाहिए। आप हँसिए मत। आप मणिपुर में गए, लेकिन क्या आपने कभी सोचा है कि मणिपुर में कितने extremists थे! अभी कुछ दिन पहले वहाँ election समाप्त हुआ, लेकिन एक-दो छोटी-मोटी घटनाओं को छोड़ कर वह कितना शांतिपूर्ण रहा। यह जो पहले एक extremist State था, यह असम से ज्यादा लगा हुआ है, वहाँ जाने में डर लगता था, क्योंकि वहाँ इतने extremists थे। आज वहाँ शांतिपूर्ण व्यवस्था क्यों है? ऐसा इसलिए है, क्योंकि DoNER Ministry से जो feedback मिला, वह feedback लेकर वहाँ पर पूरी मिनिस्ट्री काम कर रही है। DoNER Ministry ने fund कितना दिया, यह मेरे लिए इतना बड़ा issue नहीं है, क्योंकि

Ministry वहाँ पर independently काम कर रही है। मुझे पता है कि यह Ministry वहाँ पर independently काम कर रही है।

अभी National Dairy Development Board ने असम में 10 लाख लीटर दूध का उत्पादन करने के लिए शुरुआत की है। अभी रुपाला जी तो यहाँ पर नहीं हैं, रुपाला जी ने वहाँ जाकर असम के Chief Minister के साथ MoU किया। अभी सर्वानंद जी का जो डिपार्टमेंट है, उसके तहत पटना से पहली बार बहुत सालों के बाद एक जहाज ब्रह्मपुत्र पहुँचा, जो वहाँ पर food grains लेकर गया था। यह development की बात तो है ही, क्योंकि हम बंगलादेश में घुस नहीं सकते। आप लोगों ने बंगलादेश से बंगलादेशी लोगों को असम में लाकर vote bank बनाया, लेकिन हम लोगों की गवर्नमेंट उस route का इस्तेमाल करके economic development करने की बात सोच रही है। यह जो प्राइम मिनिस्टर की सोच है, यह जो उन्होंने विश्व गुरु की बात सोची है, यह वही बात है, क्योंकि बंगलादेश के साथ हम लोगों का झगड़ा बहुत दिनों तक रहा है। अभी तो जो border area है, वहाँ border seal हो गया और बंगलादेशी यहाँ नहीं आ सकते। हम लोगों ने illegal migrants को काफी हद तक control किया। उसके बाद हम लोगों ने economic system को ठीक करने के लिए बंगलादेश का जो route है, Ganga - National Waterways-1 और National Waterways-2, उसको हम लोग जोड़ रहे हैं। इससे अच्छी बात क्या हो सकती है! इसलिए मैं नहीं चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर कांग्रेस कभी power में आए, कांग्रेस को छोड़ कर कोई भी पार्टी आ जाए, नहीं तो फिर वहाँ पर वापस झगड़ा शुरू हो जाएगा। हम लोगों ने बहुत समझदारी से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की जो problem है, चाहे वह inter-State problem हो, चाहे extremist problem हो, इसको सँभाला है, क्योंकि अगर वहाँ पर कुछ होता है, तो दिल्ली में BJP के लोगों को दर्द होता है। मुझे दूसरों का पता नहीं है कि क्या होता है, लेकिन मैंने यह देखा है। देखिए, वहाँ पर ULFA की जो problem है, वह international level तक पहुँच गई, वह कभी-कभी UN तक पहुँची है। हमने उसको कितने परिश्रम से सँभाला है। ठीक बात है, वह एक law and order problem नहीं थी, वह law and order problem कभी भी नहीं थी। वह एक law and order problem बनी थी, जब extremist terrorist बनता है, तो law and order problem होगी ही, लेकिन इसको ठीक करने के लिए जो दिमाग लगाना था, वह दिमाग हम लोगों के प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने लगाया, होम मिनिस्टर ने लगाया, पूरी पार्टी ने लगाया। मुझे इस पवित्र सदन में यह कहने में खुशी है कि अभी जो 26 जनवरी गुजरी, उस दौरान वहाँ first time ULFA का कोई बंद नहीं था। अभी वहाँ शांतिपूर्ण व्यवस्था है।

अभी National Oil Mission की जो बात आई, उसमें Central Government ने थोड़ा intervention किया, इसलिए अच्छा है। इसको positively देखना चाहिए। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में कितने आदमी हैं? वे हैं तो 5 करोड़ आदमी, लेकिन वे इतने sentimental हैं, इतने दुखी हैं कि वे जो main land से कटे हुए हैं, उनको जोड़ने के लिए प्रयास की जरूरत है। Economic system में पैसा कितना दिया, budgetary provision कितना है, वह बात छोड़िए, लेकिन वे जो दिल्ली से जुड़ गए, यही हम लोगों की गवर्नमेंट का, मोदी जी का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण काम है। आप इसके बारे में ही सोचिए। आप इसका criticism करते रहिए, वह बात अलग है, लेकिन आप एक बात तो सोचिए कि कुछ हो रहा है। PM-DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East), इसमें कितना पैसा मिला, आप छोड़िए, लेकिन एक programme तो आया, जो

नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए यहाँ पर programme लिखा गया है। आप इसको थोड़ा देखिए। Bodoland Territorial Council, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, ये छोटे-छोटे district में हैं, लेकिन ये बहुत trouble देते थे, ये बहुत disturbed थे। ये disturbed इसलिए थे कि उस समय की Central Government इनको लूट रही थी, Central Government development के लिए काम नहीं कर रही थी। अभी वहाँ पर ऐसा है, हम लोगों के मंत्री यहां बैठे हुए हैं, पीछे नागालैंड के एमपी भी बैठे हुए हैं। अभी नागालैंड में आप ऑयल नहीं निकाल सकते, क्योंकि जिस आदमी के मन में आया, वह दिल्ली लेकर चला गया, फिर मुड़ कर देखा ही नहीं।

डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मैं Standing Committee on Petroleum and National Gas का मेम्बर था, तब National Gas Grid असम से या नॉर्थ-ईस्ट से जोड़ा नहीं गया था। असम में एक ही पाइपलाइन है - Duliajan-Numaligarh Pipeline. आज हम लोग हंसते हैं, लेकिन असम में एक ही गैस पाइपलाइन है, वही एक पाइपलाइन इधर से उधर जाती है। अभी बरौनी से जो पाइपलाइन आती है, उसी पाइपलाइन को जोड़ कर हल्दिया से एक पूरी बड़ी गैस पाइपलाइन को वहाँ से जोड़ रहे हैं। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने इसको जुड़वाया है। जब वह गैस पाइपलाइन available होगी, तो हम लोगों के यहां हर घर में पाइपलाइन से गैस available होगी। नागालैंड के बारे में आप जानते ही हैं, वह कितनी ऊँचाई पर है और कितना चौड़ा एरिया है, लेकिन वहाँ पर अभी कितनी ही रोड़ज़ बन रही हैं। आप Jorhat से Jonai जाना चाहो, आप जा नहीं सकते हैं, Jorhat to Changki जा नहीं सकते हैं, हालांकि इनके बीच डिस्टेंस ज्यादा नहीं है। पहले यहां जाने में सात घंटे लग जाते थे, अब कम से कम रोड़ज़ ठीक हो रही हैं, इसलिए अब रोड़ज़ से इन सिटीज़ में जा सकते हैं। आप Tawang की बात बोल रहे थे, लेकिन आप Tawang जाइए और देखिए, वहाँ पर बहुत अच्छी रोड़ज़ बन रही हैं। वहाँ पर रेलवे लाइन को भी जोड़ रहे हैं। इससे क्या होगा, रेलवे से जुड़ने के बाद पूरे इंडिया से जुड़ गए, ऐसा लगता है। अभी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में बहुत डेवलपमेंट का काम हो रहा है। पहले आप गुवाहाटी जाते थे, उस टाइम लोगों को महसूस होता था कि कब, कहां पर बम फट जाएगा। मुझे एक आदमी आकर बोला कि गुवाहाटी जाने में ऐसा लगता है कि कब सब कुछ बंद हो जाएगा, लेकिन अब कम से कम हमें यह महसूस होता है कि गुवाहाटी जा कर हम आराम से वापस आ सकते हैं। आज ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर ने बताया कि वहाँ के लिए air connectivity भी बढ़ी है। सर, ये जो प्रॉब्लम्स हैं, इनको Ministry of DoNER के द्वारा देखना चाहिए कि कैसे पूरे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को planned way में ठीक कर सकते हैं। North East consists of separate States, लेकिन उसको हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट बोल कर एक-साथ क्लब कर देते हैं। जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के Chief Ministers हैं, they all are equipped. सारे चीफ मिनिस्टर्स त्रिपुरा आए थे। अभी Communist Party से ऑनरेबल मैडम बोल रही थीं, आप बताइए, आपके समय में क्या किया गया था? पूरे त्रिपुरा को बरबाद करके रख दिया गया था, उसको class-less करके खत्म कर दिया गया था, उसको status-less कर दिया गया था। अब हम लोगों की पार्टी के समय में वहाँ पर कुछ काम तो हो रहा है। कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी वाले सुन लीजिए, आपके समय में आप लोग तो खाते रहे, लेकिन वहाँ के आदमी भूखे रहते थे, अब कम से कम वहाँ पर सब लोग खा रहे हैं। कम से कम आज त्रिपुरा में डेवलपमेंट तो हो रहा है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य : हम लोगों ने वहां काम किया था।

श्री उपसभापति : झरना जी, प्लीज़...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा : ठीक है, आप लोगों ने काम किया, लेकिन आप लोगों के टाइम में तो वहां के लोग भूखे रहे।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप लोग आपस में बात न करें।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा : मैं budgetary provision की बात नहीं बोल रहा हूं, लेकिन मैडम, उस समय वहां के आदमी दुखी थे, आप मानें या न मानें। आप लोगों के चीफ मिनिस्टर रिक्षा में जाते थे, कहां जाते थे, वह बात अलग है, लेकिन अभी आप देखिए कि त्रिपुरा के आदमी गाड़ी में चल रहे हैं। त्रिपुरा की स्थिति इतनी खराब थी। मिज़ोरम में आप लोग चाहते थे कि असम पुलिस वहां जाकर गोली मार दे। हम लोगों के चीफ मिनिस्टर और होम मिनिस्टर बहुत अच्छे हैं, इसलिए वहां अब गोली नहीं चल रही है, डिस्कशन चल रहा है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य : *

श्री उपसभापति : आप इस तरह आपस में बात न करें, झरना जी की बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाएगी।

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा : मैं यह बात ऐसे ही नहीं बोल रहा हूं। Assam agitation के लिए जिम्मेवार जो extremist organizations हैं, जब वहां की सिचुएशन नॉर्मल होगी, तभी तो वहां डेवलपमेंट होगा। अभी जनरल साहब बैठे हुए हैं, लेकिन पहले हम लोगों को आर्मी के लोगों को अपने साथ लेकर जाना पड़ता था। Indian Army को मारने के लिए India Army का इस्तेमाल क्यों करना चाहते थे? कोई तो आपको उकसा रहा था। अभी कम से कम वहां वह सब बंद हो गया है, अब हम लोगों के यहां एक भी एक्स्ट्रीमिस्ट गोली से नहीं मरा है। वहां अब अगर कोई ऐक्शन हो रहा है, तो ड्रग्स के अगेंस्ट हो रहा है। मैं मंत्री जी से रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि जो inter-State border है, वहां ड्रग्स को रोकने का कुछ प्रबंध किया जाए, ताकि हमारी स्टेट में ड्रग्स नहीं आए। वहां का जो regional system है, कभी आप वहां आइए और देखिए। आप त्रिपुरा से डायरेक्ट उड़ कर यहां आ जाएंगी, तो ऐसे पता नहीं चलता है। कम से कम आप गाड़ी से आइए, तब आपको पता चलेगा। आप गाड़ी से आइए और देखिए कि अब दूर जाने में कितनी दिक्कत होती है, अरुणाचल जाने में कितनी दिक्कत होती है।

यहां पर श्री नबाम रेबिआ जी बैठे हैं, वे अभी कुछ लिख रहे हैं, शायद कुछ बोलेंगे। रेबिआ जी के वहां जाने के लिए पहले कितनी प्रॉब्लम होती थी। एक ब्रिज बनने में पहले कितना ज्यादा टाइम लग जाता था। वहां पर इतनी ज्यादा पोलिटिकल प्रॉब्लम थी कि वाजपेयी जी ने जिस काम

को शुरू करवाया, उसके लिए इन्होंने यह बोल दिया कि इस ब्रिज को बनने में तीस साल लगते हैं। क्या ऐसा कभी हो सकता है? ऐसा discrimination वहां पर क्यों था? ऐसा इसलिए था, क्योंकि आप लोगों का मन बहुत खराब था। आप चाहते थे कि वहां का काम disturbed रहे, यहां से पैसा जाए और बीच में कोई खा जाए, वहां ऐसा चल रहा था। North East में Ministry of DoNER के मिनिस्टर बैठे हुए हैं, यह अच्छी बात है। एक planned, developed, North-Eastern State बनाने के लिए वे सोच रहे हैं, लेकिन यह जो gap funding का डिपार्टमेंट है, यह ऐसी मिनिस्ट्री नहीं है कि इनका खुद का पैसा है और ये ही डेवलपमेंट करेंगे। वहां पर जो चीफ मिनिस्टर वगैरह हैं, वे वहां से प्रपोजल भेजेंगे, तब ये काम करेंगे, लेकिन फिर भी gap funding के लिए DoNER काम कर रहा है। थोड़ा अच्छे से काम करने के लिए मैं उनसे रिक्वेस्ट करता हूं। **...(समय की घंटी)...** मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं, वहां पर जो Regional Rice Research Centre है, उस पर थोड़ा काम किया जाए, उसको upgrade किया जाए। यह सेंटर 1923 में जोरहाट में शुरू किया गया था। मैं एक North East Agriculture Policy बनाने के लिए भी रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहता हूं। वहां हमारा जो एग्री प्रोडक्ट है, उस एग्री प्रोडक्ट को यहां दिल्ली में लाकर उसे पॉपुलराइज़ किया जाए और अदर पाटर्स में जो ऑर्गेनिक हब है, उसके बारे में प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी बोला है, उसकी व्यवस्था करने के लिए डोनर मिनिस्ट्री को व्यवस्थित तरीके से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोगों के साथ बात करके एक पॉलिसी बनानी चाहिए - ऐसी मैं रिक्वेस्ट करता हूं। पैसा कितना है, वह छोड़िये, लेकिन बाकी मिनिस्ट्रीज़ से पैसा लेकर अभी नेशनल हाईवे, वाटरवेज़ कनेक्टिविटी के साथ आयुष मिनिस्ट्री ने बहुत काम किया है। इसलिए इसके व्यवस्थित रूप से डेवलपमेंट के लिए काम करेंगे, ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूं।

