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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)

(PART-II)

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 11th August, 2023/20 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

FELICITATIONS TO THE HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN ON COMPLETING ONE YEAR IN THE OFFICE AND OTHER ISSUES

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Hon. Chairman, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the entire House, I would like to compliment you on completing one year as the Vice-President of India and for the astute leadership that you have given to our House, to Parliament. You have brought dignity and grace to the second highest constitutional position in this country and truly helped bring about a lot of improvements, a lot of changes with your legal acumen on the conduct and proceedings of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Leader of the House, please... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: This is something in which we are all one. ...*(Interruptions)*... I speak on behalf of all sides. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sure all of us will agree with that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I just want a minute more. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you come from a farmer's family. ...*(Interruptions)*... सर, आपने किसान परिवार से आकर एक धरती पुत्र के नाते अपनी humility से, अपने सरल स्वभाव के व्यक्तित्व और कार्यशैली से हमारा मार्गदर्शन किया। साथ ही साथ, आपकी कानून के ऊपर जो पकड़ है, उस कानून की समझ को आपने हम सबको सिखाया और हम सबको भी आगे समझने का मौका दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am humbled. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री पीयूष गोयल: इसके लिए मैं आपको बधाई देता हूँ और इस हाउस की ओर से धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri V. Muraleedharan. ...*(Interruptions)*... One Second.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे): सर, लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस ने आपका एक साल कम्प्लीट होने के लिए आपको बधाई दी। वे अगर हम सबको भी कह देते तो हम सभी मिलकर इस पर चार बातें कर सकते थे। लेकिन यही बहुत बड़ी मुश्किल है, बगैर बात किए ये सब वन-वे करते हैं, तो करने दें, हम भी उसमें शरीक होते हैं और जुड़ते हैं। यह एक बात है।

सर, दूसरी बात यह कि मेरी आपसे विनती है कि आप मेरा माइक जल्दी बन्द मत कीजिए, क्योंकि आज लास्ट डे है। इस सदन से छः लोगों को सस्पेंड किया गया और प्रिविलेज कमिटी को रेफर किया गया *...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: संविधान में दोनों हाउस हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक हाउस नहीं है, दोनों हाउस हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: At least on the last day...*(Interruptions)*... Let us listen to the Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can tell you this. During this one year, if I have learnt maximum, I have learnt it from the Leader of the Opposition and the senior leaders. In my Chamber, they have been a source of enlightenment. I plead with you. It is a very embarrassing moment for me. As Governor also, for three years, I never came out with any document for six months, one year, two years, etc. I don't comment whether it is advisable or not. I feel humbled and embarrassed. But please listen to the Leader of the Opposition with full attention. Let us set a good example. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...*(Interruptions)*... Harnath ji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Anyone out of track may be named by me. ...*(Interruptions)*... I may have to name...*(Interruptions)*... The Leader of the House, I may have to name your Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव: सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I may have to name the Member. ...(*Interruptions*).. No. ...(*Interruptions*)... We will hear the Leader of the Opposition irrespective of the situation that what he says may not be generally palatable to all. Please, I am sure you would bear this in mind that it is the last day. Help me that we all part way with a good resolution.

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: सभापति महोदय, हम इस बात में विश्वास करते हैं कि

*"काल करे सो आज कर, आज करे सो अब।
पल में परलय होगी, बहुरि करेगा कबा।"*

हमारी नीति यह है कि सब जल्दी और टाइम पर होना चाहिए। सर, लोकतंत्र में डिबेट के दौरान छोटे-मोटे विषय आते हैं, मेम्बर्स एक-दूसरे के बारे में कुछ कहते हैं, अगर वह बहुत unparliamentary है और वह किसी को बहुत दुखी करता है, तो उस वक्त आप कह सकते हैं कि यह unparliamentary है, यह ठीक नहीं है। *...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It happened there, Sir.(*Interruptions*)... It happened in the other House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Other House! ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I am pleading with you, as Vice President of India and Chairman of this House, you have to protect the democracy. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will react. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will react. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You have to. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: * ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे : *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... ठीक है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Papers to be laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... It is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V. Muraleedharan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, this House unanimously ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, please let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, we ask you to send the message ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V. Muraleedharan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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, can I have one minute before the Papers are laid on the Table? ...*(Interruptions)*...

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री; तथा श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव): सर, यह कहना जरूरी है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called for Papers to be laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: That is correct and I agree with that, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: But you have to delete.....*(Interruptions)*... You have to expunge these remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*... These remarks are.....*(Interruptions)*...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, it is not the convention of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, please examine the record and delete these remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: The convention of this House is that the conduct of the other House is not at all discussed in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition have to be examined and expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: And it should be censored also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V. Muraleedharan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, no rule... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Yes, rule is there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2021-22) of NMPPB, New Delhi and related Papers

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

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22, together with the Auditor's

Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9978/17/23]

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

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे): महोदय, मैं आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (6) के अधीन विशिष्ट खाद्य पदार्थों पर लाइसेंसी अपेक्षाएं, स्टॉक सीमाएं और संचलन प्रतिबंध हटाना (संशोधन) आदेश, 2023 को प्रकाशित करने वाली उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय (उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग) की अधिसूचना सं. का.आ. 2423 (अ) दिनांक 2 जून, 2023 की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9950/17/23]

I. MoUs (2023-24 and 2024-25) between the Government of India and AYCL

II. MoU (2023-24) between the Government of India and BHEL, New Delhi

भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण पाल): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and the Andrew Yule & Company Limited (AYCL), for the year 2023-24.
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and the Andrew Yule & Company Limited (AYCL), for the year 2024-25.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24.

[Placed in Library. For I and II, See No. L.T. 9922/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति): महोदय, मैं खाद्य निगम अधिनियम, 1964 की धारा 45 की उप-धारा (5) के अधीन उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय (खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग) की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ :-

- (1) No. E.P.1(7)/2015, dated the 3rd June, 2022, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (.....Amendment) Regulations, 2022, along with delay statement.
- (2) No. 1(7)/2015, dated the 3rd August, 2022, publishing a Corrigendum to the Notification No. E.P.1(7)/2015, dated the 3rd June, 2022, along with delay statement.
- (3) No. 1(7)/2015, dated the 20th December, 2022, publishing a Corrigendum (in Hindi only) to the Notification No. 1(7)/2015, dated the 3rd August, 2022, along with delay statement.
- (4) E.P.1(7)/2015, dated the 26th May, 2023, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) See No. L.T. 10056/17/23]

Notification of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान): महोदय, मैं पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरता का निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 की धारा 38क के अधीन पशु जन्म नियंत्रण नियम, 2023 को प्रकाशित करने वाली मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय (पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग) की अधिसूचना सं. सा.का.नि. 193 (अ), दिनांक 16 मार्च, 2023 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10057/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नित्यानन्द राय): महोदय, मैं भारतीय भूमि पत्तन प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, 2010 की धारा 36 के अधीन गृह मंत्रालय की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

- (1) S.O. 2409 (E), dated the 2nd June, 2023, constituting the Land Ports Authority of India.

- (2) S.O. 2410 (E), dated the 2nd June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Rupaidiha, District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, as Integrated Check Post.
- (3) S.O. 2695 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Sutarkandi, District Karimganj, Assam, as integrated check post.
- (4) S.O. 2696 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Srimantapur, District Sepahijala, Tripura, as integrated check post.
- (5) S.O. 2697 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Sabroom, District South Tripura, as integrated check post.
- (6) S.O. 2698 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Raxaul, District East Champaran, Bihar, as integrated check post.
- (7) S.O. 2699 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Petrapole, District 24 Parganas, West Bengal, as integrated check post.
- (8) S.O. 2700 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Jogbani, District Araria, Bihar, as integrated check post.
- (9) S.O. 2701 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Moreh, District Tengnoupal, Manipur, as integrated check post.
- (10) S.O. 2702 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Dera Baba Nanak, District Gurdaspur, Punjab, as integrated check post.
- (11) S.O. 2703 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Agartala, District West Tripura, Tripura, as integrated check post.
- (12) S.O. 2704 (E), dated the 20th June, 2023, specifying the Land Port at Attari, District Amritsar, Punjab, as integrated check post.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (12) See No. L.T. 9951/17/23]

Reports and Accounts (2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22) of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Srinagar and Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

(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:-

- (i) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Srinagar, Kashmir, for the year 2019-20,

together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

(ii) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Srinagar, Kashmir, 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. For (i) and (ii) See No. L.T. 9935/17/23]

(iii) (a) Sixtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the year 2021-22, 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.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9934/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PARKASH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), issued under Section 16 read with sub-section (3) of Section 25 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016:-

- (1) S.O. 1431 (E), dated the 27th March, 2023, publishing the Safety Glass (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2023.
- (2) S.O. 2986 (E), dated the 6th July, 2023, publishing the Flame- Producing Lighters (Quality Control) Order, 2023.
- (3) S.O. 2988 (E), dated the 6th July, 2023, publishing the Potable Water Bottles (Quality Control) Order, 2023.
- (4) S.O. 3139 (E), dated the 14th July, 2023, publishing the Resin treated compressed wood laminates (Quality Control) Order, 2023.

- (5) S.O. 3140 (E), dated the 14th July, 2023, publishing the Insulated Flask, Bottles and Containers for Domestic Use (Quality Control) Order, 2023.
- (6) S.O. 5850 (E), dated the 14th December, 2022, publishing the Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2022, along with Delay Statement.
- (7) S.O. 5972 (E), dated the 21st December, 2022, publishing the Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressors and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2022, along with Delay Statement.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (7) See No. L.T. 9955/17/23]

Report (2021-22) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal and related papers

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कैलाश चौधरी): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2021-22.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(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. 9936/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कौशल किशोर): महोदय, मैं दिल्ली नागरी कला आयोग अधिनियम, 1973 की धारा 27 की उप-धारा (2) के अधीन आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं तथा विलंब संबंधी विवरण की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (1) No. 1(1)/76-DUAC, dated the 19th July, 1986, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission Employees Contributory Provident Fund (Amendment) Regulations, 1986.