इसके अलावा डोनर मिनिस्ट्री का जो विषय है, वह बहुत अच्छा लगा है, क्योंकि डोनर मिनिस्ट्री के बारे में बात करते हुए आप पूरे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में सोच रहे हैं, आप आगे भी इसी तरह से सोचें, यह कहते हुए मैं अपनी बात को विराम देता हूं, धन्यवाद।

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, * "मैं उत्तर-पूर्व के ऊपर अपना मंतव्य रखना चाहता हूं।" उच्चारण की गलती के लिए माफी मांगता हूं, यद्यपि मैंने कोशिश की थी कि उच्चारण सही होना चाहिए।

महोदय, आज जब मैं इस पूरी परिचर्चा में, इस विवेचना में, इस विमर्श में शामिल था, तो मैंने भुबनेश्वर दा और रिपुन दा के बीच के वार्तालाप तथा तंजिया माहौल को भी देखा। रिपुन दा ने कहा - 'लुक ईस्ट', भुबनेश्वर दा ने कहा - 'एक्ट ईस्ट' दोनों एक-दूसरे को कह रहे थे। मैंने एक सामान्य ज्ञान की तरह सोचा, If we look east and do not act and if we act without looking at it तो एक्ट करे बिना तो अंधे कुएं में भी गिर सकते हैं, उसी तरह से यदि 'लुक ईस्ट' करते रहे और सिर्फ लुक ही लुक रहे, तो समस्या होगी, इसलिए दोनों में एक समन्वय होना चाहिए। उसी तरह से रिपुन दा और भुबनेश्वर दा के बीच भी समन्वय होना चाहिए।

सर, अपनी दूसरी चिंता व्यक्त करने से पहले मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जब इस पर चर्चा हो रही थी तो अकसर यह होता है कि जब चुनाव के नतीजे आते हैं, तो सदन थोड़ा बदल जाता है।

* Hindi translation of the original speech delivered in Assamese.

अचानक से सत्ता पक्ष को लगता है कि सलाह भी नहीं लेनी चाहिए, जबकि सलाह को आलोचना के दृष्टिकोण से नहीं देखना चाहिए। मेरी समझ में यह कभी नहीं आया कि राजभाषा विभाग को एमएचए में क्यों होना चाहिए और डोनर को एमएचए में क्यों होना चाहिए? एमएचए के बारे में लोगों की लॉ एंड ऑर्डर की धारणा है। अब हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए लॉ एंड ऑर्डर के मैकेनिज्म की क्या जरूरत है? मेरी यह चिंता आज से नहीं है, बल्कि मैं कई वर्षों से सोच रहा हूँ कि आखिर ऐसा क्यों होता है कि जो नई चीज़ें क्रिएट होती हैं, वे एमएचए में चली जाती हैं। Sir, I am reminded, as a student जब हम पढ़ते थे, नेहरू जी के टाइम में बहुत डिबेट चली थी, क्योंकि प्रिडॉमिनेंटली ट्राइबल पॉपुलेशन है, हम जिन राज्यों की बात कर रहे हैं, उनके लिए कहना चाहूंगा कि नेहरू जी ने tribal approach of Panchsheel कहा था। उसमें एक बहुत बड़ी चीज़ 'intrusion' और 'inclusion' का फर्क था। हम जिस नीति और नीयत के साथ चलते हैं, क्या वह intrusion में तब्दील हो रही है या inclusion के मुकाम को हासिल कर रही है? इस पर सिर्फ इसी सरकार को नहीं, बल्कि तमाम सरकारों को नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में सोचने से पहले विचार करना चाहिए। मेरा मानना है कि जो Peripheral States हैं, जो बॉर्डरिंग स्टेट्स हैं, चाहे कश्मीर हो या पूरा उत्तर-पूर्व का अंचल हो, इनको सिर्फ लॉ एंड ऑर्डर के नजरिये से नहीं देखना होगा। ये राज्य अद्भुत राज्य हैं। ये हिन्दुस्तान की बहुलता को प्रदर्शित करते हैं और उस बहुलता का एक आयाम पेश करते हैं। मैं अक्सर एक छोटा सा उदाहरण देता हूँ। मैं जब एम.ए. की क्लास लेता हूँ तो अक्सर स्टूडेंट्स से पूछा करता हूँ कि यूपी का सीएम कौन है? इसका तुरंत ही जवाब आ जाएगा। अगर मैं पूछता हूँ कि बिहार का सीएम कौन है, तो मेरे सवाल पूछने से पहले जवाब आ जाएगा। अगर मैं पूछूँ कि मणिपुर का सीएम कौन है, तो जुबान पर ताले लग जाते थे। नागालैंड का सीएम कौन है; तो कोई नहीं बता पाता था, क्योंकि वे हमारे Cow Belt के विमर्श का हिस्सा ही नहीं हैं। हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को एक दूरी से देखते हैं, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट दूर की एक entity है। इसी सदन में मैंने कहा था कि उत्तर-पूर्व हो या कश्मीर हो, जब तक हम इसे महज़ जमीन का टुकड़ा समझेंगे तो कभी भी हम Sense of alienation खत्म नहीं कर पायेंगे।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं सिर्फ एक-दो मिनट लूँगा। महोदय, sense of alienation है। यँ ही दो राज्यों की सरहद पर गोलियाँ नहीं चल जाया करती हैं। यँ ही Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act को लेकर इन तमाम राज्यों में चिन्ता नहीं है। मुझे नागालैंड से कल ही invitation आया है। वह चिन्ता, cow belt की चिन्ता नहीं है या यह मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार की चिन्ता नहीं है, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान तो हम चार राज्यों से ऊपर है, उससे बड़ा है, वृहत् है। यह सिर्फ विमर्श के दिन, जब DoNER पर बात हो रही है, तो हम कहेंगे कि यह उत्तर-पूर्व के बारे में है, यह हमारा दृष्टिकोण है।

उपसभापति महोदय, अभी माननीय उपराष्ट्रपति महोदय उत्तर-पूर्व की visit से लौट कर आये। उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों को और सरकार को उत्तर-पूर्व के प्रति नज़रिया बदलना होगा। मैं इतिहास रखता हूँ कि माननीय उपराष्ट्रपति महोदय ने जो सबसे संवेदनशील मुद्दा है, उसको पकड़ा है। सर, attitude क्या है? अभी भी मैं बता सकता हूँ कि जब इस पर चर्चा के लिए समय निर्धारित हुआ, तो कई लोग कह रहे थे कि इसमें इतना वक्त क्यों है, इसे 4 घंटे क्यों दिये गये? मैं सदस्य का नाम नहीं बताऊँगा, लेकिन इससे हमारी प्राथमिकताएँ जाहिर होती हैं। हम कहते हैं कि यह 'अनेकता में एकता' का देश है और हम गिना रहे हैं - अरुणाचल, मिज़ोरम, नागालैंड,

लेकिन हमारे अपने केन्द्रीय विमर्श में central rostrum में वे चिन्ताएँ absent हैं। सर, यह जो peripheral areas में political नजरिए से peripheral politics को देखने का नजरिया है और अक्सर हमारा जो intervention होता है, loaded with law and order, I think that should be jettisoned.

सर, एक और चीज़ कह कर मैं अपनी बात खत्म करूँगा। वह infrastructure projects के बारे में है, जो मैं गवर्नमेंट की अपनी ही रिपोर्ट से कह रहा हूँ। A large number of them are pending. आप 'Act East' करें या 'Look East' करें, अगर इतने सारे pending projects हैं और अगर मैं उसको proportion में देखूँ, तो cow belt में उतने proportion में pending projects नहीं हैं, जितने North-Eastern States में हैं। इससे उनको एक सौतेलेपन का एहसास होता है और वह बेमानी नहीं है।

सर, इन projects में एक और चिन्ता displacement की होती है। मैंने पहले कहा कि एक large chunk, proportion tribal population का है। चूँकि वह population है, तो उसको समझने की हमारी नीति अलग होनी चाहिए कि हम कैसे उनके साथ engage करते हैं। मैं वापस उधर ले जाऊँगा कि नेहरू की जो पंचशील की approach थी, vis-à-vis tribal development, उसको आप आज के संदर्भ में relocate कीजिए। नेहरू से आपका वैचारिक विरोध हो सकता है, लेकिन नेहरू के बहुत सारे ideas लिये जा सकते हैं। नेहरू सिर्फ कांग्रेस के तो थे नहीं, मैं तो नेहरू पर या गांधी पर या अम्बेडकर पर किसी का copyright ही नहीं मानता हूँ। वे देश के थे। चूँकि copyright कांग्रेस का नहीं है, तो आपको भी उनके इस तरह के ideas को लेने में बिल्कुल हिचक नहीं होनी चाहिए। जैसे नेहरू के बगैर आप parliamentary democracy की कल्पना नहीं कर सकते, उसी तरह tribal development को लेकर भी है। सर, बस एक मिनट।

सर, अगर मैं इसे देखूँ, जो सरकार की ही एक रिपोर्ट है, अगर मैं tribal population के उस region में rural health statistics report देखूँ, तो वह भी चिन्ता का विषय है। Access to doctors, medical facilities की बात है। उसमें मसला सिर्फ यह नहीं है कि वहाँ hilly terrain है। आप उसे उत्तराखंड से compare करके देख सकते हैं।

सर, आखिरी चीज़ यह है, जो कि मेरे लिए चिन्ता की बात हुई थी, हमारी जो कमेटी थी, उसने कहा कि Ministry failed to utilize even the reduced funds in the year 2020-2021. That brings me to the last point from this. As a Member of this House, on election results, I think there should be a connection between governance and our commitment in the House. अक्सर यह होता है कि जब मुद्दों को election में traction नहीं मिलता है, तो you take election outcome as a guarantee that आप कुछ नहीं भी करें, तो माहौल आपके पक्ष में है। सर, लोग जो हैं, खास कर उत्तर-पूर्व के लोग, वे बहुत चिन्ता से देख रहे हैं। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, मैं आखिर में कहूँगा - *चिन्ता को रिबो नालागे*। जय हिन्द!

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN (Assam): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. We are discussing the subject of Working of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

Sir, I would like to highlight certain aspects or activities of the Ministry of DoNER, particularly the North Eastern Council. North East India continues to remain industrially under-developed and infrastructurally deficient region. Everybody must agree to this point that if we want to achieve the goal, we must start from reality. What is the reality? If you are not clear about that, you cannot achieve the goal. So, again, I want to say that the North East is under-developed and infrastructurally deficient region. The poor condition of infrastructure in the region demands serious attention. Critical infrastructure is directly linked to economic development, national security, access and availability of educational and health infrastructure, etc. I am not talking about Opposition's reports or my reports, but if you go through the Government reports -- because of time factor, I cannot elaborate many things -- you will find that educational and health infrastructure is very poor, particularly in Assam and the North Eastern Region. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is the only Ministry with territorial jurisdiction and functions to coordinate development efforts in the North Eastern Region. The Department of North Eastern Region set up in 2001 was converted into a full-fledged Ministry in 2004. The Ministry of DoNER aims to give focussed attention to address the special needs of the North Eastern Region. It coordinates with various Ministries and Departments primarily concerned with development activities in NER. However, respective Ministries and Departments remain responsible for the implementation of programmes in their respective fields.

Sir, the Ministry implements various schemes including schemes of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources, NLCPR, which has been restructured as North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme and Special Packages through State Governments of NER and some Central Ministries. If you look at the initiatives or highlights of the Ministry of DoNER, there is Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources; North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme; Special Development Packages, namely, Bodoland Territorial Council, Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council. Then, Social and Infrastructure Development Fund is intended for Arunachal Pradesh and other remote hilly border areas with tribal population facing special problems that cannot be tackled through normal schemes.

There are many schemes sanctioned by the Ministry of DoNER from its beginning and the schemes are to ensure integrated socio-economic development of the eight States of the North Eastern Region including Sikkim. The objectives, inter alia, include balanced development of the North Eastern Region. But, I am very sorry to say that almost twenty years later, the Ministry of DoNER has not been able to

come up with proper development of the region. A majority of projects have not been completed and are behind schedule.

My friend Shri Tasa mentioned about Congress rule. मैं उनसे यह बोलना चाहता हूँ कि लोग उसके misrule के लिए ही बीजेपी को लाए हैं, लेकिन नॉर्थ-ईस्ट एक ऐसा रीजन है, जहाँ पर diverse culture है, इसलिए आप लोग वहाँ पर डिवीजन करके सबको खत्म करने जा रहे हैं। It is politics of division. मैं बहुत दुख के साथ बोलता हूँ। He wanted to speak in Assamese. I appreciate Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, लेकिन दिल्ली में बैठ कर आप लोगों को यह मालूम नहीं होता है कि असम और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोग क्या चाहते हैं, उनका कल्चर क्या है, उनकी क्या होप है, उनके क्या aspirations हैं। यह बहुत दुख की बात है। आप बीजेपी का एक नेता होने के नाते 1960's Chinese war के बारे में बोल रहे हैं, but it is nowhere connected with the North Eastern Region's development till now. It is nowhere connected. वह एक अलग chapter था। Now, you do not tell us that हमारा जीडीपी नेपाल और बंगलादेश के जीडीपी से कम है - आप लोग यह नहीं बोलते हैं।...(व्यवधान)... My friend told that he is the only Prime Minister who visited North East more than forty times. But what is the result? That is the main point. ...(Interruptions).. Now, everybody is talking about it that the Prime Minister visited. That has become an election slogan but what the result is, tell me. ...(Interruptions).. You tell me as to what the development is. You show us the report regarding the development.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair.*]

As he has rightly said कि आप इलेक्शन रिज़ल्ट्स से economic development को जोड़ नहीं पाएँगे। आप लोग बोल रहे हैं कि असम में शांति है, there is peace prevailing in the State. A draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is extended there year after year. What is this? On the one hand, you talk about peace -- you tell that peace is prevailing there -- and on the other hand, you use the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. It is a dangerous Act and everybody has accepted this in other parts of the country. In the earlier Government, under Congress rule, a commission was formed under one Justice, I have forgotten the name. He was the chairman of the committee. उन लोगों ने बार-बार बोला है कि this is a draconian law. Even U.N.O. has spoken against that Act but you did nothing. वह काँग्रेस का था, तो आप लोगों ने क्या किया? आप लोगों ने उसको क्यों नहीं हटाया? आप हमें यह बताइए। So, what is the result? Forty-fifty times is not very important. ये देश के पहले प्राइम मिनिस्टर भी हैं, जो इलेक्शन जीतने के लिए वाराणसी में तीन दिनों तक रहे। वैस्ट बंगाल में कितने दिन तक रहे, यह तृणमूल काँग्रेस के लोग बताएँगे। वे वहाँ पर कितनी बार गए? पहले कोई भी प्राइम मिनिस्टर इस तरह से इलेक्शन में नहीं जाते थे। आपको यह भी तो बोलना चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)... आपको मिनिस्ट्री में

लाया जाएगा, हम लोग डिमांड करेंगे, we would demand that Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa should be included in the Cabinet.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Bhuyan, you should not address them. You address the Chair.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Yes, I am talking about that, but he has mentioned so many things which are non-acceptable.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You can address the Chair.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: This is not acceptable. It is a political speech. Anyway, almost 20 years later, the Ministry of DoNER has not been able to come up with proper development in the region. I again want to tell that if you do not start from reality, if you do not accept the reality, then, you cannot achieve the goals. There have been reports regarding funds not being released in time and delays in sending Utilization Certificates and other documents in a number of cases resulting in delays in the completion of the projects.

Sir, now, I would like to speak a few words on the North-Eastern Council. The North Eastern Council, Shillong, which was set-up in 1971, is under the administrative control of the Ministry of DoNER. ... (*Time-bell rings.*)... But, Sir, you have given me ten minutes to speak, five minutes from Congress side and five minutes from my side. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is a statutory regional planning body, which provides financial assistance for a variety of projects, including infrastructural projects like construction of roads, improving air connectivity, etc., through State Governments. Regarding NEC, it is a very astonishing fact that the Budget of NEC is about Rs. 1200 crores to Rs. 1500 crores, if I am not wrong. Suppose, if Assam's Budget is about Rs. 60,000 crores, how will Rs. 1500 crores of NEC Budget be distributed in 8 States? I do not understand. How can it be distributed? What is the principle of distribution of these small budgetary allocation funds to 8 North-Eastern States? This is very important. This question should be asked from this side. You try to increase this. That should be your role and not to blame earlier Governments. People have already punished the earlier Governments. It is finished. It is a closed chapter. Most of the projects sanctioned under the North Eastern Council have been the subject of numerous complaints of --it is a very important point--irregularities and corruption. There are many investigations going on under the Central Bureau of Investigation for such

irregularities. Now, will the Minister say this? Has anyone ever been convicted of any of the nefarious schemes by the CBI or the NEC? It is a very important point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Time is over. ...(*Time Bell rings*)...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Sir, two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No; your time is over.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Sir, how is that? You have given everybody two minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I have already given you two minutes more because of him... ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Sir, only two minutes. How is the public being informed? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, give him two minutes more because he is from North East.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): That is over. Mr. Bhuyan, please conclude. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Sir, at the beginning, Mr. Chairman, Sir, asked us to be serious about the North Eastern Region and he had appealed everybody to participate in this discussion. As I am from North East, give more two-three minutes more, not much. Has the public been informed that the CBI has investigated....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): It may be your concluding point.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: It is a very important point. There are so many irregularities and corruption cases pending before the CBI, as I have got the information. Has anyone been convicted in corruption cases? As far as I know, a stadium is being built in Lakhimpur for Rs. 47 crore and a tennis court in Sualkuchi for

Rs. 26 crore. Now, no one knows what its status is. But if it were a cancer hospital, the people of 7 States would benefit from it. A tennis court and a stadium cannot help, cannot contribute anything to 7 States, but a cancer hospital will benefit the people of 7 States.

Sir, let me conclude, sometimes, both NEC and DoNER Ministry sanction projects separately with a single budget which has no meaning, and I suggest that NEC should be given full financial power to implement projects. If the North Eastern Council is not having sufficient budgetary allocation, then what is the need for NEC? That is the main point.

Sir, furthermore, the Government of India announced that the North-Eastern Region is a "Bamboo Region" and the people started its cultivation with a big hope. After this mission, there two paper mills have been closed. Surprisingly, the paper is manufactured through bamboo.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Thank you Mr. Bhuyan, your time is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Then why did the Government come up with such a mission?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I had given you extra time also, and even that is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Now, some Members are talking about the economic development and about the benefit given by the Government of India....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I am calling the next speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Now, tell us, why so many industries and as Shri Ripun Bora has rightly mentioned that....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Bhuyan, I am calling the next speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Sir, just a minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, Shri Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: In seven years, not a single mega project has been announced in Assam. So how can you tell that...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The next speaker is Shri Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already called the next speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Everything is sold out. You are talking about Gopinath Bordoloi. That is not the licence to ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The next speaker is Shri Rakesh Sinha. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: Sir, just a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I have given you enough time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already called the next speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: I appreciate, I am very happy that you have given Bharat Ratna to Gopinath Bordoloi. But that is not a licence to sell the airport. That is my point. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, Shri Rakesh Sinha.

श्री राकेश सिन्हा (नाम निर्देशित) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो बात कही गई थी, मैं उसकी पुनरावृत्ति नहीं करना चाहता था, लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य हुआ और दुःख भी हुआ कि एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी का वहाँ 40 बार से अधिक जाने का क्या मतलब है? मैकाले इस देश से बहुत पहले जा चुका है और हम इस मैकालेवादी संस्कृति का निषेध करने के लिए वैचारिक राजनीति कर रहे हैं। हम सत्ता की राजनीति नहीं करते हैं, बल्कि हम इस देश में वैचारिक स्वतंत्रता की लड़ाई कर रहे हैं। उस वैचारिक स्वतंत्रता में जो भी मैकालेवादी संस्कृति है, उसे समाप्त करने के लिए हम कटिबद्ध हैं, प्रतिबद्ध हैं, इसलिए मैं अंग्रेजी में नहीं बोलूँगा। सर, मैं जो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं इस बात की पुनरावृत्ति नहीं करना चाहता था कि प्रधान मंत्री जी 40 बार से अधिक गए, तो उसका तात्पर्य क्या है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने 2019 में मेघालय के एक गाँव को गोद लिया था, जिसका नाम Kongthong है। वह गाँव, जो कि whistling village है, उसकी चर्चा माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अभी "मेघालय दिवस" के दिन की थी। उस गाँव के साथ मैंने तीन और गाँव गोद लिए, जो Mawmang, Sder and Mawsohmad हैं। मैं उस नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का साक्षी हूँ, क्योंकि मैं अभी Kongthong से पैदल पहाड़ी रास्ते से, जो कि 45 मिनट का रास्ता था, Mawmang गया था। मैं वहाँ के लोगों से मिला, उनसे बात की और उनकी स्थिति जानी। लेकिन मैं एक बात यह रेखांकित करना चाहता हूँ कि वर्ष 2019 में जब मैं उस whistling village में उसे adopt करने के बाद गया, तो एक 60 वर्ष की महिला, Shidiat Khongsit ने मेरे पास आकर एक बात कही। वह महिला खासी में बोल रही थी, जिसका अनुवाद मेरे मित्र मुझे बता रहे थे। वह महिला कह रही थी कि मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के लिए एक राग, एक धुन देना चाहती हूँ, जिस whistle के आधार पर, यानी मुँह से आवाज़ निकालकर वहाँ के लोग एक-दूसरे को बुलाते हैं। मैंने पूछा कि ऐसा क्यों? उस Khongsit ने, उस 60 वर्षीय महिला ने कहा कि हमारे गाँव में जो चीज़ें मेरी पूरी 60 साल की आयु तक नहीं पहुँची थीं, वे अब वहाँ पहुँच रही हैं और वे मोदी जी के कारण पहुँच रही हैं, इसलिए मैं उनको इस गाँव में आमंत्रित करने के लिए आवाज़ के आधार पर एक धुन भेज रही हूँ, आप उसे प्रधान मंत्री जी को दीजिए।

अब मैं उनके वहाँ 40 बार जाने का दूसरा तात्पर्य बताता हूँ। सर, भौगोलिक दूरी महत्वपूर्ण नहीं होती है, दिल की दूरी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होती है। जब प्रधान मंत्री जी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट गए, तो वहाँ वे उस पाइपलाइन को तोड़ने के लिए भी गए, जो कांग्रेस के शासन में बनाई गई थी। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कांग्रेस के शासनकाल में एक ऐसी पाइपलाइन बनाई गई थी, जो कि अंडरग्राउंड पाइपलाइन थी। केन्द्र से जो पैसा जाता था, वह पैसा अंडरग्राउंड पाइपलाइन से नई दिल्ली पहुँच जाता था और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में परिवर्तन नहीं आया, जिसके मैं तीन-चार उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट फ्रंटियर रेलवे, जिसका बजट वर्ष 2009 और 2014 के बीच में जितना था, आज उस बजट में 370 परसेंट की वृद्धि हुई है। यदि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की सभी राजधानियों को रेल से कनेक्टिविटी हमारे कुछ माननीय सदस्यों को दिखाई नहीं पड़ रही है और उन्हें वह कनेक्टिविटी केवल कागज़ पर दिखाई पड़ रही है, तो मैं कहता हूँ कि यथार्थ के साथ रहिए। यदि आप यथार्थ का अवमूल्यन करते हैं, तो वह अवमूल्यन आपकी विश्वसनीयता का फंदा बन जाता है। आप ऐसा मत कीजिए। जो यथार्थ दिखाई पड़ रहा है, वह यह है कि आज वहाँ रेल की कनेक्टिविटी है और एयर की भी कनेक्टिविटी है। आपने 70 साल में वहाँ 6 एयरपोर्ट्स बनाए, हमने 7 साल में 9 और एयरपोर्ट्स बना दिए तथा 17 हेलीपैड्स बना दिए। जिन कारणों से चीन हमें आँख दिखाता था, 1962 में हमारी पराजय का जो एक कारण यह था कि हमारी सेना को सुविधा नहीं पहुँच पाती थी, उन सारे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में अरुणाचल प्रदेश से लेकर चीन की सभी सीमाओं तक वृद्धि हुई है। वहाँ जो सबसे बड़ा पुल बना है, वह हमारे माननीय सदस्य को अभी दिखाई नहीं पड़ा है।

5.00 P.M.

वहाँ जो नेशनल हाईवे बन रहा है, वह हमारे माननीय सदस्य को दिखाई नहीं दे रहा है। उनकी स्वयं की यात्रा सुलभ हो गई है, लेकिन वे सुलभ यात्रा को भी सदन के अंदर दुर्लभ रूप में

प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं। मुझे लगता है कि ऐसा करना विपक्ष की अपनी विश्वसनीयता को कम कर रहा है। हम सिर्फ वोट ही नहीं ले रहे हैं, बल्कि हमारे मतों में वृद्धि हो रही है, चाहे मेघालय हो या मणिपुर हो। हम मिज़ोरम में जाकर मत ले रहे हैं, नागालैंड में भारतीय जनता पार्टी आगे बढ़ रही है, उसके पीछे भारत के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की दृष्टि की विश्वसनीयता है। जब भावना और दृष्टि मिल जाती है, तो वह ताकत बन जाती है। इसीलिए आज मैं कहता हूँ कि भौगोलिक दूरी को तो हमने कम किया है, लेकिन दिल की दूरी जो बढ़ी थी, उसको हमने zero mile कर दिया। आज नॉर्थ-ईस्ट सिर्फ जनरल नॉलेज की चीज़ नहीं है। कांग्रेस के शासनकाल में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का महत्व यह था कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों को एलटीसी पर जाना होता था, तो वे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट जाएं। उन्हें जबरन भेजा जाता था। वहां जाने वाला सोचता था कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट पहुंच कर मैं सुरक्षित लौटूंगा भी या नहीं। आपने आतंकवाद और अपराध की प्रयोगशाला बनाकर रखी थी। हमने क्या किया, इसके मैं दो उदाहरण देता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)... आप केरल की चिंता कर लीजिए, केरल को भ्रष्टाचार के दलदल से उबार लीजिए, फिर नॉर्थ-ईस्ट और नई दिल्ली की बात कीजिएगा, यह मैं अपने मार्क्सवादी मित्र को बता देना चाहता हूँ।

आपने त्रिपुरा की जो हालत बना रखी थी, त्रिपुरा के लोगों ने आपके कर्तृत्व का बदला Lenin की उस statue से लिया। माँस्को में हमने देखा कि Lenin और Stalin की statues के साथ जो दुर्व्यवहार हुआ, त्रिपुरा के लोगों ने भी वही किया था।...(व्यवधान)... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने मार्क्सवादी मित्र को यह बता देना चाहता हूँ कि त्रिपुरा के लोगों का रोष मार्क्सवाद से इसलिए था कि वहां की मार्क्सवादी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी भ्रष्टाचार के गर्त में डूबकर, गरीबी की बड़ी प्रयोगशाला बनाकर, गैर-सर्वहारा के नाम पर सर्वहारा का शोषण करके शासन कर रही थी। आज त्रिपुरा में भगवा ज़ोर के कारण हमारी सत्ता है। प्रधान मंत्री जी की लोकप्रियता को जाकर आप त्रिपुरा, मेघालय, मणिपुर, नागालैंड आदि में देख लीजिए।

सुश्री सुष्मिता देव : त्रिपुरा के मुख्य मंत्री जी क्या हैं, आप बताइए?