- (2) No. 3(8)/86-DUAC, dated the 15th April, 1989, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission Senior Personal Assistant (Recruitment) (Amendment) Regulations, 1989.
- (3) No. 3(8)/86-DUAC, dated the 15th April, 1989, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Ministerial and Non-Ministerial posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Regulations, 1989.
- (4) No. 3(8)/90-DUAC, dated the 3rd August, 1991, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission Assistant Secretary (Technical) Recruitment Regulations, 1991.
- (5) No. 1(1)/87-DUAC, dated the 23rd October, 1993, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1993.
- (6) No. 3(8)/86-DUAC, dated the 23rd October, 1993, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Ministerial and Non-Ministerial posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Regulations, 1993.
- (7) No. 1(1)/87-DUAC, dated the 14th March, 1998, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Regulations, 1998.
- (8) No. 1(1)/87-DUAC, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Regulations, 2013, in the weekly Gazette dated the 10th August - 16th August, 2013.
- (9) No. 9(2)/2019-DUAC, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission Employee's (Group Pension Scheme) Regulations, 2020, in the weekly Gazette dated the 28th March - 3rd April, 2020.
- (10) No. 9(1)/2020-DUAC, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission Employee's Provident Fund Regulations, 2020, in the weekly Gazette dated the 28th March - 3rd April, 2020.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (10) See No. L.T. 9972/17/23]

Report and Accounts (2021-22) of NCUI, New Delhi and related papers

सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बी .एल .वर्मा): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (a) Annual Report of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9991/17/23]

Notification of the Ministry of Communications

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. RP-4/16/(24)/2021-QoS., dated the 25th July, 2023, publishing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9958/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under Section 58 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019:-

- (1) No. U-11022/4/2022-UGMEB, dated the 14th December, 2022, publishing the Establishment of Medical College Regulations, (Amendment), 2022 along with Delay Statement.
- (2) No. C-19011/06/2022/NMC/Coord., dated the 3rd April, 2023, publishing the Teachers Eligibility Qualifications in Medical Institutions Regulations, (Amendment), 2023.
- (3) No. R.15021/04/2022-EMRB-Reg., dated the 12th May, 2023, publishing the Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine Regulations, 2023.
- (4) No. M-27011/01/2023-MARB, dated the 2nd June, 2023 publishing the Establishment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats for Existing Courses and Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023.

- (5) No. U-14021-8-2023-UGMEB, dated the 2nd June, 2023, publishing the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023.
- (6) No.U.14021-8-2023-UGMEB, dated the 19th June, 2023 publishing a Corrigendum to the Notification No. U-14021-8-2023-UGMEB, dated the 2nd June, 2023.
- (7) No. CDN-19012/15/2022/Coord NMC, dated the 28th June, 2023, publishing the NMC, National Exit Test Regulations, 2023.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (7) See No. L.T. 9990/17/23]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Ayush

II. Reports and Accounts (2021-22) of NCISM, New Delhi and NCW, New Delhi and related papers

III. Report and Accounts (2021-22) of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH (DR. MUNJAPARA MAHENDRABHAI),: Sir, I lay on the Table:-

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Ayush Notification No. G.S.R. 561 (E), dated the 27th July, 2023, publishing the National Commission for Homoeopathy (Submission of List of the Homoeopathy Practitioners) Amendment Rules, 2023, under Section 56 of the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9975 /17/23]

II. (i)(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 42 and sub-section (4) of Section 41 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act (NCISM), 2020:-

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

(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. 9976 /17/23]

(ii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 14 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Commission.

(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. 9973 /17/23]

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

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for the year 2021-22, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9974 /17/23]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह तोमर): महोदय, मैं 'एनआईसीआरए की मुख्य विशेषताएं' के संबंध में 5 अगस्त, 2022 को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न सं. 221 के दिए गए उत्तर के संशोधनार्थ एक वक्तव्य (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 171st Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA

SINGH PATEL): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 171st Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on "Issue Affecting the Indian Tea Industry especially in Darjeeling Region" pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

FAREWELL TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir,... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Farewell Address to Retiring Members... *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Members, as you may be aware,... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, before that, *...(Interruptions)...* That is a very emotional one... *...(Interruptions)...* Please. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: After the farewell address, please.. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, that is very emotional one and everyone wants... *...(Interruptions)...* Before that, kindly give me... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I give the floor to Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the issue?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I would just like to mention three bullet points and nothing much to elaborate. *...(Interruptions)...* On the point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition in March, you gave a ruling in April in the last Session that anything can be discussed and any person can be referred to on the floor of the House. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am fully alive to it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: So, Sir, when Shri Muraleedharan mentioned LoP's observation
* ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Number two, Sir, is... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, one second. ...(*Interruptions*)... You have raised a point of
order and I will give my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)... Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Number two, Sir, is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...(*Interruptions*)... No. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, yesterday.... ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, it is very, very
important. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tiruchi Siva, farewell to hon. Members...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Being the last day,.... ...(*Interruptions*)... Yes, we are here...
...(*Interruptions*)... We have got your point. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have reserved my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I know the importance of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have reserved my ruling.
...(*Interruptions*)... On a point of order which the hon. LoP raised and which you
have reiterated, you will get my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, pertaining to that, it has to be transparent.
...(*Interruptions*)... We shall take it with emotions. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is it?

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We will join with them. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, number two is, yesterday, my notice under Rule 167,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will come to that later on. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is the next one. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: One moment,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: After this, it is coming. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: You can read with Rule 168. ...*(Interruptions)*... I gave it in writing because otherwise you may find fault with that. Now that, yesterday, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you, Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, we waited all day yesterday but till morning, we didn't receive any communication from the Government's side. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Tiruchiji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: So, we are prepared for a discussion and they are not. ...*(Interruptions)*... Number three is about privilege motion. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have my experience of four terms here. ...*(Interruptions)*... †

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have understood. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, now, it is unfair on your part. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: †

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO (Uttar Pradesh): Sir,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

† Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; declined. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Hon. Members, as you may be aware, nine of our colleagues, who have been our part... ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, Jiramji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nine of our colleagues from the States of Gujarat and West Bengal, namely, Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbai Anavadiya, Shri Jugalsinh Lokhandwala, Shri S. Jaishankar, Shri Derek O' Brien, Ms. Dola Sen, Shri P. Bhattacharya, Shrimati Shanta Chhetri, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Ms. Sushmita Dev, will be retiring on the 18th of August, 2023, on completion of their term of office.

Four of the retiring Members, Shri S. Jaishankar, Shri Derek O' Brien, Ms. Dola Sen and Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, have been re-elected. Our congratulations to them on being re-elected. With their experience, they will bring on the table a greater commitment and direction. We will have continued contribution of their experience, talent, intellect and sagacity in the House.

The House may be missing other five retiring Members, who have made rich and significant contributions to the proceedings of the House during the course of their tenure. I am sure, they would cherish the unique honour of their association with this House and would continue with their contribution to the nation at large. I will, personally, urge the retiring Members to maintain live contact with Members, with whom they have spent major part in the House.

Shrimati Shanta Chhetri became a Member of Rajya Sabha in 2017 by getting elected unopposed from the State of West Bengal. She also served as a Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly for three terms. A post-graduate in Commerce from North Bengal University, she is an ardent advocate of women empowerment both inside and outside the House. She has raised the issues affecting the gender divide and development of North-Eastern region on numerous occasions in the House. Her absence would be felt by us all.

Shri P. Bhattacharya, a distinguished personality in Indian politics, became a Member of Rajya Sabha in 2011. An educationist by passion and profession, he brought with him vast legislative experience into the House. He has served as a Member of Legislative Assembly of West Bengal from 1972-1977 and that of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996-97. The present term is his second term in the Rajya Sabha. He has also served as the Chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs. He is actively engaged in various intellectual pursuits outside the House and also inside, including being a part of Asiatic Society. Asiatic Society, hon. Members, is a mother institution. There is no institution in the country older than that. His wise counsel would surely be missed by all of us, but we are confident that he will continue to impart it through the hon. Members.

Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbhai Anavadiya has been a Member of this august House since February, 2021. He has made significant contributions to the deliberations of the House by raising issues of regional and national importance from time to time. He also takes keen interest in Kabaddi, --surely, we should keep Kabaddi out of the House--gardening and Navratri celebrations. He was also the Director, Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. He is a committed and public spirited citizen.

Shri Jugalsinh Lokhandwala was elected to this august House in July, 2019. During his tenure, he brought attention on various crucial issues concerning cultural heritage, digitization of manuscripts, a very important aspect, health awareness and promotion of sports in the country.

An avid social worker himself, he carried forward the commendable initiatives initiated by his late father, Shri Mathurji Lokhandwala. He was also the Director of Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited. He takes keen interest in tennis, badminton and singing.

Ms. Sushmita Dev, Barrister by profession, is an alumna of Delhi University, Thames Valley University, London and King's College, one of the most reputed institutions in the world. Ms. Sushmita Dev was elected unopposed to the Upper House in September, 2021. Prior to this, she was a Member of 16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019) from Silchar, Assam. She had also been a former Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Coming from a political background, her father, late Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, had served the country as Cabinet Minister and Lok Sabha Member for seven terms including the 9th Lok Sabha. I make particular reference to 9th Lok Sabha because during this period, I had the occasion, as a Member of the 9th Lok Sabha, of sharing the floor with him, getting his guidance, and he was a strict disciplinarian. He would walk up to me and tell me that scrupulous adherence to conduct in the House is non-compromising, that as junior Minister, I have to be in obedience of one and all. I was junior Parliamentary Affairs Minister then. Her grandfather, Shri Satindra Mohan Dev, was a renowned freedom fighter.