श्री राकेश सिन्हा : मैं इस प्रश्न के ऊपर दूसरी बात कहना चाह रहा हूँ।

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Armed forces killing civilians; say something about that?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Brittas, please don't disturb him. When you speak, he will not disturb you. So, please don't disturb him. Let him speak. Let him complete his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: Is he speaking on DoNER?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please be seated. Don't disturb him. The Minister has to say something.

श्री राकेश सिन्हा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिन लोगों को नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की वास्तविकता पता नहीं है, वे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट पर बहुत बड़ा प्रवचन दे रहे हैं। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट वास्तव में गाँव में बसता है। सिर्फ मेघालय में 6,026 गाँव हैं, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में 4,065 गाँव हैं, त्रिपुरा में 830 गाँव हैं, नागालैंड में 1,335 गाँव हैं। इन गाँवों में भारत की आत्मा बसती है, इन गाँवों में वास्तव में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट रहता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट सिर्फ शिलाँग और गुवाहाटी में नहीं है। कांग्रेस और सीपीएम ने अपनी सत्ता के दौरान अगरतला तक और काँग्रेस ने गुवाहाटी तक विकास को सीमित कर रखा था। प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने vibrant village का concept दिया। यह concept क्या है, यह self-help group क्या है? आप जाकर नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के गाँवों को देखिए, self-help group में महिलाओं की आमदनी को 14,000 रुपये से लेकर 15,000 रुपये तक प्रत्येक महीने बढ़ाया है। मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ।
...(व्यवधान)... छोटी-छोटी बातों से ...(व्यवधान)...

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्री (श्री नारायण राणे) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य भाषण दे रहे हैं, वे अपने विचार पेश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वहां से बहुत disturbance हो रही है। वे जब बोलने के लिए खड़े होते हैं, तब हम लोग disturbance नहीं लाते हैं। आप उनको discipline में रहने के लिए कहिए, ऐसे नहीं चलेगा।

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: Who is he to scold us? ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): He is speaking on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*.. He is speaking on a rule. Please be seated. ...*(Interruptions)*..

सुश्री सुष्मिता देव : क्या आपके कहने पर सरकार चलती है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नारायण राणे : हां, हमारे कहने से ही चलती है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: Who is he to tell me what to do? ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): That I will decide. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Please be seated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेश पोद्दार (झारखंड) : जो अधिकार विपक्ष के लोगों को है, वही अधिकार हमें भी है।...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता) : प्लीज़, आप लोग अपनी सीट पर बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राकेश सिन्हा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, वास्तविकता सुई की नोक की तरह चुभती है। मुझे यहां भी वही चुभन दिखाई दे रही है, जब मैं नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की वास्तविकता के बारे में बता रहा हूं। आपको सुई की चुभन को बरदाश्त करना पड़ेगा, चूंकि हमने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को भारत के मुकुट के रूप में देखा है। हम भारत के मुकुट के रूप में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का श्रृंगार करते हैं और वह देश का श्रृंगार है। मैं जो भी बातें कहना चाहता था, उस पर विपक्ष बार-बार disruption कर रहा है। आपने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को आतंकवाद और अपराध की प्रयोगशाला बना रखा था। मैं एक घटना का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं, आप संवेदनशीलता के साथ सुनिए। वर्ष 1998 से Bru (Reang) tribe के 34,000 लोग त्रिपुरा के displacement camp में रह रहे थे। जब त्रिपक्षीय पैक्ट हुआ, जिसमें त्रिपुरा, मिजोरम और Bru (Reang) tribe है, तो मैं आप सभी को यह बताना चाहता हूं कि प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने 600 करोड़ रुपये देकर इस समस्या का समाधान ढूंढ़ा है। आप 2009 से 2014 तक सत्ता में रहकर क्या कर रहे थे? क्या Bru (Reang) tribe के लोग, लोग नहीं थे, क्या उनके पास मानवाधिकार नहीं था, क्या आपकी पंथ-निरपेक्षता वहां नहीं पहुंच रही थी, क्या आपका लोकतंत्र वहां तक नहीं पहुंच रहा था? Bru (Reang) समझौता इसलिए महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है, क्योंकि या तो आपको नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की जानकारी नहीं है या आपकी संवेदनशीलता नहीं है। हमारे पास जानकारी भी है और संवेदनशीलता भी है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब Bodo Pact हुआ, तब उसमें करीब 4,000 लोगों ने अपनी जानें गंवाई थीं। यह समस्या निरंतरता के साथ चलती रही। एक कोने में संघर्ष हो रहा है, लोग मर रहे हैं, लोग कैम्प में जी रहे हैं, हत्याएं हो रही हैं, सरकार और ट्राइब्स के बीच में संघर्ष हो रहा है, लोगों के बीच संघर्ष हो रहा है। आप नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की एक विकृत छवि दे रहे थे। हमने Bodo Pact किया। मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का अभिनंदन करना चाहता हूं कि इन दोनों पैक्ट्स द्वारा नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में शांति को बरकरार किया, सौहार्द को बरकरार किया, वहां संवेदनशीलता को बरकरार किया, जिसके कारण आज नॉर्थ-ईस्ट आगे बढ़ रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, किसी भी समाज को बढ़ने के लिए शांति चाहिए, सौहार्द चाहिए और लोगों में आत्मविश्वास चाहिए। मैं एक छोटी-सी बात बताना चाहता हूं कि उस गांव में रहने वाले ट्राइब्स जीवन में बांस का, bamboo का उपयोग करते थे। वह कुटीर उद्योग का बड़ा साधन था। वर्ष 1827 में ब्रिटिश राज ने उस बांस को, bamboo को फॉरेस्ट एक्ट के अंतर्गत रखा था। उस एक्ट के अनुसार आप उसको छू नहीं सकते, वह फॉरेस्ट की संपत्ति है। गांव में कुटीर उद्योग पर जीने वाले नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लाखों लोग अपनी ही संपत्ति पर छत्तीसगढ़ में जाकर जल-जंगल-जमीन का नारा देते हैं। जो झारखंड में जाकर जल-जंगल-जमीन का नारा देते हैं, वे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के ट्राइब्स के साथ ऐसा भेदभाव क्यों कर रहे थे? उनसे समाज इसके बारे में पूछेगा और उनको इसका उत्तर देना पड़ेगा। वर्ष 2017 में इसी भारत सरकार ने इंडियन फॉरेस्ट अमेंडमेंट एक्ट के अंतर्गत bamboo को फॉरेस्ट से बाहर कर दिया। आज उसके कारण नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में जो कुटीर उद्योगों की उन्नति हो रही है, वह उन्नति सिर्फ कुटीर उद्योग की उन्नति नहीं है, उससे आम लोगों की आय बढ़ रही है, आम लोगों का जीवन संपन्न हो रहा है। क्या आपको वह संपन्नता दिखाई नहीं पड़ रही है! ये सूक्ष्म बातें ही उनके जीवन को संवारती हैं, जो एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण पक्ष है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट केवल भौगोलिक और आर्थिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है, बल्कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का महत्व एक दूसरे कारण से भी है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट भारत के soft-power का एक बहुत बड़ा प्रतीक है,

बहुत बड़ी ताकत है। असम में कामाख्या मंदिर है। कामाख्या मंदिर के विकास के लिए तीस करोड़ रुपये दिए गए। क्या यह विकास आप देख नहीं पा रहे हैं! नागालैंड और मेघालय में 50-50 करोड़ रुपये वहां की आस्थाओं के विकास के लिए, आस्था के केन्द्रों के विकास के लिए दिए गए। इस सरकार के द्वारा लोगों की आस्था, अध्यात्म केन्द्र को विकसित करने की सकारात्मक, रचनात्मक प्रवृत्तियों से आप अनभिज्ञ क्यों बैठे हुए हैं? जनता अनभिज्ञ नहीं है। जनता अपनी आंखों से विकास और संवेदनशीलता का अनुभव कर रही है। मैं एक घटना का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं। आपके शासनकाल में क्या हुआ, मैं उसका एक उदाहरण देता हूं। अरुणाचल प्रदेश की दिबांग वैली में Anini नामक एक स्थान है। आपके शासनकाल में उसको suicide village कहा जाता था। राजीव गांधी यूनिवर्सिटी में Tarun Mene ने पीएचडी की - Suicides in Anini. हर दिन, हर सप्ताह, हर महीने suicide की कोई न कोई घटना घटती थी और आपने उसे एक academic सब्जेक्ट बना कर रखा है। Anini में वे लोग रहते हैं Idu Mishmi tribe के लोग रहते हैं, जो रुक्मिणी और भगवान कृष्ण से अपने आपको जोड़कर देखते हैं। वे अपने आपको रुक्मिणी का वंशज मानते हैं। उस ट्राइब के बारे में पहली बार भारत सरकार ने सोचा है और राज्य सरकार उस पर काम कर रही है। जिसको आपने suicide village बनाया था, उस village की प्रकृति को, प्रवृत्ति को, उसकी परंपरा को हम बदलने के लिए आगे आ रहे हैं। यह चावल का वह दाना है, जो दिखाता है कि छोटी-छोटी सूक्ष्म बातों की ओर, सूक्ष्म संस्कृतियों की ओर भारत सरकार कितनी सक्रियता के साथ काम कर रही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस सदन में मैं आधिकारिक तौर पर कह रहा हूं कि जो लोग चीन की तरफदारी इस सदन में बैठकर कर रहे हैं, वे चीन को संदेश देना चाहते हैं। 1962 को दोहराने की ताकत चीन में नहीं है। नेहरू नहीं, नरेन्द्र मोदी दिल्ली में बैठे हुए हैं और चीन की हिम्मत नहीं है कि हमारी एक इंच भूमि पर आ जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... तृणमूल कांग्रेस के दफ्तर में चीन आ गया होगा, कांग्रेस पार्टी के दफ्तर में चीन आ गया होगा...**(व्यवधान)**... भारत की एक इंच भूमि पर भी चीन कब्जा नहीं कर सकता है और न भूमि को ले सकता है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता) : आप अपना concluding point कहिए।

श्री राकेश सिन्हा : सर, मेरे तीन मिनट तो इन्होंने खराब कर दिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... देखिए, बुनियादी प्रश्नों का समाधान करना ही सरकार का धर्म है। उसका एक उदाहरण देकर मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करूंगा। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के जितने राज्य हैं, उनमें असम को छोड़कर बाकी जो छह राज्य हैं, उनमें पानी का स्रोत पर्वतीय झरना है, जिसको mountain springs कहते हैं। सिक्किम में 82 परसेंट villages में mountain springs का पानी है, मेघालय में 55.7 परसेंट गांव पर्वतीय झरने से पानी लेते हैं, मिज़ोरम में 54.6 परसेंट गांव पर्वतीय झरने से पानी लेते हैं। उसी तरह से नागालैंड में 44 परसेंट गांव पर्वतीय झरने से पानी लेते हैं। अनेक पर्वतीय झरनों के सूखने के कारण इन पर्वतीय झरनों की स्थिति दयनीय थी। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में जहां 34 परसेंट देश का पानी है और 8 प्रतिशत भूमि है, तो उस पर्वतीय झरने की और पानी की चिंता आपकी नहीं थी, पहली बार नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने वहां पर water management के लिए काम करना शुरू किया है। वहां जो समिति बनाई गई, जो बुनियादी तौर पर पानी के संरक्षण का, पानी के उपयोग का काम

किया जा रहा है, वह किसने किया है? देश का सबसे बड़ा सोलर पावर प्लांट कहां बना है? यह सब इस सरकार के आने के बाद बना है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, रेल कनेक्टिविटी के बारे में आपने स्वयं बात की थी, एयर कनेक्टिविटी के बारे में भी की थी। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में पावर जेनरेशन की जो क्षमता है, उस क्षमता का उपयोग कौन कर रहा है - चाहे वह Hydro power हो, solar power हो और इसी प्रकार नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के अन्य क्षेत्र हों जैसे रेल हो, रोड हो, एयर हो, पावर और people's empowerment हो।

अंत में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि पहले नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की सरकार नई दिल्ली से चलती थी। हमने वहां के लोगों को आत्मविश्वास दिया और वहां के लोगों को ताकत दी। अब सरकारें अपने-अपने राज्यों से जनता के प्रतिनिधियों के द्वारा चलती हैं और सरकार चलाने के लिए उन्हें अपना लुक साउथ ब्लॉक नहीं करना पड़ता है। साउथ ब्लॉक एकट करता है और वे लुक अपने आप को करते हैं। यह इस सरकार की democratic empowerment उन लोगों के लिए है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में जो परिस्थितियां हैं, उन परिस्थितियों में से एक परिस्थिति का उदाहरण यह है कि एक गांव कोंगथोंग है, उसे आज एक बेस्ट टूरिस्ट विलेज के रूप में भारत सरकार ने यूनाइटेड नेशंस वर्ल्ड टूरिज़्म ऑर्गनाइजेशन के सामने प्रस्तुत किया है। जिस गांव में कांग्रेस का एक प्रतिनिधि कभी नहीं पहुंचा, सरकार के कर्मचारी नहीं पहुंचे, उस गांव में हमारे लोग पहुंच रहे हैं, केन्द्र सरकार पहुंच रही है, आज वह गांव हम सबको बाध्य कर रहा है कि सभी उस गांव की तरफ देखें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता) : धन्यवाद।

श्री राकेश सिन्हा : आज वहां का एक-एक गांव समर्थित हो रहा है, सुरक्षित हो रहा है। मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट और नई दिल्ली के बीच की दूरी को समाप्त करने का बड़ा काम यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने किया है। इसके लिए मैं उनका अभिनंदन करता हूं और विपक्ष से कहता हूं कि वह नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के विकास के मामले में कम से कम राजनीति न करे, धन्यवाद।

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). Firstly, I must appreciate and congratulate the hon. Cabinet Minister, Shri Kishan Reddy, who is also a Telugu man, an youngster and an energetic man. I hope that under his guidance, the North-Eastern Region will further develop. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, the North-Eastern Region comprises eight States, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and so on. The entire region of the North-East was uniquely located with inadequate means to access the mainland. So, the primary task is to provide connectivity to the mainland. Unless and otherwise it is not brought in contact with

the mainstream, problems of insurgency will remain to haunt us. So, the need of the hour is overall development of that region.

Sir, the Union Government has put in place many schemes for its development. With regard to the creation of employment, a Report of the Parliamentary Committee was presented to this House today morning. I had a chance to go through the Report, that is, 239th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. In the report, it has been stated that out of five Special Economic Zones, four Special Economic Zones have been notified. Notification for one Special Economic Zone is yet to be notified though the approval was granted last year. What is the status of those four Special Economic Zones? Whether they have been operationalized? I would like to know whether the local population was given employment in those Special Economic Zones. If employment is not given to the local people locally, they are bound to migrate to other places in search of livelihood. This trend will give feeling of discontent among the locals.

On killing of civilians by security forces, the incident that happened on 5th December, 2021 is still alive in everybody's mind. On that fateful day, the security forces had killed 13 innocent civilians due to mistaken identity or otherwise. In order to avoid such inhumane incidents, the development of North Eastern Region has to happen without any delay.

On the railway network, though the Government is taking various measures for its development, the main focus is to be given for connectivity. In this regard, a programme to connect all State Capitals in the North-Eastern Region through the rail network is underway. I urge the Minister of the development of North Eastern Region to take steps to coordinate the measures and complete the project at an earliest instance.

On the sports infrastructure also, there has to be a development. On organic farming, Sikkim is one of the North Eastern States. It has received the unique distinction of 100 per cent Organic Farming State. It has become a pride of our country. This trend has to be promoted in the entire North-Eastern Region.

With regard to Andhra Pradesh, after the bifurcation by virtue of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, this State too has become a backward State in the country on par with the North-Eastern Region. At the time of bifurcation, the then hon. Prime Minister promised the Special Category Status on the floor of the House. In the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act also, when it was drafted at that time, our hon. senior colleague, Shri Jairam Ramesh, was one among them. In his presence, the Special Category Status was announced, though it was not mentioned in the

enactment. The Special Category Status has to be given to the State of Andhra Pradesh on par with the North-Eastern States. The YSRCP Government came to power on the 'false promise' that the State would get the Special Category Status by aligning with the BJP. After assuming the power, they forgot everything. They have mortgaged the Special Category Status for the reasons best known to them. Since the ruling Government in the State of Andhra Pradesh has forgotten everything, the Central Government should implement the promise made by the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and grant the Special Category Status in line with the North-Eastern States.

I request the Central Government to consider the demand of A.P.'s special status since A.P. Government is ruining the entire State of A.P. and running the Government in reverse mode. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we are discussing a very important part of our country, the North-East, which is very beautiful, very culturally diverse and a place which is home to so many different tribes, different languages, different cultures and as Indians we are very proud that North-East is very much an integral part of our great nation. Having said this, I have been hearing all the speeches of various Members, and of course, there has been a lot of politics also involved. But that apart, the real issues which confront the North-East should be addressed by the Government and I am saying that all Governments in the past, including the present Government have always had a special emphasis for the North-East and that is rightly so. It is also, I would say, from the security point of view a very sensitive part of our country. आज नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को chicken neck के माध्यम से, जो 22 किलोमीटर का ही एक रास्ता है, उसके माध्यम से हमें अपने देश के इतने बड़े इलाके को कंट्रोल करना पड़ता है। वहीं से यातायात होता है। हवाई यातायात होने की वजह से तो ठीक है कि हम बंगलादेश के ऊपर से थोड़ा-बहुत ओवर फ्लाईंग करके वहाँ पहुँच पा रहे हैं, लेकिन निश्चित रूप से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को हर तरह से, वह चाहे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के डेवलपमेंट के लिए कहिए या नॉर्थ-ईस्ट सहित हमारे पूरे देश की सुरक्षा के लिए कहिए - नॉर्थ-ईस्टका डेवलपमेंट करना हम सभी के लिए निहायत ही जरूरी है। मैं निश्चित रूप से यह कहूंगा, यद्यपि बहुत सारे स्पीकर्स ने इसके बारे में जिक्र भी किया है कि आज चाइना के जो मंसूबे हैं, चाइना जिस तरह से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के ऊपर नज़र लगाए हुए है, अरुणाचल को अपने राष्ट्र का, तिब्बत का हिस्सा मानकर कब्ज़ा करने के उसके जो मंसूबे हैं, हमें इन मंसूबों को नाकाम करना है। मैं इस मामले में सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ - आज आपकी सरकार है, मैं आपको बधाई दूंगा कि आप लोग भी इस बारे में ध्यान दे रहे हैं और पिछली सरकारों ने भी इस बारे में लगातार हमेशा ध्यान दिया है। आज अगर हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को ठीक तरह से डेवलप करेंगे, तो हमें निश्चित रूप से उसका फायदा आगे आने वाले वर्षों में हमारे राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा के लिए महसूस होगा। इसके साथ-साथ ही नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का भी

डेवलपमेंट होगा। अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मेघालय, त्रिपुरा, मिज़ोरम, मणिपुर आदि ये जो सारे प्रदेश हैं, ये सभी बॉर्डर प्रदेश हैं। हम 'लुक ईस्ट पॉलिसी' की बात करते हैं, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि 'लुक ईस्ट' बोलना आसान है। 'लुक ईस्ट' में हमारे मणिपुर के बगल में म्यांमार जाना पड़ेगा। आज म्यांमार किसके कब्जे में है, इसको भी हम और आप अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं, इसलिए हमें सबसे पहले और सबसे ज्यादा ध्यान यह देना है कि North-East comes as an integral part of India economically, socially, culturally and in every single way. इसके लिए हमें नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के development पर ध्यान देना है। Infrastructure, रोड़ज़, रास्ते, हवाई अड्डे - ये सारी चीज़ें जरूरी तो हैं ही, लेकिन इनके साथ-साथ नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में industrial development पर हम लोगों ने आज तक इतना ध्यान नहीं दिया है। मैं भी उस heavy industries विभाग में कुछ साल तक मंत्री रहा हूं, मुझे भी मालूम है। Ashoka Paper Mills की किसी ने बात की - नाम नहीं लिया, लेकिन Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited हो या वहाँ पर बाकी की जो भी थोड़ी-बहुत industries थीं, refineries को छोड़कर, वे सारी धीरे-धीरे लगातार बंद होती गईं। उसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि North-East industrialisation में पिछड़ता गया है। उसी वजह से आज नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का जो कोई भी युवा है, युवती है, उसके सामने रोज़गार की समस्या है। वहाँ पर literacy rate इतना हाई है कि English speaking के लिए मैं समझता हूं कि इतना अच्छा English speaking इलाका हमारे पूरे देश में नहीं है, जितना नॉर्थ-ईस्ट इलाका है। वहाँ पर पहले से ही missionaries गए हुए थे, वहाँ पर convent schools शुरू किए गए, today North-East is one of the most highly educated and best English speaking regions of our country. उसके बाद भी वहाँ पर इंडस्ट्री नहीं होने की वजह से परेशानी है। जैसा कि अभी हमारे संजय जी ने जिक्र किया है, all over India hospitality, tourism, travel से related जितने भी काम हैं, इंडस्ट्रीज़ हैं, इनमें नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बच्चे, युवा और युवतियाँ वहाँ से बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर पूरे देश में काम करने के लिए जा रहे हैं। यह खुशी की बात है कि उनको मौका मिलता है, वे अच्छा काम करते हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि वे हर तरह से ईमानदार, वफादार और काम करने में वैरी एफिशिएंट हैं। यह खुशी की बात है, उन्हें मौका मिलता है, वे अच्छा काम करते हैं और मैं समझता हूं कि हर तरह से बहुत ही ईमानदार और वफादार हैं और काम करने में they are very efficient. यह हमारे लिए खुशी की बात है और उन्हें मौके मिल रहे हैं, यह भी अच्छी बात है, लेकिन उनमें से कितनों को नौकरी मिलेगी? जब हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के industrial development की बात करते हैं, तो हमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। आज जो बड़ी-बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज़ हैं, उन्हें हमें कहना चाहिए, उन्हें बुलाना चाहिए कि आप एक हजार करोड़, पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये की इंडस्ट्री लगाओ। किसी-किसी ने तो लाखों-लाखों करोड़ों रुपये के निवेश वाली इंडस्ट्रीज़ लगाई हैं। कोई एक हजार करोड़ की, पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये की इंडस्ट्री वहां पर compulsorily लगाये, गवर्नमेंट को बुलाकर उनसे इसके लिए रिक्वेस्ट करनी चाहिए। हम डेमोक्रेसी में किसी को फोर्स तो नहीं कर सकते हैं, लेकिन इसके लिए हम लोगों को कोशिश करनी चाहिए।

दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि वहां English-speaking लोग हैं। आज आई.टी. इंडस्ट्री हमारे देश में इतनी बड़ी विकसित हुई है, आज बेंगलुरु में, पुणे में और हमारे देश के कई अलग-अलग सूबों में आई.टी. इंडस्ट्री की ग्रोथ हो रही है। What does IT industry need? First, it needs good English education, then good English-speaking boys and girls. The

second is internet connectivity. Internet connectivity, now, is not a problem anywhere in the country, including the North-East. अगर internet connectivity है, good English-speaking वहां पर बच्चे मिल रहे हैं तो वहां पर you should tell Infosys, Wipro and TCS of our country to go and set up one BPO there, give boys and girls of the North-East a chance to work. This, I think, will be a true development and integration of the North-East with the rest of the country. These are the issues which, I think, we should be really concentrating on. मैं All India Football Federation का अध्यक्ष हूँ। आज पूरे देश में अगर आप देखेंगे, men's टीम हो, women's टीम हो, young girls की team हो, boys की team हो, maximum players will come from all States of the North-East India. I would request the DoNER also. Look at football in a different perspective. India is a cricket-loving country; no issues about it. But, the North-East, especially, loves football. Sonowalji is sitting here. Listen to me, Sonowalji. I am talking about football. You have taken some interest and that is why I am saying. We must have football academies, grounds, stadia across the North-East. There are only seven required. One football stadium does not cost more than Rs. 50 crores. Why can't every State of the North-East has a world-class FIFA-approved football stadium? This will give a fillip to boys and girls to play football and engage professionally in football. I am telling them to make career out of football and they will do service to the nation. After all, we will do better in football. Our country will do better in football and these girls and boys will get a good opportunity. I am concluding, Sir.