Hon. Members, retirement from the Rajya Sabha is just a transitory phase, and I can tell you that. I came to this House about 30 years ago as a Minister; I am back. So, it is transitory. While it is painful to say goodbye, we must also celebrate the impact these Members have had through their effective participation in debates and discussions on the floor of the House. May their journey ahead be as fulfilling and impressive as their time in Parliament! To our retiring Members, I thank you for being an integral part of the journey of Bharat's democracy. Your presence will surely be

missed, but your impact will forever be felt. I wish you good health, happiness and fruitful years in the service of the nation.

Hon. Members, in nation-building, former Members of Parliament, indeed, have a significant role to play. They constitute experienced think-tank and, I am sure, they will continue to be so engaged to serve the nation in their capacity as well. Now, the Leader of the Opposition, on this point; on farewell to retiring Members.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे): सभापति महोदय, आज जो मेम्बर्स रिटायर हो रहे हैं, वे हमसे दूर नहीं रहेंगे, क्योंकि पॉलिटिक्स में ऐसा होता है कि थोड़े दिन के लिए यदि वे हमसे अलग भी रहें, हमसे दूर भी रहें, तो दूसरी दफा फिर से मिलने का चांस रहता है। लेकिन आपको और मुझे उनसे मिलने का चांस मिलेगा या नहीं - यह सोचने वाली बात है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: यह नहीं पता है।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: क्योंकि उम्र के लिहाज़ से हमें सोचना चाहिए। जो मेम्बर्स यहाँ आते हैं, वे अपने विचार और अपनी एक विचारधारा को लेकर इस सदन में आते हैं। लेकिन अगर उन्हें अपनी बात रखने के लिए समय नहीं मिल सकता, अपने दिल की बात या अपने एरिया की बात या जिस स्टेट से वे आते हैं ..**(व्यवधान)**..

श्री सभापति: एक दिल की बात होती है और दूसरी मन की बात होती है, लेकिन दोनों बातें कहने का अवसर मिलना चाहिए।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: मन की बात तो मोदी साहब करते हैं, मैं दिल की बात करता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: 'मन की बात दिल से' - यह मीटिंग ग्राउंड है।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: सर नहीं, 'मन' अलग है और 'दिल' अलग है।

श्री सभापति: कभी तो आप मुझे प्वाइंट स्कोर करने का मौका दें।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: नहीं, आप हमेशा प्वाइंट स्कोर करते हैं, लेकिन कभी-कभी ऐसा होता है कि जब मणिपुर जैसा इश्यू आता है, तो वह हमें और आपको ज़रा अलग कर देता है। आप उधर ज्यादा देखते हैं, इधर नहीं देखते हैं, वही मुश्किल होती है। ठीक है, लेकिन जो मेम्बर्स रिटायर होते हैं, वे थोड़े समय के लिए रिटायर होते हैं। वे वापस जाकर फिर से सामाजिक कार्य करते हैं। बहुत से मेम्बर्स बहुत पढ़े-लिखे हैं, कोई ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ा है, कोई बैरिस्टर है, कोई अपने स्पोर्ट्स में एक्सपर्ट है - ऐसे सभी लोग यहाँ पर आए हैं। उनमें से बहुत से यंग लोग भी हैं। इसलिए मैं यही अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि वे समाज की सेवा करें और वे जिन विचारधारा पर विश्वास

रखते हैं, उस विचारधारा पर चलने की पूरी कोशिश करें, तभी देश को भी कुछ लाभ होगा। हम यह अपेक्षा करते हैं कि वे जिस सामाजिक कार्य में जुटे हुए हैं, वे हमेशा उस मार्ग पर चलते रहेंगे और फिर इस सदन में आकर, चाहे यह सदन हो या वह सदन हो, अगर वे फिर यहाँ आ गए, तो निश्चित रूप से इससे समाज को भी एक बहुत बड़ा फायदा होगा और उनकी वजह से समाज में एक अच्छा वातावरण भी पैदा होगा।

इसलिए मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से और अपने नेताओं की तरफ से यही कहूँगा कि जो लोग रिटायर हो रहे हैं, वे परमानेंटली रिटायर नहीं हो रहे हैं। वे गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट नहीं हैं। मुझे कभी-कभी अजीब लगता है कि कई लोग कहते हैं कि हम रिटायर हो गए। क्या आप पॉलिटिक्स में रिटायर होने के लिए आए हैं? पॉलिटिक्स में तो आप अपने उसूलों को, अपनी आइडियोलॉजी को सतत जीवित रखने के लिए आते हैं। लेकिन मैं बहुत से नेताओं को यह कहते हुए सुनता हूँ कि नहीं भाई, अब हम रिटायर हो गए हैं। फिर क्या आप यहाँ सर्विस करने आए थे? क्या यह गवर्नमेंट सर्विस थी? यह तो आपकी लाइफलाँग सर्विस है। इसलिए मैं यही अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि वे अच्छे लोग हैं तथा वे आगे और भी काम करके दिखाएँगे और देश का मार्गदर्शन करते रहेंगे। यह मेरी विनती है।

श्री सभापति: अब लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस।

सभा के नेता (श्री पीयूष गोयल): माननीय सभापति महोदय, जुदाई हो, विदाई हो, उसमें किसी को भी अच्छा नहीं लगता है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह एक सेलिब्रेशन का भी मौका है। हम अपने कार्यकाल को रिफ्लेक्ट करते हैं। अलग-अलग माननीय सदस्यों ने बहुत सारा योगदान दिया है। उन्होंने कई डिबेट्स में पार्टिसिपेट किया है, कई भाषण दिए हैं, कई प्रश्न, कई ज्वलंत विषय उठाए हैं। अलग-अलग रिफ्लेक्शन देकर सदस्य यहाँ से निवृत्त होते हैं, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि सभी राजनीतिक व्यक्ति हैं और सबको उनकी पार्टियाँ अलग-अलग जिम्मेदारियाँ देती हैं। हमारे यहाँ पर भी लगातार यह चर्निंग प्रोसेस रहता है कि व्यक्ति कभी सरकार में आता है, कभी सदन में आता है, कभी पार्टी की रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी लेता है। इस प्रकार से व्यक्ति का भी निर्माण होता है और साथ ही साथ देश की सेवा के लिए अन्य-अन्य तरीकों से राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ताओं को मौका मिलता है।

मैं सभी माननीय सांसदों को बधाई देना चाहूँगा, जिन्होंने इतने वर्ष देश की सेवा में सदन में योगदान दिया। मैं श्री एस. जयशंकर जी का विशेष आभार व्यक्त करना चाहूँगा, वैसे तो वे वापिस चुन कर आ भी गए हैं, लेकिन इतने छोटे कार्यकाल में, उनका जो 4 साल का कार्यकाल रहा, उस 4 साल में माननीय जयशंकर जी ने सिर्फ सदन की ही गरिमा नहीं बढ़ाई, बल्कि आज पूरे विश्व में जिस प्रकार से भारत का नाम और सम्मान बना है, जिस प्रकार से वे तीव्रता से भारत की बात रखते हैं, ...(व्यवधान)...

जिस प्रकार से पूरे विश्व में आज भारत के विदेश मंत्री की एक अलग ही प्रकार की पहचान बनी है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्नाटक): सर, ये यहां भी राजनीति कर रहे हैं, यह क्या है!

श्री पीयूष गोयल: मैं समझता हूँ कि वे संसद में एक ...**(व्यवधान)**... I am coming to others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please... ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री पीयूष गोयल: सर, और लोगों को भी सदन में चर्चा करने का मौका...**(व्यवधान)**... यह दुर्भाग्य है कि 'celebrating somebody's contribution to the country' की बात पर इनको दुख हो रहा है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, while the Leader of the House has reflected on a particular Member, I share your sentiments. Every Member in the House, who is retiring and who could have retired but is continuing because of re-election, has made significant contributions, and those who get the opportunity of being a Minister have a different kind of performance; we are proud of them. But, we are equally proud of the Members who didn't have the occasion because their party is not in power. So, the implication of the Leader of the House is not a reflection on other Members. For example, there are many heated moments; there are many moments where from the Chair, I reflect differently. But, I know that the Members before me are very, very talented. Take the case of Sushmita Dev; I have highest respects for her. So, I would not look at a particular moment but I would see her credentials in King's College, the kind of contributions she has made, the kind of lineage she has for three generations! If you look at Mr. N.D. Gupta, he had been the President of Chartered Accountants' Association. His son has been the President. If I look at Mr. Pathak, Jairam Ramesh, everyone, ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: How are they assuming that I was not making a mention of contribution of other Members? It is so sad! ...**(Interruptions)**... It is so sad that they are assuming that I would not mention about the other Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All I can say is that the Leader of the House, over a period of one year that I have interacted with him, as a matter of fact, he can suffer an allegation that he is more in connect with the Members of Parliament to my right side ...**(Interruptions)**... So, please conclude.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Dr. Jaishankar has truly made the country proud across the world, particularly in the very trying circumstances during the Ukraine crisis, the way he brought back our students, which all of us, the Members, have witnessed. Derek

has been a friend; we came into Parliament around the same time, if I remember correctly, or a year or two apart. Over the years, we worked together; we both, in the Opposition, worked for different parties, but with a lot of floor coordination as Opposition Members. Despite some of his very different views, I think, the national spirit that all the retiring Members have reflected at different points of time, the 'nation first' philosophy, which all the Members will agree with me, is important. It has been the overarching framework in which Members of Parliament have worked. सुष्मिता बहन ने लोक सभा में भी काम किया था और यहां भी काम किया है। श्री राय जी ने उपसभाध्यक्ष के तौर पर, आसन से पूरे सेशन की प्रोसीडिंग्स को कंडक्ट किया। हमारे गुजरात के दो एमपीज़ और पश्चिमी बंगाल के माननीय सदस्य, इन सभी ने राजनीतिक जीवन में भी अपना प्रभाव रखा है और सामाजिक जीवन में भी इन सबका बड़ा योगदान रहा है। बहन दोला सेन और मेरा व्यक्तिगत सम्बन्ध इसलिए भी है, क्योंकि वे टेक्सटाइल्स कमिटी में मुझे बहुत अच्छे सुझाव भी देती हैं और चेम्बर के अंदर आने से भी रोकती हैं। हाउस में हर प्रकार के अनुभव और हर प्रकार के विषय होते हैं, लेकिन मित्रता कभी खराब नहीं होनी चाहिए, सम्बन्ध कभी बिगड़ने नहीं चाहिए। हममें आपस में मतभेद हो सकता है पर मैं समझता हूं कि इस सदन में, किसी के साथ किसी का भी 'मनभेद' नहीं होना चाहिए, यही इस सदन और पार्लियामेंट की गरिमा का सबसे अच्छा उदाहरण है, सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि है। जो माननीय सदस्य रिटायर होने जा रहे हैं, उन सभी को मेरी बहुत शुभकामनाएं।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): सर, यह बड़ा ही गम्भीर मूमेंट है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. I have taken note of it. I will indicate who has to speak. I missed a point, let me say it. Hon. Members, I recollect one particular instance with Ms. Dola Sen, I recollect a particular moment as the Governor of West Bengal. I got a request that a delegation of Members of Parliament, including Ms. Dola Sen, wanted an audience with me.