I am only saying that development of the North-East lies not just in mudslinging from this side to the other. Development of the North-East depends on industrial development, on overall development, including tourism which hon. Members were referring to. Today, people are travelling so much within the country, especially after COVID. The desire to travel within the country has improved. Therefore, we must take advantage of diversity. Every kind of tourism is possible in the North-East. And, I would urge the Government of India to take special steps to encourage tourism and integrate it. I am saying integration, because tourism is a great integrator of the nation. When more people travel between each other's region, they will integrate the nation with the North-East which is a part of our beautiful country. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You are contributing well. I should have given some more time to you. But, due to paucity of time, I am not able to do so. You have contributed a lot. Now, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री; तथा आयुष मंत्री (श्री सर्वानंद सोनोवाल) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज मैं विशेष रूप से इस सदन के माननीय सभापति महोदय को धन्यवाद

देता हूँ, क्योंकि उन्होंने इस सदन में North-Eastern region के development के सिलसिले में चर्चा करने के लिए मुझे समय दिया है। आज इस discussion में कई माननीय सांसदों ने भाग लिया और उन लोगों ने अपनी बात रखी। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में उन लोगों ने अपनी चिंता व्यक्त की। मैं सबको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। आप सबको मालूम है कि मैं कोई exaggeration करने के लिए नहीं उठा हूँ, बल्कि जो हकीकत है, मैं वह बताने जा रहा हूँ। आप सबको मालूम है कि देश की जनता के आशीर्वाद से; हमारे परम आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के आशीर्वाद से, सहयोग से; पार्टी के सहयोग से; असम की जनता के सहयोग से और आप सबकी शुभकामनाओं से मुझे 5 साल असम के चीफ मिनिस्टर के पद पर काम करने का मौका मिला। इन दिनों में मैंने देखा, ...(व्यवधान)... सुनिए, प्लीज।

(उपसभापति महोदय पीठासीन हुए)

इसके पहले 2014 में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने मुझे एक केंद्रीय मंत्री के रूप में दायित्व निभाने के लिए मौका दिया। आप लोगों को मालूम है कि उस समय मुझे Skill Development और Sports and Youth Affairs विभाग का दायित्व सौंपा गया था। उसी समय से मैंने देखा कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सिर्फ गहरी चिंता ही व्यक्त की, ऐसा नहीं है, बल्कि इसके लिए कैसे मजबूत कदम उठाए जाएँ, इसके बारे में उन्होंने चिंता की और निर्णय लिए। आप सबको मालूम है कि हमारे परम आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी देश के पहले प्रधान मंत्री हैं, जिन्होंने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के सिलसिले में अपने केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल के हर मंत्री को नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का दौरा करने के लिए निर्देश जारी किया। सिर्फ दौरा करने के लिए ही नहीं! माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी एक दिन review ले रहे थे, उस समय उन्होंने यह जानने की कोशिश की कि आप लोग नॉर्थ-ईस्ट गए, तो आपने क्या-क्या किया? जब माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को पता चला कि हम केंद्रीय मंत्रीगण वहाँ गए और चर्चा करके वापस आए, तो उन्होंने कहा कि आपने चिंता व्यक्त की, ऐसे नहीं चलेगा, आप लोगों को वहीं रहना होगा, हर प्रदेश की जनता के साथ बात करनी होगी और अपने विभाग के अलग-अलग कार्यक्रम कैसे रुके हुए हैं, कितने कार्यक्रमों को लागू करने के लिए कितना काम बाकी है, इन विषयों पर आप लोगों को मजबूत कदम उठाना होगा। मुझे लगता है कि उन्होंने इतनी devoted और dedicated चिंता की और initiative लिया। जब एक व्यक्ति के हृदय में भक्ति भावना होती है, एक समाज के लिए उसके हृदय में निष्ठा होती है, तब जाकर वह ऐसे निर्णय ले सकता है। इसके साथ-साथ केंद्र सरकार के हर विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारीगण को कहा गया कि आप भी जाइए, सारे विषयों को समझिए और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के विकास की गति बढ़ाइए। इसलिए नॉर्थ-ईस्ट ने पिछले 7 साल के अन्दर परिवर्तन का चेहरा देखा, उसने परिवर्तन का माहौल देखा। हर प्रदेश को इस परिवर्तन की वजह से जो नई रोशनी दिखाई दी, उससे लोगों के मन में नई उमंग पैदा हुई। पिछले दिनों में जो काम वहाँ पर हुआ, वह इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि मोदी जी विशेष रूप से यह मानते हैं कि transformation is possible through transportation. विकास के लिए पहली condition है connectivity and communication. इसीलिए मोदी जी ने हर प्रदेश में connectivity और communication बढ़ाने

का काम किया है, जिसकी वजह से आप नॉर्थ-ईस्ट ही क्या, किसी भी प्रांत में आराम से जा सकते हैं।

प्रफुल्ल पटेल जी ने अभी tourism sector, football इत्यादि का जिक्र किया। मैं मानता हूँ कि आज tourism sector ज़बरदस्त गति से आगे बढ़ रहा है, आप किसी से भी यह पूछ लीजिए। अभी मैं मिज़ोरम हो कर आया था, that hill State is beautifully developed. उसकी connectivity के बारे में किसी ने जीवन में यह सोचा भी नहीं था कि one of the tallest capitals in the country, that is, Aizawl, वहां तक railway line की व्यवस्था हो सकती है। यह मोदी जी ने संभव करके दिखा दिया है। मैं खुद भी बहुत दिन के बाद वहां गया था और सोच रहा था, my God! इतने high altitude में रेलवे लाइन बन रही है! वहां tunnel की खुदाई हो रही है! यह होता है commitment, देश के लिए commitment, जनता के लिए commitment और हृदय में बसी हुई भक्ति भावना का जज़्बा।

मैं आज आप सब लोगों को एक और बात बताना चाहता हूँ, industrial sector के बारे में आप लोगों ने बोला। जब 2018 में मैं चीफ मिनिस्टर था, तब मैंने सोचा कि हमारे देश की अलग-अलग स्टेट्स में Investment Summit होते हैं, लेकिन North-East में Investment Summit कभी नहीं हुआ। हम लोगों का यही मानना था कि अलग-अलग प्रांतों में लोगों की जो सोच है, यहां के बारे में जो perception है, क्योंकि यहां हमेशा खून-खराबा होता है, kidnapping होती है, bomb blast होते हैं, इसलिए यहां investment के लिए कोई भी तैयार नहीं होगा। मन में साहस ही नहीं था, लेकिन एक दिन मैं यहां आया और मैंने माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से कहा कि आपके गुजरात में, यूपी में, महाराष्ट्र में, मध्य प्रदेश इत्यादि में अलग-अलग समय में Investor Summit हो रहे हैं, हम भी अपने यहां Investor Summit करना चाहते हैं। मोदी जी ने कहा, आगे बढ़ो। उस समय हमारे दिल में घबराहट थी, मैं सोच रहा था कि मैं बुलाऊँ और अगर कोई भी businessman नहीं आए तब क्या होगा? उस समय मोदी जी ने कहा, नहीं ऐसा नहीं होगा, you go for that, we are with you. हम लोगों ने 3rd and 4th February, 2018 में दो दिन का 'Advantage Assam' Global Investors's Summit आयोजित किया, जिसमें देश के उद्योग जगत की बड़ी-बड़ी हस्तियां आईं। इसके साथ-साथ अलग-अलग 22 देशों के प्रतिनिधियों ने भी उसमें भाग लिया। स्वयं मोदी जी भी वहां आए और केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल के वरिष्ठ नेतागणों को उन्होंने निर्देश जारी किए कि सबको वहां रहना चाहिए। उस काल में कुल मिलाकर private and public players के साथ 269 MoUs साइन हुए, जिसकी value थी - Rs.79,000 crores investment का promise. हमारे काल में ही Rs.60,000 crores have been landed on the ground.

सर, पहले Numaligarh refinery की उत्पादन शक्ति थी - three million tonnes per annum और मोदी जी ने by investing more than Rs.29,000 crores, उसको from three million to nine million tonnes तक बढ़ा दिया। ऐसे ही Bongaigaon refinery की उत्पादन शक्ति पहले 2.5 million tonnes थी, जिसमें Rs.10,000 crores invest करके 2.5 million tonnes से 5.00 million tonnes तक enhance करने का काम उन्होंने किया। इसी तरह से आप ब्रह्मपुत्र में देखिए। पहले एक-एक पुल बनाने के सिलसिले में 16-16 साल, 20-20 साल लग जाते थे। अधिकतर पुल यूपीए की गवर्नमेंट ने बनाने शुरू किए थे, लेकिन वे इतिहास बन कर रह गए, लोग भूल गए कि इन पुलों पर कभी हमें भी आने-जाने का मौका मिलेगा। मोदी जी ने हर विषय को

पूरी तरह गंभीर रूप से लिया और अपने विभाग के अलग-अलग अधिकारियों को, केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल के हमारे विभाग के मंत्रियों को उन्होंने आदेश जारी किया। मोदी जी की मेहनत की वजह से, उनके सहयोग और आशीर्वाद की वजह से हमारे देश का सबसे लम्बा rail-cum-road Bogibeel bridge हमारे कार्यकाल में ही complete हुआ। इसके साथ ही ढोला सदिया पुल, जिसकी कनेक्टिविटी की वजह से अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, नागालैंड इन सभी प्रदेशों को बहुत लाभ हुआ है, उस 9.15 किलोमीटर लम्बे पुल का निर्माण भी मोदी जी की मेहनत की वजह से पूरा हुआ। उसके साथ ही ब्रह्मपुत्र के ऊपर पांच नये पुल बनाने का काम शुरू हुआ है। उसके अलावा 'एम्स' इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ एग्रीकल्चरल रिसर्च, नेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ डिज़ाइन, ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट ऑफ अरुणाचल आदि की स्थापना के साथ आप इन सारे प्रदेशों में देखिये कि कनेक्टिविटी और कम्युनिकेशन के सिलसिले में पिछले सात सालों में क्या परिवर्तन आया है। मैं इस विषय पर यदि आपको विवरण देने लगूंगा तो मुझे तीन-चार घंटे लगेंगे।

महोदय, मैं एक सभा का अनुभव बता रहा हूँ। गुवाहाटी में एक सभा हुई थी, मैं मंच पर परम आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के दायीं तरफ बैठा हुआ था। हमारे एक सज्जन भाषण दे रहे थे। वहां से कुछ दूरी पर प्रधान मंत्री जी ने एक पेड़ देखा, वह पेड़ फूलों से भरा हुआ था। मोदी जी ने सवाल किया कि इस पेड़ का नाम क्या है? मैंने बताया कि यह कृष्ण चूरा पेड़ है। उन्होंने पूछा कि क्या इस पर ऐसे ही फूल लगते हैं? मैंने बताया कि हां, इस पर ऐसे ही फूल लगते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आप एक काम करो, सारे असम में ऐसे पेड़ लगाने का काम करो, अगर दो महीने भी फूल पैदा होते हैं, तो टूरिज्म की पोटेंशियेलिटी बढ़ेगी और देश और दुनिया के टूरिस्ट्स इस नजारे को देखने के लिए आएंगे। मोदी जी की दी हुई शक्ति और उनके अनुभव के द्वारा दिये गये विचार से हमने असम की जनता और देश की जनता के सहयोग की वजह से कुल मिलाकर फल, फूल और औषधि पर अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित किया। क्योंकि मोदी जी हमेशा कहा करते हैं, पार्लियामेंट में उन्होंने अपने भाषण में भी यह बोला था कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की प्रकृति में जो जैविक शक्ति और सम्पदा बसी हुई है, उसको सुरक्षित करना होगा और अपने देश की एक जैविक केन्द्र बिन्दु के हिसाब से प्रतिष्ठा करनी होगी, तो उसी नीति पर आधारित होकर हम लोगों ने तय किया कि फल, फूल और औषधि, यानी फल जो ट्रेडिशनल फूट्स होते हैं, फूल और औषधि को लेकर हमने एक लक्ष्य तय किया, इंटरनेशनल वर्ल्ड एनवायरन्मेंट डे पर हम लोगों ने प्रतिज्ञा ली और असम की जनता के सहयोग से हमने एक-दो लाख नहीं, बल्कि दस करोड़ पेड़ लगाने का निर्णय लिया और हमारे करियर काल में हमने 9 करोड़, 50 लाख पेड़ लगाये हैं। हमारे लिए यह मोदी जी की प्रेरणा है, उनके द्वारा दी हुई शक्ति है। यही है हमारे प्रधान मंत्री, श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी, उनकी असली पहचान यही है, जो प्रकृति से जुड़े हुए हैं, जो भगवान के आशीर्वाद का फल हैं और हमारी जनता की तपस्या का फल हैं। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को उन्होंने पिछले सात सालों में बहुत सहयोग किया है, उसकी वजह से आज नॉर्थ-ईस्ट जाग उठा है और सारे देश की जनता नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को देखने लगी है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में मोदी जी ने देश और विदेश की धरती पर जो गुणगान किया है, उसे जितना प्रमोट किया है, उसकी वजह से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में दुनिया की सोच और परसेप्शन बदली है, उसके पीछे मोदी जी हैं। इसलिए नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के डेवलपमेंट के सिलसिले में अभी भी आप अनुमान नहीं लगा सकते। मैं 2014 में लखीमपुर कांस्टिटुएन्सी से सांसद था, उसी काल में जुलाई तक पासीघाट के पास में रेलवे का जो आखिरी स्टेशन है, वहां एक भी ट्रेन नहीं चलती थी। जब मैंने

मोदी जी के सामने इस बात का उल्लेख किया कि इसकी वजह से लोगों को काफी दिक्कत होती है, अधिकतर अरुणाचल प्रदेश और असम के लोग इस लाइन को इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं, चाहे उनका व्यापार हो, शिक्षा हो, संस्कृति हो, टूरिज्म हो या दो वक्त की रोटी हो, इसी रेल लाइन से अगर ट्रेन चले तो उनके लिए बहुत बड़ी सुविधा हो जाएगी। मोदी जी ने एक-दो नहीं, बल्कि दस ट्रेन्स चलाने का काम किया। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में पहले सिंगल ट्रैक हुआ करता था, गुड्स ट्रेन और पैसेंजर ट्रेन में से किसी एक ट्रेन को स्टेशन पर इंतजार करना पड़ता था कि फ्लां ट्रेन जा रही है, उसके लिए जगह खाली करो। उस हालत को बदल कर doubling of railway track करने का काम मोदी जी ने शुरू किया और वह अधिकतर जगहों पर complete हुआ। Electrification की बात करें, तो हमारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोगों ने कभी भी Electric train का दृश्य नहीं देखा था। जब वे घूमने के लिए बाहर आते थे, तब इसे देखते थे, जो कि मुगलसराय से शुरू होती थी। उनकी भी हमसे इस सम्बन्ध में उम्मीद थी। आपकी सरकार के कार्यकाल में बोलते-बोलते थक गये। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्या बोलूँ, मैं कोई आलोचना करने के लिए खड़ा नहीं हुआ हूँ। उस समय सब बोलते-बोलते थक गये। अब क्या बोलें? नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में आप लोग जब भी बोलते हैं, तो मुझे लगता है कि हाँ, ठीक है, बोलना चाहिए, यह सबका अधिकार है, लेकिन जो हकीकत है, उसको भी आप लोग स्वीकार कीजिए। मोदी जी ने Electrification का और railway track का काम भी almost complete कर दिया है। इसलिए अभी तो असम के अलग-अलग भागों में electric trains चलने लगी हैं। आज चाहे त्रिपुरा हो या मिजोरम हो, अलग-अलग प्रान्तों में आज रेलवे कंस्ट्रक्शन जिस हिसाब से अभी शुरू हो रहा है - जैसे, अगरतला से सिलचर होकर गुवाहाटी और देश के अलग-अलग destinations के लिए अब रेलवे का आना-जाना शुरू हो गया है, इसकी वजह से हमारी economic activities, हमारे tourists की गतिविधियाँ, हमारे विद्यार्थियों की गतिविधियाँ, हमारे किसानों की उम्मीदें, सबको बल मिला है। अब मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट पीछे नहीं रहेगा, आप देखते रहिए। मोदी जी ने क्या दायित्व दिया है, वह आपको मालूम है! North-Easterners को बोला है कि NE का मतलब सिर्फ North-East नहीं है, 'New Engine for India's growth' है। देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के सिलसिले में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को बड़ी भूमिका निभानी होगी, New Engine की भूमिका निभानी होगी। इसलिए North-Easterner इस विषय के लिए प्रस्तुत है, तैयार है, क्योंकि अगर मोदी जी जैसा काबिल, ईमानदार, निष्ठावान और कर्मठ नेता देशवासियों को मिल जाए, तो देशवासी कभी पीछे नहीं देखेंगे। हिन्दुस्तान दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ राष्ट्र बनेगा, यह निश्चित है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, आप लोग आपस में बात न करें। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कृपया माननीय सदस्य को बोलने दें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सर्वानंद सोनोवाल : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे तो बोलने दीजिए। मैं आप सब लोगों को प्रणाम करते हुए अपना भाषण दे रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरे दिल में ऐसा कोई भेदभाव नहीं है। जो हकीकत है, उसको आप मानिए। उसे आप स्वीकार कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

The fact of what is happening must be explained. That is the spirit of democracy. That is sportsmanship. ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप तो खिलाड़ियों को बढ़ावा देने का काम करते हैं।

वह sportsman's spirit आप भी जिन्दा रखिए, दिखाइए। मैंने बहुत समय ले लिया क्या?
...(व्यवधान)...