I immediately granted audience. We had a very frank discussion. And, when things get very frank, the vocal cord gets more active. So, my security outside was equally worried as to what was happening inside. My ADC came to the room and asked me whether everything was alright. That scene in the Raj Bhawan was a minor incident, but this one, I have seen! But, contributions have been immense intellectually. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आपका प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, आपने मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर परमिट किया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Neerajji, I first saw Mr. Pramod Tiwari. He caught the eyes of the Chairman before anyone else could. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, मैं आपसे बहुत विनम्रता से कहना चाहता हूँ कि सदन परम्पराओं से चलता है, नियमावली के तहत हम कार्रवाई करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, यह पुरानी परम्परा रही है ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह पुरानी परम्परा रही है कि जब कभी सम्मानित सदस्यों की विदाई होती है - आपने बड़े अच्छे शब्द बोले, बड़े चुन-चुन कर शब्द बोले, परन्तु यह परम्परा रही है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी सदस्यों की विदाई के समय मौजूद रहते हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह कई बार की परम्परा है और यह पुराने समय से चली आ रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसलिए आज तो उनको बुला लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आज तो उनको बुला लीजिए। इस तरह राज्य सभा का अपमान नहीं करें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena, what is your point of order?

डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है *

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is declined. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, Mr. Derek, don't do it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow leaders of other parties to speak on retiring Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Piyush Goyal, ...*(Interruptions)*... Only Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Siva, Please speak only on retiring Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are required to express our sentiments only on retiring Members. Trust me, hon. Members, when you express sentiments for Members who are retiring, you are addressing a very large segment of retiring Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Not recorded.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...(Interruptions)... आप बोलिए।
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I am speaking on 'farewell to retiring Members'.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... बैठिए, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... श्री तिरुची शिवा, आप
बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Tiruchi Siva.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I am speaking on 'Farewell to retiring Members'.
...(Interruptions)... What is this? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tiruchi Siva, please address the Chair if you want to speak.
Otherwise, I will call the next speaker. ...(Interruptions)... Address the Chair.
...(Interruptions)...

The House is adjourned to meet at 12 noon today.

The House then adjourned at forty minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I will give opportunity to the floor leaders to reflect
on the retiring Members, and then give some time to the retiring Members to express
their sentiments. After that, we will take up the Business of the House. Now, Shri
Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, parting is always painful. We do not want some things to
happen, but they happen because of some circumstances; farewell is one such
occasion. Out of the Members who are retiring today, my dear friends, Shri Derek
O'Brien, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Ms. Dola Sen, and the hon. Minister, Shri S.
Jaishankar, will return to the House and work with us. Then, we have Ms. Sushmita
Dev, whom you have appreciated very much -- of course, she deserves that -- I am

very happy to say that when her father, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, was the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I was in the Lok Sabha, and I had a very great time working with him. She reflects his character in many ways, the way she articulates, the depth of her speech, and, of course, the other things which we need as Opposition; everything she qualifies. So, she will return to the Lok Sabha. So also Shrimati Shanta Chhetri; she has a remarkable track record. She is very cool and silent but she makes very important and appreciable deliberations in the House. Also, Shri P. Bhattacharya, whom we can not forget. He had been the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committees; he is also a silent person. Sometimes, he would be a real *Bengali* here, when he expresses his inner mood, which is created at that moment of time. So also, Mr. Jugalsinh Lokhandwala, from the other side, who is retiring. We all bid them a farewell, but as you and the Leader of the Opposition said, it is not permanent. I would like to say only one thing. This House is a real reflection of unity in diversity; whether it is this party or that party, we are all together. We are from various States, speaking various languages and having various cultures, but we are all one here. Our differences, because of the ideologies, may reflect on the floor of the House, but the moment we go out, we are together. So, the integrity of the nation is reflected here. The Council of States and Parliament are a very good example of integrity. Sir, we are very proud to be Members of this House. We should appreciate that they had the privilege of being one among the 800 persons in 140 crore people of the country. They have made their contribution. On behalf of the DMK Party, I extend my heartiest wishes to them. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री नारायण दास गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): चेयरमैन साहब, आज हमारे बीच से कुछ साथी रिटायर हो रहे हैं। ये रिटायर तो हो रहे हैं, लेकिन ये tired नहीं हैं। ये लोग इस हाउस में जिस सेवा भाव से आए, उसको ये किसी न किसी रूप में continue रखेंगे। मैं अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से इनके भविष्य के लिए मंगलकामना करता हूँ और यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जिस लगन से यहाँ इस हाउस में इनका योगदान रहा है - हालाँकि उसको भुलाया नहीं जाएगा, सदन उस चीज़ के लिए आभारी रहेगा - आने वाले समय में ये उसी लगन से काम करते रहेंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं फिर से इनके भविष्य के लिए मंगलकामना करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Keshava Rao.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I share the sentiments of all my colleagues in extending them farewell and, at the same time, wishing them a better life ahead. But I hope we have learnt much from these Members and that they will have much more time to spend in the service of the people. I wish all of them best in their lives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Derek O'Brien. Shri Derek O'Brien is a connecting factor. He is retiring and would also continue to be the leader of the party.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, while bidding farewell to those Members who are retiring, I don't want to give a long speech, I wish them well. All the Members who are retiring from the Rajya Sabha, I must apologize to them, that in their last twenty-three days in Rajya Sabha while they were serving, they didn't have the privilege. We would have all been very happy if our hon. much-respected Prime Minister had spent a little time here. That would have been a beautiful farewell gift. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sasmit Patra.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Hon. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Biju Janata Dal, we extend our warm felicitations and our best wishes to all the hon. Members who are retiring. Sir, I will request you to indulge me just for two minutes. I would like to specifically speak one sentence on each of them.

Hon. Anavadiyaji has always touched us by his simplicity, his warm smile and his contribution in the House. Whenever he stood up, he was very meaningful.

Shri Pradip Bhattacharya; as I know a bit of Bengali, I had the privilege of sharing a bit of Bengali and perfecting it with him; and *dada* was always very forthcoming in terms of his contributions.

Shri Jugulsinh Lokhandwalaji; we became friends on the very first day that he came to the House; and he is like Lokhandwala, strong and steel, and that is how his contributions have been in the House; truly remarkable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And very well dressed; always very well dressed.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Always very strong.

Shanta Chhetriji, as a sister, her presence in the House has always enlightened us, especially, being from the North-Eastern part, Darjeeling and all those areas; and the issues that she raised were very meaningful.

We have Ms. Sushmita Devji, and she was tremendously
...*(Interruptions)*...

सुश्री सुष्मिता देव (पश्चिमी बंगाल): आज तो सेन मत बोलिए।

DR. SASMIT PATRA: No, no, आज देवा!...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am so glad. It doesn't go further. It ends here.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: But she has been like a true friend, and, many a time, we have had conversations, and she understands various aspects that we have shared together. It stays between both of us. But, I am sure, her presence helped us and her absence will surely be felt.

For all the four Members whom we are privileged to have with us back, namely, Dr. Jaishankar, Derek da, Dolaji and Sukhendu da, it is going to be a truly remarkable journey with them in the next few years that we work together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajeev Shukla.

श्री राजीव शुक्ला (छत्तीसगढ़): चेयरमैन सर, यह सदन तो ऐसा है कि इसमें एक-न-एक दिन सबको रिटायर होना है। इन दीवारों में, इन छतों के नीचे कितने ही आए और कितने ही चले गए - एक-से-एक बड़े लोग आए, एक-से-एक छोटे लोग आए -- इसलिए इसका कोई अभिमान नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो माननीय सदस्य यहाँ से रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनमें से जो बोलना चाहते हैं, उनकी भावनाएं भी सुन ली जानी चाहिए, those who are actually retiring. वे नहीं, जो वापस लौटकर आ जाएंगे। ऐसे मुश्किल से तीन-चार हैं, जैसे पि. भट्टाचार्य जी हैं, ये बोलना चाहते हैं, तो इन्हें भी मौका दिया जाए। फ्लोर लीडर्स तो बोलते रहते हैं, लेकिन इन्हें भी मौका दिया जाएगा, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will be given. It is there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ला: उनकी भावनाएं भी सुन ली जाएं, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, आज नौ माननीय सदस्य रिटायर हो रहे हैं। वे सार्वजनिक जीवन में स्वेच्छा से आए हैं। अब पार्टी के बंधन से उनका टर्म पूरा हो गया है, तो वे जा रहे हैं। मैं अपनी और अपने दल की तरफ से ही नहीं, बल्कि इस सदन के सभी माननीय सदस्यों की तरफ से भी इन्हें बधाई देता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि

"नजरें बता रही हैं तुम दूर जा रहे हो,
पर दिल कह रहा है
तुम पास आ रहे हो।"

जय हिंद!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati P.T. Usha.