एक माननीय सदस्य : अभी समय है। आप बोलिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, प्लीज़।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सर्वानंद सोनोवाल : आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, हमारे जो विद्यार्थी हैं, वे पहले मेडिकल इंस्टीट्यूशन के सिलसिले में काफी चिन्तित रहते थे। मैं पिछले दिनों की बात बोल रहा हूँ। यूपीए के समय में असम के अन्दर सिर्फ डिब्रूगढ़, गुवाहाटी, सिलचर, बारपेटा और तेजपुर में ही मेडिकल कॉलेजेज़ सीमित थे। 7 साल के अन्दर मोदी जी ने North-Easterners को, सारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को इस विषय पर facilitate करने के लिए, हमारे स्टूडेंट्स को शक्ति देने के लिए 8 नये मेडिकल कॉलेज स्थापित करने में सहयोग किया। Eight only in Assam and AIIMS in Guwahati. और क्या चाहिए? हमारे अलग-अलग प्रदेशों में 1,000 Health and Wellness Centres, Ayurvedic Colleges, 50-bedded, 30-bedded and 10-bedded hospitals, Herbal Gardens बने। आज इस सदन को यह जानकर खुशी होगी कि इतने सालों में आप जो नहीं कर पाये, बंगलादेश प्रोटोकॉल रूट आप खोल नहीं पाये, लेकिन मोदी जी ने जल मार्ग विकास प्रोजेक्ट के सिलसिले में बंगलादेश सरकार के साथ समझौता किया।...(व्यवधान)... Let me complete, please. ...(Interruptions)... उन्होंने बंगलादेश सरकार के साथ समझौता किया।

हमारे परम आदरणीय पीयूष गोयल जी, जो कि अभी यहां पर नहीं हैं, उनके सहयोग से, बंगलादेश सरकार के सहयोग से, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के विज़न और सहयोग से हम लोगों ने पिछली 5 फरवरी को पटना से पांडू तक 2,350 किलोमीटर, 180 metric tonne का foodgrains, cargo vessel में भेजा और नेशनल वॉटरवे-1, गंगा, नेशनल वॉटरवे-2, ब्रह्मपुत्र, through Bangladesh होकर 6 तारीख को गुवाहाटी पहुंच गया और इसके साथ ही पहली बार 2,000 metric tonne का टाटा स्टील Haldia Port से बंगलादेश होकर गुवाहाटी पहुंचा है। वापस आते समय 2,000 metric tonne कोयला लाने का काम किया गया है। इस प्रकार से पहली बार जलमार्ग विकास का कार्य दिखाई दिया है। नेशनल वॉटरवे-1, माँ गंगा, नेशनल वॉटरवे-2, पिता ब्रह्मपुत्र का जिस प्रकार से सहयोग और संयोग हुआ, इससे आने वाले दिनों में हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था मजबूत होगी, यह निश्चित है। यह मोदी जी के कारण संभव हुआ है। इतने दिनों तक within the nation सब लोग सड़क और रेलवे तक ही सीमित थे, अपने गुड्स को यहां से वहां ट्रांसपोर्ट करने के लिए, अपने बिज़नेस और excise के सिलसिले में वे सीमित थे, लेकिन अब Inland Waterways डेवलप और operational होने के कारण हमारे सारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट और पड़ोसी देश म्यांमार, भूटान, नेपाल, बंगलादेश इन सारे इलाकों में परिवर्तन आयेगा। इससे सभी लोगों को अत्यधिक फायदा होगा और विशेष रूप से हमारे किसानों का मनोबल बढ़ेगा, युवाओं को रोजगार मिलेगा। So, this is the unique achievement on the part of the hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's Government. There is no doubt about it. मैं इस विषय का, इस विभाग

का मंत्री हूँ, सिर्फ इसलिए नहीं बोल रहा हूँ, बल्कि जो हकीकत है, वह बोल रहा हूँ। उस दिन हमने जब पटना से यह शुरु किया, तो बिहार सरकार, बिहार के दो डिप्टी चीफ मिनिस्टर्स, दो भूतपूर्व केन्द्रीय मंत्री, बिहार सरकार के कैबिनेट मंत्री और हमारे आदरणीय दो-तीन विधायकगण और पटना की मेयर, इन सभी की उपस्थिति में हम लोगों ने इसे क्रियान्वित किया था। हमने जब गुवाहाटी में इसे रिसीव किया, तो उस समय हमारे असम प्रदेश के चीफ मिनिस्टर हिमंत बिश्व शर्मा, हमारे सभी सांसद और सारे अधिकारियों की उपस्थिति में हमने उसका स्वागत किया। आप लोगों को मालूम है कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में ब्रिटिशों के जमाने से सड़क व्यवस्था और रेलवे व्यवस्था नहीं थी और केवल जलमार्ग ही mode of transport हुआ करता था। आज परम आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के आशीर्वाद और सहयोग से हमने उसी इतिहास को फिर से रिपीट किया। आज वहां इतना बड़ा परिवर्तन हुआ है। आप इंडस्ट्री के क्षेत्र में देखिए, अभी एमएसएमई सेक्टर और स्टार्टअप्स में हमारे यूथ्स जिस प्रकार से आगे आये हैं और इन स्टार्टअप्स के माध्यम से उन्होंने अपनी अलग-अलग उत्पादित जो सामग्रियां हैं, उनकी value added करके देश और विदेश में मार्केट बनाने में सफलता प्राप्त की है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट अब पीछे नहीं रहा। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट इसलिए पीछे नहीं रहा क्योंकि मोदी जी ने उस पर बहुत ज्यादा ध्यान दिया, उसका आदर किया, स्नेह किया, उसे प्रमोट किया। मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि मोदी जी ने वहां के विशिष्ट व्यक्ति को पद्म अवॉर्ड देकर सारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को कोटि-कोटि प्रणाम किया है। उन्होंने हमारे दिल की धड़कन और देश की आवाज़ सुधा कंठ डा. भूपेन हजारिका जी को posthumously देश का highest civilian award 'भारत रत्न' दिया है। तो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को इतनी इज्जत देने वाले हमारे देश के प्रधान मंत्री आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी हैं, मैं उनके बारे में कितना बोलूँ! सुनते-सुनते आप लोगों के कान में दर्द हो जाएगा! आप लोग धीरज रखिए। बोलना भी होगा, सुनना भी होगा। सुनने के लिए आप सहनशक्ति बढ़ायें । इसके लिए योग कीजिए। योग के बिना सहनशक्ति नहीं बढ़ती। आप तन-मन और आत्मा को जोड़िए। हम योग टीचर भेज देंगे।

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, आपस में बात न करें। प्लीज़, कन्क्लूड।

श्री सर्वानंद सोनोवाल : असम और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के अंदर पिछले सात साल में जो शांति वापस आई है, उस शांति की वजह से ही प्रगति संभव हुई है। इस शांति व्यवस्था को कायम करने के लिए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी और हमारे देश के गृह मंत्री, अमित शाह जी ने बहुत मजबूत कदम उठाए और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोगों को साथ लिया, विश्वास में लिया, जिसकी वजह से आज पूरे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में शांति कायम है। वहाँ पर कोई खून-खराबा नहीं है। इस कारण से आज इन्वेस्टर्स का साहस दोगुना हो गया है और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में इन्वेस्ट करने के लिए उनका मनोबल बढ़ा है। शांति व्यवस्था, सुरक्षा और विकास - इन तीनों को जोड़ने का काम परम आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने किया है। इसके लिए मैं इस सदन से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को कोटि-कोटि प्रणाम करता हूँ और दिल की गहराई से आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। जो हकीकत है, मैं वही बता रहा हूँ, कोई exaggeration नहीं कर रहा हूँ...(व्यवधान)... "सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास, सबका प्रयास", इसलिए देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए आपको भी मेहनत करनी होगी, हमको भी मेहनत करनी होगी। दोनों पक्षों को साथ मिल कर मेहनत करनी होगी। इसलिए 'श्रेष्ठ

भारत' की नीति के तहत आप सब शामिल हो जाइए। मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, फिर से उपसभापति महोदय को धन्यवाद देते हुए, अपने भाषण को विराम देता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : डा. सांतनु सेन जी, आपकी पार्टी का समय खत्म हो गया है, लेकिन आप तीन-चार मिनट बोलने चाहते थे, इसलिए कृपया आप बोलें।...(व्यवधान)... डा. सांतनु सेन जी, केवल आपकी बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जा रही है, कृपया आप बोलें।...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सदस्यगण, कृपया सीट पर बैठ कर न बोलें, आपकी बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है।...(व्यवधान)... डा. सांतनु सेन जी, केवल आपकी बात ही रिकॉर्ड पर जा रही है, किसी और की बात रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जा रही है, इसलिए कृपया आप बोलें। ...(व्यवधान)... मि. हुसैन, कृपया बैठ कर टिप्पणी न करें।...(व्यवधान)...

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Respected Deputy Chairman, Sir, good evening one and all. I think the House must be appreciating the farsightedness of our learned Prime Minister who has wisely picked up the right drum beater, and that is why, he has taken away the Chief Ministership and brought our respected previous speaker here to beat the drum properly. Thank you. Now, I might be held responsible because as my previous speaker was talking about facts and figures, in the coming few minutes, by giving some facts and figures, I might bring our learned previous speaker from a manic phase to a depressive phase. I am very sorry for that. It is not me; it is the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and just see what they state. I am going to prove how the people of the North-East are living, perhaps, the worst possible unhealthy life in the North-East India. The NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals state that vector-borne diseases, tobacco-related diseases, cancers and HIV are the major concerns of the North-East Indians. They even had to face racial discrimination during this Covid pandemic. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय सदस्यगण, कृपया बैठ कर आपस में बात न करें।

DR. SANTANU SEN: The entire population is only 4.5 crore, but, unfortunately, despite beating his drum so loudly, they could not give proper health to these people. Then, it is not me; it is the WHO which has stated that Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram collectively rank first, so far as cancer cases are concerned, not only in India but in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*... The ICMR and the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, that is, NCDIR (Bengaluru) state that new cases of cancer in the North-East Indians are going to be 57,131 by 2025, which were 50,317 in 2020. Highest incident rate in male cancer patients is 269 per lakh of population in Aizawl of

Mizoram, and in female, it is 220 per lakh of population in Papumpare in Arunachal Pradesh.

6.00 P.M.

As far as tobacco related cancer is concerned, the percentage in male population is 49.3 per cent while in females, it is 22.8 per cent; half-way, and, in between, manic & depressive phases.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Santanu ji, just one minute. माननीय सदस्यगण, छः बज चुके हैं और जैसा कि माननीय चेयरमैन ने भी कहा था, जिन-जिन माननीय सदस्यों के नाम आए, बल्कि जिनकी पार्टियों का समय नहीं था, उनके भी नाम आए, हमने सबको accommodate किया, सबने अधिक बोला, इसलिए हम देर तक बैठकर इस डिबेट को पूरा करेंगे।

DR. SANTANU SEN: So far as tobacco usage is concerned, in India, the percentage of tobacco usage is less than 20 per cent but in North-East India, it is more than 55 per cent. Global Adult Tobacco Survey says that it is very alarming in North East India, especially, in Tripura, where tobacco usage is more than 65 per cent.

Non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension, all over India, the percentage is only 11.63 while in North East India, it is more that 26.5 per cent. So far as HIV is concerned, worst-affected State by HIV is Nagaland, which is in North East India.