SHRIMATI P.T. USHA (Nominated): Sir, my best wishes to all the hon. M.Ps who are going to retire today. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Sivadasan.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, the contributions of the retiring Members are very great. They have made immense contributions for the improvement of our parliamentary activities. Sushmita Dev and others have actively participated in the parliamentary procedures and they have also raised the issues of common people in this House.

All of us would support them in future also. I believe they would raise issues of the common people wherever they get an opportunity, as they did here. I salute them. I wholeheartedly wish Ms. Sushmita Dev and others that they would continue to actively participate in the democratic processes of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, now, I have the privilege and honour to call upon those who are retiring from this House to share their experience and sentiments with us. Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbai Anavadiya. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the Leader of the House is always present when such speeches are made. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Leader of the House is always present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this occasion... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this is the first time that the Leader of the House is not there. This is not the parliamentary practice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me tell you. Take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... जयराम जी, नज़ाकत समझिए। हम रिटायरिंग मेम्बर्स की बात सुन रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने खुद कहा है कि यह मेरा honour and privilege है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस को यहाँ होना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज़। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे समझ में नहीं आता, आपका लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस से कितना strong connect है कि आपने बात की और वे आ गए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब आप हमारे माध्यम से बात क्यों करते हैं, सीधे कर लिया कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री पीयूष गोयल : सर, मुझे यहाँ आने में इसलिए देर हुई, क्योंकि इन्हीं के मित्र पक्ष के एक सीनियर लीडर ने मुझे बाहर पकड़ लिया, यह समझाने के लिए...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: पकड़ लिया? आप इसको क्लैरिफाई कीजिए। पकड़ लिया, मतलब?

श्री पीयूष गोयल: पकड़ लिया, मतलब मुझसे कहा कि हम भी आपके ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: फिज़िकली तो नहीं पकड़ा न? ...**(व्यवधान)**... Hon. Members, let us now hear Shri Anavadiya.

श्री दिनेशचंद्र जेमलभाई अनावाडीया (गुजरात): सभापति महोदय, आज पार्लियामेंट में हमारा लास्ट डे है। मुझे पार्लियामेंट में भेजने के लिए हमारी पार्टी, इस देश और समग्र विश्व के नेता और हमारे देश के सम्माननीय प्रधान मंत्री आदरणीय श्री नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी साहब का, हमारे गृह मंत्री आदरणीय श्री अमित भाई शाह साहब का, हमारे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष आदरणीय नड्डा साहब, हमारे प्रदेश के अध्यक्ष आदरणीय सी.आर. पाटिल साहब और हमारे मुख्य मंत्री आदरणीय श्री भूपेन्द्रभाई पटेल साहब का मैं बहुत-बहुत आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने मेरे जैसे एक छोटे कार्यकर्ता को एक बड़े सदन में आने का मौका दिया।

सर, मैं गुजरात के कुम्हार, प्रजापति समाज से आता हूँ। गुजरात कुम्हार प्रजापति समाज से 75 साल में पहली बार प्रजापति समाज, कुम्हार समाज को राज्य सभा में लाने का मौका सम्माननीय मोदी साहब ने दिया है, इसके लिए मैं उनका दोबारा बहुत-बहुत आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। मेरा समाज मिट्टी से जुड़ा हुआ समाज है और मैं किसान पुत्र हूँ। मैं एक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में काम करता था। मैं सन् 1981 से भारतीय जनता पार्टी के एक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में काम करते-करते संगठन में काम करने लगा और उन्होंने मुझे सीधे इतने बड़े सदन में बिठाने का मौका दिया। इसके लिए मैं अपनी ओर से, मेरे परिवार की ओर से और पूरे गुजरात एवं हिन्दुस्तान के प्रजापति कुम्हार समाज की ओर से आदरणीय श्री नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी साहब, आदरणीय अमित भाई शाह साहब, आदरणीय नड्डा साहब और हमारे प्रदेश अध्यक्ष जी का बहुत-बहुत आभार मानता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्री दिनेशचंद्र जेमलभाई अनावाडीया: सर, एक मिनट। मैं सदन के माननीय सभापति आदरणीय धनखड़ साहब का आभार प्रकट करता हूँ कि हमें आपका भी मार्गदर्शन मिला है। मैं लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस, आदरणीय श्री पीयूष गोयल सर का भी आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। मैं सभी माननीय

सदस्यगण और सभी पार्टियों के लीडर्स का भी आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। आप सबसे मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला है और इस सदन में मुझे आप सबका मार्गदर्शन भी मिला है। यदि मेरे व्यवहार, वाणी और वर्तन के कारण मुझसे जाने-अनजाने कोई गलती हुई हो तो उसके लिए मैं आप सबसे क्षमा चाहता हूँ। मैं लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन सर का भी बहुत-बहुत आभार मानता हूँ कि हमने उनसे भी बहुत कुछ सीखा है। मैं इस सदन की सभी पार्टियों के सभी सदस्यों का आभार मानता हूँ कि आप सबसे मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला है। आभार, अस्तु। भारत माता की जय! वन्दे मातरम्!

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I am very happy that you have given me the opportunity to spell out... ..(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: To retire! I have not given anybody the opportunity to retire.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Sir, you have given me the chance to say a few words. As you recall, when I met you in your Chamber, I told you very frankly, "Sir, I don't believe in this type of drama. So, kindly don't allow me to say something." In spite of that, you are kind enough that you have again called me to say something.

First of all, I give my good wishes to all my colleagues, no matter they are on this side or that side, and I am sure that they will be able to run this House properly and smoothly so that the people of the country will understand that Rajya Sabha is alive and they are doing something good. With my long experience in politics, at least for 50 years, I had the opportunity to work with Indira Gandhiji, Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and Narasimha Raoji. Now, I am working with our Leader of the Opposition, Khargeji, and so many of my colleagues from this side and that side. Whenever I meet some of our hon. Ministers, they listen to me and try their level best to help me so that I can serve the people of the country. I had the impression that, at least, this august House would come out with a resolution with regard to the Manipur issue. But, unfortunately, it did not happen. ...(*Interruptions*)... Just for a moment. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Listen to him.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: I was a teacher of a college for 29 years or 30 years. My two students have been working in Manipur and they are in Central Government service. They rang me a few days back and asked me why Rajya Sabha is not coming out of something about Manipur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Point noted. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: It is that hard feeling that I would like to impress upon this House. Lastly, if I have done something wrong, kindly excuse me and I wish everybody good health and good life ahead. Thank you.

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला (गुजरात): सभापति महोदय, मैं सबसे पहले माननीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का तहेदिल से आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। इसके साथ ही मैं माननीय श्री अमित शाह जी का भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। हमारी भारतीय जनता पार्टी के अध्यक्ष माननीय जे.पी. नड्डा जी, गुजरात के चीफ मिनिस्टर श्री भूपेन्द्रभाई पटेल, हमारे संगठन के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष श्री सी.आर. पाटिल, हमारे सदन के नेता श्री पीयूष गोयल जी और सदन के सभी साथियों का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। हमारे सामने बैठे अपोज़िशन लीडर श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे जी और माननीय उपसभापति श्री हरिवंश जी का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। मेरे माता-पिता और मेरे परिवार के सभी सदस्यों ने आशीर्वाद दिया, तब मैं यहां तक पहुंचा हूँ। आज मेरे कार्यकाल का चार साल एक महीना पूरा हुआ। उसमें डेढ़-दो साल हम सबने कोविड महामारी को फेस किया। उसमें दो-तीन चीजों में मेरे साइन रहे। धारा 370 और 35ए, जो राष्ट्र को जोड़ने के लिए, जम्मू-कश्मीर को भारत का अभिन्न अंग बनाने के लिए था, उसमें मेरे साइन रहे। सर, तीन तलाक, सीएए और ऐसे कई कानून बनाने में मेरा सहयोग रहा।

मैं मानता हूँ कि मैं शायद ऐसा खुशनसीब हूँ कि जो संकल्प हमारे भारतीय जनता पार्टी के श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने लिया था, उस संकल्प के अंदर हमारे साइन थे। सर, मैं दो-तीन बातें कहकर अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा। सर, यहां बहुत सारे मित्र बैठे हैं - मुझे सेन्ट्रल हॉल की कमी महसूस होगी, जब मैं गुजरात रहूंगा, तब सभी लोगों को मिस करूंगा। सदन के सामने वाले माननीय सदस्यों से भी मुझे बहुत अच्छा सीखने को मिला है। कहीं न कहीं जब कोई बात रहती थी, तो सेन्ट्रल हॉल के अंदर हम लोग एक-दूसरे के साथ वार्तालाप करते थे और वह वार्तालाप मुझे आने वाले वक्त में काम आने वाला है - ऐसा मनोज जी कह रहे थे और ... (व्यवधान)...

डा. जॉन ब्रिट्टास (केरल): नई पार्लियामेंट में सेन्ट्रल हॉल नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला: जॉन जी, इसके साथ बहुत सारे कमेटी के मेम्बर्स ... (व्यवधान) ... जॉन जी, मुझे आपका सहयोग चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. John Brittas, you must stop the habit of interrupting every time. ... (Interruptions) ... I caution you. Don't do it. There is a procedure to be followed.

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला: मैं तो चाहूंगा कि हम हर एक बात को पॉलिटिकली न कहें, क्योंकि आने वाले सदन के अंदर शायद आप हमारे पास रहने वाले हैं। ऐसा मुझे सौ प्रतिशत विश्वास है। सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। विश्व जानता है कि एक ऐसा विराट व्यक्तित्व, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी, जो डेढ़ घंटे तक स्पीच दे रहे थे, लेकिन सामने से उन्हें बोलने नहीं

दिया जा रहा था, यह अच्छी बात नहीं है। मैं मानता हूँ कि हर एक का विचार होना चाहिए और वह जो कुछ कहना चाहता हो, कह सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सर, मैं आपका भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ और वेंकैया नायडू जी का भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिन्होंने मुझे यहां पर बोलने का मौका दिया था। यहां के हमारे जितने भी ब्यूरोक्रैट्स हैं, जितने भी मार्शल्ल्स हैं, वे हमसे हंस कर मिलते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will communicate your greetings to Venkaiah Naiduji.

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला: मैं जब गुजरात में रहूंगा, तो यह सब मिस करूंगा। सर, मैं आपको भी मिस करूंगा। आप जब भी मिलते हैं, तो हंस कर मिलते हैं। धन्यवाद, जय हिंद! वन्दे मातरम्! भारत माता की जय!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Shanta Chhetri; we will miss you. Your presence has been impactful; your absence will be felt.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir. सर, आज 11 अगस्त, स्वतंत्रता सेनानी खुदीराम बोस की डेथ एनिवर्सरी है। आज बलिदान दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में मैं उनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए अपना फेयरवेल भाषण देना चाहती हूँ।

On the 18th of August, my term as Rajya Sabha Member will come to an end. I am eternally thankful to our supreme leader, hon. Mamata Banerjee, for giving me this opportunity. It is due to her trust in me that today, I can proudly say that my body of work is in Parliament records for eternity. This opportunity has fulfilled my greatest dreams. I am a contented person now, happy with a lifetime spent well. What more can one ask for than contentment and joy, which my heart is filled with? I thank Mamata *Didi*. I also take this opportunity to thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir, and the hon. Members of this House for all the support and exchange of knowledge.

In these six years, I have worked tirelessly to represent the Gorkha people of Darjeeling Hills as well as the State of West Bengal. I did not waste a single opportunity to take up matters concerning our Darjeeling Hills as well as my State of West Bengal. I have spoken for the 11 communities' tribal status, inclusion of Lepcha language in the Eighth Schedule; I also talked about tea workers, problems on roads and National Highways during monsoon, the Kurseong TV tower, not to relocate the Army Hospital, matters concerning Himalayan Railways, etc. The list goes on. More than 400 Questions given by me have been admitted in the Parliament. In all the 11 Private Member Bills introduced by me, I took up issues related to my State of West Bengal as well as the Darjeeling Hills. I spoke on the Bill relating to the third gender

and presented my valued opinion and suggestions, which have been satisfying, as this gender deserves a lot more.

Sir, I made innumerable Special Mentions and Zero Hour submissions. I attended regularly all the Committee meetings and tours. The six years that I spent were full of hard work and learning.

Sir, today, as I move on from this place, I would like to say that I will be grateful to you for the trust that you placed in me and for the invaluable lessons I learnt from my fellow Parliamentarians. I would also like to thank the Members of my Party, TMC, who have been my strength and support all along this fantastic journey.

As I bid farewell to the Rajya Sabha, I carry with me a sense of accomplishment, a deep appreciation for the democratic process and a commitment to continue contributing for the betterment of society. I will cherish the memories of this place as also the lessons learnt here, and I will forever hold in my heart the privilege of having served alongside some of the brightest minds and most dedicated individuals in our nation.

I thank all the hon. Members and all the employees of Rajya Sabha for this incredible journey, for the opportunities and for unwavering support. May this House continue to be a beacon of democracy and a forum where the collective wisdom of diverse voices shapes the destiny of India!

Finally, I wish and pray, as the Sun rises over the majestic Tiger Hills and turns it into gold, our I.N.D.I.A. party rises with the same glow in May, 2024 and bring forth the beginning of a golden era for India. *Jai Hind, Jai Bangla, Jai Gorkha!*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Sushmita Dev.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: First of all, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Today is the Martyr's Day and I would like to start by paying my tribute to Khudiram Bose ji. Sir, incidentally, on a lighter note, my division number is 144, which represents 'partial curfew', as you know. I have waited for very long for my turn to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And, you took it so literally!

सुश्री सुष्मिता देव: सर, मेरा डिवीजन नम्बर ही 144 है, मैं क्या करूँ? Sir, I am extremely grateful for your kind words. I am also grateful to the floor leaders of various parties who have spoken. I come from North East, from the State of Assam and, I think, ऐसे बहुत कम उदाहरण हैं कि जब किसी बाहर के प्रदेश का व्यक्ति नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के किसी प्रदेश से,

किसी हाउस में मेम्बर बनकर आये। As you know, my late father won two elections from Tripura. Secondly -- Kalita ji would know it -- Professor B.B. Dutta was once nominated. I think, I am the third such Member, coming from a State in the North East, but I am honoured that my leader, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, gave me a seat in Rajya Sabha from the State of West Bengal. When I won in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, very often, I used to come to these galleries in Rajya Sabha to watch what the Upper House was saying. I used to watch very keenly how Mr. Jaitley used to speak or how Mr. Chidambaram debated on GST. I watched Shri Derek O'Brien, Sukhendu *da*, Prof. Yadav and other leaders, and I used to truly feel what a privilege it was to be in this House. Contrary to popular belief, I never expected that I will come to the Upper House. लोग कहते हैं कि इनको तो पता था कि ये राज्य सभा में आयेंगी, मुझे पता नहीं था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was the first one to congratulate you. I was the Governor then.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: Right, Sir. As the Governor of West Bengal, you called me and congratulated me. हम एक-दूसरे के बारे में बोलते हैं, but I would like to mention here that the integral part of this House is not just the Members but it is the marshalls, the officials who sit here, and the Secretary General who guides us through many moments. I would like to thank them also.

Sir, coming from the North-East -- I am not going to make a political speech at all -- I will say one thing. Keeping the States of North-East stitched together is a herculean task.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it not political? Whenever someone says, "I am not going to make a political speech", I am sure it will be a hundred per cent political speech.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: I will not criticize anybody today, but I feel that the way peace in North-East has been stitched together, it is a very delicate process. Different ethnic groups have different aspirations. I will not use the word 'conflict'; today is not that day. There are different linguistic groups. I myself am a linguistic minority from Assam. It is a very fine balance that we should all strive to maintain even in the future. That is all I seek. मैं एक बात और कहना चाहती हूँ कि 16th लोक सभा में एक ऐसी खासियत थी कि after many decades, a Government came to power with absolute majority, and in that, I think, was a golden opportunity to do policy reforms and many other good things for the country. Whether that has been done or not done, I am no one to comment on that. But I hope that the effects of this majority will be judged by the people.

Sir, I hate good-byes. I am very bad at saying good-bye. So, I will tell all my colleagues on my right and on my left that, I am sure, we will meet again, whether inside the House or outside the House. I would like to thank my leader, Shri Derek O'Brien, Sukehndu *da* and Khargeji, who guided me in the 16th Lok Sabha. He is today here in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to thank the Leader of the House, Piyush Goyalji. I would end my speech with one story. Sir, in Lok Sabha, once a very complicated and technical Bill came up. It was about payment gateways on credit cards, and Jaitleyji was the Finance Minister then. अचानक खरगे जी ने बोला, "Sushmita, this is coming up and you will have to speak on it because the person who was supposed to speak on it is not here today." I just could not decipher that Bill. I was struggling with it. I remember going to Digvijaya Singhji and asking about it. I went to Arun Jaitleyji and said, "Sir, you are moving this Bill. I am not able to follow it and, in the next ten minutes, I have to speak." He told me how to debate that Bill against the Government. So, Sir, how much we may fight, I feel those back-room channels ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just saying that that is the beauty of Parliament, of democracy, and I hope to see that in the future in this House and in the other House. Thank you very much, Sir. I hope to see you soon again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the hon. Member, Ms. Sushmita, was saying 'people on my right and left', I was wondering that people who are on your right are on my left. So, we will have to reconcile.

Hon. Members, the sentiments expressed by the retiring Members and by the leaders of various political parties indicate that our bond will continue to flourish and everyone leaving this House will be an integral part of this House. I had indicated on an earlier occasion that whenever hon. Members visit Delhi, as Chairman, Rajya Sabha, we will look after and make arrangements for their stay. We have devised a mechanism that hon. Members in this House need not get in touch with the Secretariat. They need to get in touch with Secretary, Rajya Sabha, a very senior official, so that the Members have least inconvenience. As regards certain issues of retiring Members, like pension issues, all are settled before the last day of retirement. This enlightenment I got after a situation on 8th August, 2022. After my election was declared, but I had not taken oath, a former Member of Rajya Sabha thought it fit to write to me as Vice-President. Venkaiah Naiduji was the Vice-President then.

He said that his pension issues are pending with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on one ground. And that ground is that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat was insisting on an affidavit that must be sanctified by a Gazetted Officer. After taking oath of office on 11th August, after one hour at *Up-Rashtrapati Niwas*, I came to the Rajya Sabha and I

asked the Secretary-General, "Why are we delaying it? The hon. Member retired in April. We know his bank account. We know his details." I was surprised. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat said that there is an Act. That Act has been passed by the Parliament. That Act is in pursuance of the recommendations of a Joint Parliamentary Committee. And that Act makes a provision that such a form should be there. I said that the hon. Member has already indicated that he will go to a court of law. With your strength, I directed the Secretary-General then and there that all these provisions are not mandatory; they are directory. I ensured it on the same day. The proceedings at the Rajya Sabha Secretariat were convened on that count. But sometimes when we engage in legislation, we create a mechanism that puts the executing authorities in problem. And that indicates that everything which is passed by this House as a legislation must be fully scrutinized. We, in this House, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee sanctified that a retiring Member would have to give an affidavit duly signed by a Gazetted Officer, and the Secretariat was bound by it. I have held it to be directory. But if we had been more alert at that point in time and cared for the dignity of a retiring Member, perhaps, that situation would not have arisen. I have made it a condition here that before a Member retires, everything must be formalized. Whenever an ex-Member comes to Delhi, and if he has any problem of accommodation, we will try to accommodate him in Western Court.