Now, you are talking about development. Let me give you the figures regarding patients seeking treatment outside. In the case of Sikkim, it is 95.3 per cent. Sir, 95.3 per cent patients of Sikkim seek treatment outside Sikkim while in Nagaland, this is 58.1 per cent. Sir, I am glad to let you know that West Bengal is standing by the side of these affected States of North East India. Under the leadership of hon. Mamata Banerjee, we have a free scheme 'Health for All' for all the people coming from all the States of North-East India. Sir, my five humble suggestions are, namely, (1) More funds should be allocated; (2) More infrastructure needs to be built; (3) More human resource needs to be provided, (4) More number of AIIMS need to be established, and, lastly, keeping the ego aside, (5) try to adopt the West Bengal's unique health model, 'Free Health for All' for the North East States. Thank you very much, Sir.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion. Sir, as I look at the discussion today, I would say that probably I am the only Member of Parliament here who does not belong to that area but has spent six years in North East; four years in Meghalaya, Arunachal and Mizoram and two years in Sikkim, and, I have known the culture, tradition and, of course, the developmental imperatives of this region very well.

I am happy about the fact that the Budget allocation this year has gone up by 5.34 per cent and the trajectory has been maintained. There is no gainsaying and nobody would deny that North East part of India needs to be mainstreamed and it has to be done in every possible manner through connectivity, through development, through human resource and through infrastructure building. My question is whether this allocation is adequate. Let us see what is happening in the North East. Let me refer to the National Multi-dimensional Poverty Index which has been issued by NITI Aayog recently. The National Multi-dimensional Poverty Index covers almost all aspects for an inclusive development, and, across dimensions of health and hygiene, it includes indicators on child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, schooling, school attendance and almost all aspects. If you look at all these aspects, at least four North-Eastern States including Assam figure amongst the top-ten poor States of India. Sir, four North-Eastern States including Assam figure amongst the top-ten poor States of India as per this Multidimensional Poverty Index. Assam and Meghalaya are ranked 5th in the country in terms of poverty. So, there is a lot which requires to be done and the amount of allocation that is being made currently needs to be increased even further.

श्री उपसभापति: प्लीज़, आपस में बात न करें। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज़, आवाज़ न करें। ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Now, Sir, let me talk about education. Here, I would like to make some suggestions because of the energy in terms of governance, because of the energy in terms of financial resources and the commitment that is being given to the North-Eastern States by everyone present here. So, my suggestion is, our approach should be like the Aspirational Districts model which was followed in case of areas which were covered by Left Wing extremism, and we have seen that when development has taken place, the Left Wing extremism has actually declined in those areas. So, if internal security and security of the country is associated with this region, such focussed approach in converging various kinds of schemes needs to be adopted in the North-Eastern Region.

Secondly, when I was in Sikkim, I have seen that by natural agriculture practices, it is organic. They don't use chemical fertilizers. They were the first State in the country which had banned plastic from their entire State. In the craze for taking development at a very fast pace, let us remember that basic contribution of the North-East to the society is its diversity -- biological diversity, cultural diversity. All this should not be lost sight of. Therefore, this development has to be a green development. The entire approach towards development in North-East has to be green development and green infrastructure building, roadways, highways, by using green technology.

The next point is relating to the corridors. Unfortunately, despite its positional advantage, we have not been able to take advantage of its positional advantage as far as the far East is concerned, in terms of connectivity, whether it is through roadways or through people, in order to establish people-to-people contact. People-to-people contact is very important even in diplomacy. I think that is one particular area which requires more concentration. Sir, we have...

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने सारे माननीय सदस्यों से रिक्वेस्ट की है including you all कि माननीय सदस्य को सुनिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज़, माननीय सदस्यगण, आप इस डिस्कशन को सुनें।

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I will now talk about the health sector. Hon. Member, Santanu Sen, talked about it in terms of greater detail. But let me talk about access to health. Again, this is the latest report. It says that the North-Eastern Region faces the undeniable burden of infectious diseases, 29 per 1000, followed by non-communicable diseases. One-fourth of its population is not seeking any medical treatment thinking that it is not serious enough. So, the North-East actually faces a different kind of a problem. It actually requires awareness on health front and then access to quality health care. So, just providing infrastructure will probably not solve the problem for many of the areas, for the people of North-East.

My friend, Rakesh ji, was talking about his interaction there. I can tell you, Sir, I have travelled to Arunachal in 1990s and I have travelled there in 2010 to see that development has indeed taken place. People are getting benefits. But the integration of the people of North-East with the mainland population of India is yet to take place to the fullest extent. Don't we hear of students who come to Delhi being called names in Delhi itself? So, it requires a change in the mindset of people. Therefore, culturally, we have to do much more to integrate the North-East into the national mainstream.

Lastly, I would like to say that the North-East Council in its latest report has indicated certain critical areas, and they are road connectivity, rail connectivity, air connectivity, cyber and telecom connectivity, inland waterways and power. But today, when I looked at the Department-related Standing Committee on Home Affairs' Report on the DoNER Ministry, I was a little surprised that there has been a reduction of 40 per cent in 2022-23 Budget allocations for North-Eastern road projects. I will repeat this. There is a 40 per cent decline in 2022-23 Budget Estimates, that is, the current Budget Estimates compared to the last year. When we are recognizing the fact that infrastructure is important, road infrastructure is important, why is this decline? Isn't it creating a situation where we are probably paying lip service to the North-East? That is the last thing they want. I would also like to say about the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited. Handlooms and handicrafts are one of the mainstays of their rural economy. But what we find here is that in 2022-23 Budget Estimates, which is the current year's Budget Estimates, the allocation is only Rs.9.67 crore compared to Rs.15.33 crore of the last year. Our action should actually follow our words. We should not just live by words. We have to live by our actions. And if we want the Micro, Medium and Small Sectors to grow in the North-East, which would be a source of employment for those people, I would request the Government to consider increasing allocations under the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation from the current level of Rs.9.67 crore to at least a reasonable level where this entire thing can actually develop in clusters in different areas of the North-Eastern Region.

The last point, Sir, is the Fifteenth Finance Commission Report. The Fifteenth Finance Commission Report indicated that ten hill States, including the major areas of the North-Eastern Region, are in seismic zone and are landslide-prone areas. That comes in the category of very high risk for landslides and seismic activity. We all know that the lower reaches of the Himalayas are prone to seismic activity. Therefore, they had recommended National Disaster Management Fund for seismic and landslide risk reduction programme in 2020-21 with an allocation of Rs.50 crore for all the North-Eastern States. The Bureau of Indian Standards has developed a seismic map for India and that includes the North-Eastern States. I think we have to think about disaster and disaster of huge proportions and therefore take disaster mitigation measures in all our infrastructure activities that are taking place.

I have seen innumerable times while travelling from Gangtok to Siliguri at NH-5, where a major hydroelectric project is coming up, that when the road caves in, the Border Roads Organisation would come, clear the road and make a temporary road. Now this kind of situation is there because this falls under seismic zone. This is a

highly fragile region environmentally. Our development should be responsible. Our development should be green. And we should ensure that in this disaster situation the infrastructure is disaster resilient. Otherwise, the community itself will suffer. The same people for whom you are making it will suffer. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI NABAM REBIA (Arunachal Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to participate in this important discussion initiated by my good friend, Shri Ripun Bora. I wish he were in the House because he made certain misleading information. Anyhow in his speech, the hon. Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, has set things right. I am not in a position to repeat those points which many Members have made on the floor of the House. In fact, one thing which I would like to say here is that the very isolation syndrome among the youths of the North-Eastern Region has gone with the coming of this NDA Government. Earlier we, especially our youths, used to think that we don't belong to the mainstream. We belonged to unknown parts of India. अभी हम थोड़ा national mainstream से दूर हैं। हमेशा इस बारे में सोच-विचार करते हैं। That has gone now because of the constant care taken by the present Government and the personal initiative of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Why I was saying that Mr. Ripun Bora should have been here in the House is because he said that Hollongi airport was sanctioned by the Congress Government. Of course, I was also in that party. But Hollongi green airport was sanctioned and is going to be commissioned on 15th of August this year. I was the Cabinet Minister of Land Management. I know how we had to undergo so many difficulties. This Government was very prompt in getting this airport sanctioned. So, Itanagar, the State Capital of Arunachal Pradesh, is to get air connectivity by 15th of August this year, which will be inaugurated by our hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... वह sanction नहीं हुआ। केवल शिलान्यास होने से ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

श्री नबाम रेबिआ : केवल शिलान्यास करने से नहीं होगा।

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, आप चेयर को एड्रेस कीजिए।

SHRI NABAM REBIA: Yes, Sir, I am addressing the Chair only. ...*(Interruptions)*... Many allegations were made that so many schemes were sanctioned. Without proper funding from NEC, so many schemes were sanctioned. That is why, many schemes were there. For that, the present Government cannot be blamed. आप इसे याद कीजिए।

मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि केवल शिलान्यास करने से नहीं होता है। उसका proper implementation करना पड़ेगा, execution भी करना पड़ेगा।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, आप लोग आपस में बात न कीजिए।

श्री नबाम रेबिआ : रिपुन बोरा जी कहां चले गए!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

श्री नबाम रेबिआ : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपको ही एड्रेस कर रहा हूँ। As rightly said, the Ministry of DoNER was created by this NDA Government under Shri Vajpayee. My suggestion for NEC, the regional planning body, is that either you make it a very strong and effective regional planning body or else get rid of it. उसको खत्म कर दीजिए। उसको proper effective body बनाइए, proper structure बनाइए, proper accountability fix कीजिए और फंड को population basis पर distribute कीजिए। हमें infrastructure development के लिए need-based पर जाना है। Either NEC को आप dissolve कीजिए, -- directly, DoNER should look after and take over the functioning of NEC -- or make it a very, very autonomous and effective regional planning body. There is a need for comprehensive infrastructure development in border areas, especially Arunachal Pradesh. बहुत लोगों ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश के बारे में मेन्शन किया। Arunachal Pradesh is north east of North East. यह याद कीजिए। Some people probably do not know much about the North East. There are a lot of diversities. Their problems are different. Arunachal Pradesh is largest among all the States of North East. Geographically, हमारा एरिया अरुणाचल प्रदेश सबसे बड़ा है। We have several difficult problems. Under the PMGSY Scheme, which was the brainchild of Vajpayeeji, most of the interior bridges are being connected. They are approachable now. We give credit for this to the NDA Government. Bridges की length कितनी होनी चाहिए है, earlier, there were some guidelines कि bridge केवल 25 मीटर होगा, 30 मीटर होगा, इसको relax किया है। That is why, our State was getting the maximum benefit out of this relaxation. In the Budget 2022-23, under Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region, Rs.1,500 crore have been marked. That is a huge jump and a very good initiative. We must thank the hon. Prime Minister for having taken this imitative and we hope that we would get the maximum benefit out of it.

हमारा inter-State जो बॉर्डर डिस्प्यूट है, it is a big problem. With the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister, -- Arunachal has border problem with Assam and Assam has border problem with all other States of the

region -- the intervention of the Centre and their initiative, we are hoping that from next month, that is, from April, the negotiation would start, and this long-pending problem would also be resolved amicably. I would like to suggest to the Ministry of DoNER that whatever scheme you take up for the North-East Region, employment generation-oriented scheme should be undertaken. Our State, Arunachal Pradesh, has the largest area but we have the least population among all the States of North East. They have unemployment problem, maybe, because of inherent planning mistake. Inherent planning defect के कारण unemployment problem हो रही है। Certain good projects could be taken up there, some good industry could come. Like now in power sector -- everybody knows that Arunachal Pradesh would be the future power-house of India -- NEEPCO has been able to successfully commission some power projects in Arunachal Pradesh like Kameng, Pare, Ranganadi etc. Many more projects are likely to be commissioned. Many more projects are being executed by NEEPCO, NHPC and other power developers. In one of the meetings, I have also requested the Ministry to see that NEEPCO headquarters is established in Arunachal Pradesh. अरुणाचल में सब उनके प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं। If not headquarters, at least, the regional office or a major office should be set up in Arunachal Pradesh. Now, a number of projects of NEEPCO are in the pipeline. These are to be executed by NEEPCO for which MoU has been signed with the State Government. All other power developers like NHPC, NTPC, whosoever it may be, if they could come and have their offices established in Arunachal Pradesh, that would be good. That would help to generate heavy revenues for the State and revenues for the country also. Our local youth would also get employment avenues there. आज हमें दिखाई देता है; in the present Government, we are really seeing the changes.

Sir, I mean the transparencies that are there. हमारे यहां सेंटर में जैसा है, वैसा ही हमारी स्टेट में है। अब पारदर्शिता सबको दिखाई देती है कि क्या हो रहा है? This is the difference we are seeing. It is corruption free. पहले जैसा - साहब, बुरा मत मानिए, without being prejudiced to anybody, I am saying one thing that पहले अरुणाचल प्रदेश से कोई चीफ मिनिस्टर या कोई मंत्री दिल्ली में किसी केन्द्रीय मंत्री से मिलने के लिए आते थे, तो उनको सप्ताह भर तक बैठना पड़ता था, उनको अपॉइंटमेंट नहीं मिलता था। वे महीना भर भी बैठते थे। Now, मंत्री लोग, गवर्नमेंट लोगों के डोर पर पहुंच गये हैं, रोज आते हैं, हर समय आते हैं। हम लोग भी बड़े बोर हो जाते हैं कि किस-किस को रिसीव करें। This is really the change that we are able to see. This is the परिवर्तन that we are able to see. That is why, आप जो भी कहें, कुछ भी कहें, people of Arunachal या आप, especially, the people living in the interior तो सब कहते हैं, मोदी। वे मोदी जी का नाम लेते हैं। So, this is the change we are able to see in this Government. We have a very competent enterprising Minister, the Minister in charge of DoNER. Hopefully, under his leadership and under the

leadership of our Prime Minister, the North-Eastern Region should rise and become one of the most developed regions in the country. Thank you very much.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

Regarding extension of time for presentation of the Report on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 14th March, 2022, has adopted the following motion regarding further extension of time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021: -

MOTION

"That this House do extend upto the 03 June, 2022, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021."

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय मंत्री जी का जवाब कल होगा। The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 hours on Tuesday, the 15th March, 2022.

The House then adjourned at twenty-eight minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 15th March, 2022.