Hon. Members, I now take up Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... This was already there. It was done as a special circumstance. ...(*Interruptions*)... Yes, Dr. Meena.

डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, राजस्थान के हालात बहुत बिगड़े हुए हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.241.

Promotion of manufacture and sale of electric vehicles

*241. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to promote manufacturing of electric vehicles to reduce the increasing pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to provide subsidy or loan at low-interest rate on electric vehicles to promote their sale;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the ratio of manufacturing and sale of these vehicles during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes sir, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has launched three schemes with an objective to boost demand of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and to incentivise manufacturing of EVs and Advanced Automotive Components. Their details are as under.

i. The Government notified Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II) Scheme with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore for a period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2019 to promote hybrid/electric technology in transportation so as to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and to address issues of vehicular emissions. As far as e-Buses, electric three wheelers (e-3W) and electric four wheelers (e-4W) are concerned, the scheme provides subsidy to those vehicles which are used in public transportation or for commercial use. For electric two wheelers (e-2W), privately owned vehicles are also provided with subsidy.

FAME II intends to support 7,090 e-Buses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55,000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars (including Strong Hybrid) and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers. Further details about the FAME II India scheme can be seen on the website at <https://heavyindustries.gov.in/UserView/index?mid=1378> .

ii. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto component industry with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,938 crore, provides financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology products including electric vehicles and their components. Further details about the scheme can be seen at <https://heavyindustries.gov.in/UserView/index?mid=2482> .

iii. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC): The Government has approved PLI Scheme for manufacturing of ACC in the country with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 18,100 crore. The scheme incentivises the establishment of Giga scale ACC manufacturing facilities in the country for 50 Giga Watt hour (GWh). These ACCs will be used in batteries which are aimed to promote the widespread adoption of EVs. Further details may be seen at <https://heavyindustries.gov.in/UserView/index?mid=2487> .

(c) and (d) No such scheme has been formulated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and as per information provided by NITI Aayog no such scheme has also been formulated by them.

(e) Sir, the information regarding manufacture of electric vehicles is not maintained by the Ministry. The data regarding the number of electric vehicles sold in India (as per information from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, MoRTH), is attached as per ANNEXURE.

Annexure

(Units in Number)

Category	Fuel Types	Domestic Sales (MoRTH*)		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Passenger Vehicles (e-4W)	EVs	5,000	19,000	47,581
Three Wheelers (e-3W)	EVs	88,000	1,78,000	4,02,106
Two Wheelers (e-2W)	EVs	41,000	2,31,000	7,28,027

* MoRTH: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव: सर, प्रश्न संख्या 241. ...(व्यवधान)...

डा. महेन्द्र नाथ पाण्डेय: सर, उत्तर सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 242. Shri Vaiko.

*Q. No. 242. [The questioner was absent.]

Recommendation on duty hours of railway staff

*242. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the High Power Committee (HPC) recommended reducing duty hours of Running staff to 10 hours by 2020, considering the vast infrastructure development in Railways and also International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention;
- (b) if so, the reasons as to why the recommendation is not being implemented;
- (c) whether HPC also recommended for periodical rest for 40 hours for running staff as granted to other employees, and staying away from Headquarters for 48 hours; and
- (d) if so, the reasons as to why they are not being implemented keeping in view the safety in Railways and keeping the staff in alert mode?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Indian Railways has been continuously working for improving the working conditions of running staff. Some of the interventions made/measures taken, which have made the job of running staff less stressful are as follows: -

1. Improvement in running Rooms / lobbies: -
 - i. Air conditioning of Running Rooms: All running rooms over Indian Railways are being air-conditioned for providing sound outstation rest to the running staff
 - ii. Separate rooms for female crew are being provided in the running rooms.
 - iii. Running rooms are being progressively provided with cubicles / rooms with two beds so that crew does not get disturbed during rest. 47% of the running rooms have so far been covered.
 - iv. Good quality subsidized meals are provided to the crew at running rooms. Crew also has the option to get meals prepared of his choice by providing ingredients.
 - v. Quality of drinking water has been improved by provision of RO in all running rooms.
 - vi. Yoga room, meditation rooms, reading rooms with newspapers and magazine are being provided for the convenience of the crew during rest.

- vii. Facilities like foot massager etc. are also being provided progressively.
 - viii. Over the last five years more than 45 numbers of Running Rooms have been constructed which has helped in designing appropriate running links for the running staff and also arranging comfortable stay for them away from their homes.
2. Improvement in locomotives:
- i. Most new locomotives are being manufactured/acquired with cab air conditioning. Cab Air conditioning is progressively being done on existing locomotives also.
 - ii. Locomotive cabs have been modified with ergonomic crew friendly features like better seats and more space.
 - iii. Waterless urinal has been provided on trial basis.
3. Fogsafe Device: It is an aid to Loco Pilots for locating the approaching signals and important landmarks during foggy weather conditions for reducing stress on the crew.
4. Sigma Board: The retro-reflective strip in sigma shape for easy identification of stop signal during foggy weather has been provided two masts prior to stop signal on all the Zonal Railways as an aid and for reducing stress.
5. Mobile Application named 'Chalak Dal' has been developed for the facilitation of crew. Through the App, crew can access all his details related to running duties, sign on/ sign off, loco trouble shooting directory and other documents required during train operation which otherwise were required to be carried in hard copy.

The working hours of running staff is constantly monitored and worked upon to ensure that they are deployed for running duty as per the laid down limits. 87.6% of the actual running duties of running staff (wheel move to wheel stop) is performed within 9 hours and 83.6% of the complete duty of running staff (sign on to sign off) is done within prescribed 11 hours.

For filling up vacancies of running staff, massive recruitment exercise has been concluded recently, as a result of which more than 34000 running staff have been inducted which helped in ensuring running duties within prescribed limit, to the extent possible.

The High-Power Committee which had been constituted to review the duty hours of running and other safety categories of staff submitted its report in August, 2013 making 89 recommendations, many of which have been implemented, bringing substantial improvement in the working condition of the running staff.

As regards the recommendation for Stay away from Headquarter to be restricted to 48 hours it is stated that about 96.00 % running staff are within 48 hours of Stay away from Headquarters, even though the present provision allows for upto 72 hours stay away from Headquarters. Further, regarding periodic rest it was decided to follow with existing pattern of 5 rests of 22 hours or 4 rests of 30 consecutive hours.

The above measures have contributed towards safety in train operations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Member is not present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Sir, the statement is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.243. Shri Harbhajan Singh.

**Q. No. 243. [The questioner was absent.]*

Settlement of claims under PMFBY

*243. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the instances of farmers being harassed by insurance companies for settlement of claims under PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
- (b) if so, whether Government has received any complaints in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken for further streamlining PMFBY so that the intended beneficiaries are benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been operational since Kharif 2016 and till 2022-23 (as on 30.06.2023), 4846 lakh farmer applications have been enrolled over an area of about 3497 lakh hectare insuring a sum of Rs. 14,45,978

crore. Against premium of Rs. 29,123 crore paid by farmers, claims of Rs. 1,40,599 crore have been paid to about 1457 lakh farmer applications.

The admissible claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are generally paid by the concerned insurance companies within two months of completion of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)/harvesting period and one month of notification for invoking the risks/perils of prevented sowing, mid-season adversity and post harvest losses subject to receipt of total share of premium subsidy from concerned Government within time. However, settlement of few claims in some States got delayed due to reasons like delayed transmission of yield data; late release of their share in premium subsidy, yield related disputes between insurance companies and States, non-receipt of account details of some farmers for transfer of claims to the bank account of eligible farmers and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) related issues, erroneous/incomplete entry of individual farmers data on National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP), delay in remittance of farmers share of premium/non-remittance of farmers share of premium to concerned insurance company etc.

All major works relating to the assessment of crop yield/crop loss for calculation of admissible claims are being performed by the concerned State Government or Joint Committee of State Government officials and concerned insurance company. However, during implementation of the PMFBY, some complaints against insurance companies about non-payment and delayed payment of claims; under payment of claims on account of incorrect/delayed submission of insurance proposals by banks; discrepancy in yield data & consequent disputes between State Government and insurance companies, delay in providing State Government share of funds, non-deployment of sufficient personnel by insurance companies etc., have been received in the past in the country. Most of the complaints have been suitably addressed.

Further, the PMFBY operational guidelines provide for stratified grievance redressal mechanism. At the initial level, for grievance redressal, each block & district have designated block/district level grievance redressal officer to respond to the grievances of Farmers, Banks, Insurance Companies etc. within 7 days of receipt of grievance. In case of dissatisfaction at block level the matter can be brought before District Level Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC) headed by the District Magistrate/Collector. In case of disagreement with the decision by any party at district level; the same is represented to the State Level Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC) within 15 days from the decision of DGRC. SGRC is headed by Principal Secretary/Secretary of Nodal Department. The SGRC has to dispose the

grievance within 15 days time of receipt of grievance. The decision of the Committee shall be accepted by all the parties.

In addition the PMFBY guidelines also provide for the resolution of yield disputes, between Insurance Companies and States through State Level Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and in case it is unresolved at State level further escalation can be made before the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at Centre Level. Accordingly, yield disputes were referred by the Karnataka, Gujarat, Odisha (Kharif 2018), Maharashtra, Rajasthan (Kharif 2017 & Kharif 2018), Jammu & Kashmir (for yield calculation methodology for coverage of apple and saffron crop) Haryana (Kharif 2017), Chhatisgarh (Kharif 2017 – paddy/rice issue), Haryana for Cotton (Kharif-19 & 20), Odisha (Kharif-21) to the TAC and the matter was examined and resolved by using satellite data, yield data, weather data and other proxy data/indicators in consultation of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) and the claims have been settled as per the decision of TAC.

The Department has taken various steps for further streamlining PMFBY. National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) has been developed for ensuring auto-administration, subsidy payment, co-ordination, transparency, dissemination of information and delivery of services including direct online enrollment of framers, uploading/obtaining individual insured famer's details for better monitoring and to ensure transfer of claim amount electronically to the individual farmer's Bank Account through Digicclaim module.

The scheme envisages use of improved technology in implementation of the scheme. Accordingly, various steps like capturing of yield data/Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) data through CCE-Agri App & uploading it on the NCIP, allowing insurance companies to witness the conduct of CCEs, integration of State land records with NCIP etc. have already been taken to improve timely settlement of the claims to farmers. Following technologies for Objective Crop Damage & Loss Assessment and transparency have recently been approved for implementation w.e.f. 2023-24:

- YES-TECH (Yield Estimation System Based on Technology) for gradual migration to Remote-Sensing based yield estimation to help assess yields as well as fair and accurate Crop Yield Estimation. This initiative has been launched for paddy & wheat crops from Kharif 2023 wherein 30% weightage to yield estimation will mandatorily be assigned to YES-TECH derived yield.
- WINDS (Weather Information Network and Data System) for Network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) & Automatic Rain-Gauges (ARG) for collecting hyper-local weather data at GP & Block level. This will be fed into a National unified network of AWS & ARG with interoperability & sharing of data in coordination with

India Meteorological Department (IMD). WINDS will provide data not only for YES-TECH but also for effective drought & disaster management, accurate weather prediction and offering better parametric insurance products.

- CROPIC (Collection of Real-time photos and Observations of Crops) for Geo-tagged photographs for validation of sown Crop with Insured Crop and use of pictorial analytics for Objective Crop Damage Assessment & Crop Yield Estimation.

Department has been regularly monitoring the functioning of insurance companies, including timely settlement of claims through weekly video conferences of all stakeholders, one to one meeting as well as National Review Conferences. In order to rigorously monitor claim disbursement process an end to end module by the name of 'Digicclaim Module' has been operationalized for payment of claims from Kharif 2022 onwards. It involves integration of National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) with PFMS and accounting system of Insurance Companies to provide timely & transparent processing of all claims. Various innovative technologies are also adopted to increase the timeliness for flow of requisite information/data amongst stakeholders.

Started in 2020, Integration of Land Record with NCIP is now complete for Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Odisha - 90% of the insured area is now being validated through e-land records of the states through land record integration.

Based on the experience gained, views of various stakeholders and with a view to ensure better transparency, accountability, timely payment of claims to the farmers and to make the scheme more farmer friendly, Government has periodically comprehensively revised the Operational Guidelines of the PMFBY to ensure that the eligible benefits under the scheme reach the farmers timely and transparently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harbhajan Singh. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Member is not present. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री कैलाश चौधरी : सर, उत्तर सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.244. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Kapil Sibal.

*Q. No. 244. [*The questioner was absent.*]

Coverage under PDS

*244. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries are decided on the basis of 2011 census data;
- (b) if so, considering the fact that the census has been delayed, steps taken to ensure that there are no exclusions and the beneficiaries get their due under Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (c) whether it is also a fact that intra State transactions under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) are much larger than inter-State transactions, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to spread awareness and information about ration card portability, especially among migrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. At the time of implementation of NFSA, the latest published figures of Census pertaining to the year 2011 was used to determine the coverage of all States/Union Territories (UTs).

(b) The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. Intent of the Government for conducting Census 2021 was notified in Gazette of India on 28th March, 2019. Due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the Census 2021 and the related field activities could not be undertaken.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.24 crore beneficiaries are identified by the States/UTs under the Act. Still, there is scope for identification of 1.11 crore additional beneficiaries under the Act by the State Governments. The Coverage under the Act is sufficient high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

(c) The main objective of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) is to empower all beneficiaries including migrant beneficiaries to access their NFSA foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device.

Under Intra-State portability, NFSA beneficiaries are allowed to avail ration from any FPS within the State including nearby FPSs to avoid travel to tagged (original) FPS whereas Inter-State portability is being used by migrant NFSA beneficiaries outside their native/home State. Since, number of beneficiaries visiting near by FPSs are more than the beneficiaries who working outside their home State, therefore, Intra-State Portability transactions are comparatively more.

While, the Inter-State portability gives flexibility to migrant beneficiaries to be self-reliant for their food security and ease of living with livelihood anywhere in the country, at the same time it also allows their family members back in the village/home (if any) to also draw the part/balance foodgrains on the same ration card for their food security.

(d) A nationwide campaign has been carried out to create awareness among the NFSA beneficiaries about ONORC in different modes viz. FM/Radio channels, displaying audio visual spots at railway stations, banners, posters at outdoors and Fair Price Shops (FPSs), bus wraps etc. Apart from this States/UTs employed their own means for these campaigns.

Recently, this Department has launched an awareness generation campaign of ONORC on 168 FM channels and 45 TV Channels across the country for which a 30 second radio spot and a 30 second Tele Vision Commercials (TVCs) have been developed in 12 different languages viz. Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kapil Sibal. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Member is not present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति: माननीय सभापति महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.245. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Sasmit Patra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Restarting PMGKAY

*245. DR. SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering restarting Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and will provide additional 5 kg rice apart from the 5 kg rice provided earlier under National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) the reasons for renaming NFSA programme as new PMGKAY instead of restarting the earlier PMGKAY which was discontinued; and

(c) by when would Government restart providing additional 5 kg rice under PMGKAY as it was done since 2020?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) had been launched with the specific purpose of ameliorating the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. The allocation of free foodgrains, under PMGKAY was in addition to normal allocation done under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. A total quantity of approx. 1118 LMT foodgrains had been allocated under PMGKAY (Phase I-VII) for the period of 28 months with a planned financial outlay of about Rs. 1.13 lakh crores for FY 2020-21, Rs. 1.47 lakh crores for FY 2021-22 and Rs. 1.31 Lakh crores for FY 2022-23.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all-India basis, aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population. While Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per family per month. Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at uniform subsidized prices specified in Schedule-I prices of the Act.

The Government has decided to distribute free of cost foodgrains to beneficiaries as per their entitlements for a period of one year from 1st January, 2023

under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) with the approximate expenditure of nearly Rs. 2 lakh crores annually.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sasmit Patra. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, Q. No. 245. ...(*Interruptions*)...

साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति: माननीय सभापति महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।
...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 246. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Jose K. Mani.
...(*Interruptions*)...

Angamaly-Erumeli railway line project

*246. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railway Board has considered the Revised Estimate (RE) submitted by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited for the Angamaly-Erumeli railway line project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to defreeze the Angamaly-Erumeli project, sanction the RE and proceed with the execution works; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Angamali-Sabarimala via Erumeli new line project was sanctioned in 1997-98. Work on Angamali-Kaladi (7 Km) and long lead works on Kaladi-Perumbavoor (10 Km) have been taken up. However, further works on this project could not be taken forward due to protests by local people against land acquisition and fixing of alignment of the line, court cases filed against the project and inadequate support from the State Government of Kerala.

Due to the alignment being in thick forest area and issues of survey, it was decided to terminate the alignment at Erumeli, which is about 35 KM from Sabarimala shrine. Accordingly, Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project from Angamali up to Erumeli (111 Km) has been prepared by M/s KRDCL. The Estimated cost of the project has been updated by M/s KRDCL at Rs. 3726.95 crore.

Meanwhile, demand has been received for exploring new railway line from Chengannur to Pamba which is a shorter route for Sabarimala Shrine. Pamba is situated about 4 Km away from Sabarimala shrine. Final Location Survey for Chengannur - Pamba (75 Km) new line has been sanctioned. The survey of said work has been taken up for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jose K. Mani. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Sir, the statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 247. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Shortage of water for irrigation due to climate change

*247. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to climate change it is estimated that there is going to be a shortage of water for agriculture in future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the action plan for this;
- (c) whether there will be a major problem of irrigation in agriculture sector due to shortage of water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has any policy for management of agriculture sector in future; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change conducted studies on impact of climate change in India as part of the Second National Communication to the United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change. The studies revealed that impact of climate change and climate variability on the water resources is likely to affect irrigation in agriculture. However, the impact of climate change has been dealt with effectively through various interventions of the Government.

The Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation and introduce sustainable water conservation practices. The components of PMKSY are as under:

i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) components of PMKSY are being implemented by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR). AIBP focuses on faster completion of ongoing 99 nos. of Major and Medium Irrigation projects, prioritized during 2016-17, along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works under HKKP in Mission Mode. Out of these projects, 53 projects have been completed so far. The PMKSY was approved for continuation from 2021-22 to 2025-26. In addition, 6 new projects have been included under PMKSY-AIBP after 2021-22.

ii) Watershed Development Component (WDC-PMKSY): Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) amalgamated as one of the components of PMKSY in 2015-16 and named as the Watershed Development Component (WDC-PMKSY) is being implemented by Department of Land Resources. Under WDC-PMKSY 1.0, Central assistance was provided for 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States and an amount of Rs. 8894.46 crore was released. The extended project period of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 got over on 31.03.2022. From the year 2014-15 to 2021-22, approximately 7.64 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated and an additional area of about 16.41 lakh ha has been brought under protective irrigation. The WDC was approved for continuation from 2021-22 to 2025-26 as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 and an area of 50.55 lakh ha of watershed projects has been sanctioned to 28 States and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. So far,

an amount of Rs. 2288.34 crore as Central share has been released to States/UTs and approximately 0.38 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated having an additional area brought under protective irrigation of 0.44 lakh ha.

iii) DoWR, RD & GR has set up Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) for promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, industrial and domestic sector. The Bureau facilitates promotion of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries etc. in the country. National Water Mission (NWM) launched the 'Sahi Fasal' campaign to farmers in water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water intensive but use water efficiently and are economically remunerative, healthy and nutritious and suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics.

iv) Further, Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Mission Amrit Sarovar launched as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav with an objective to conserve water for future. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country. As on date, 111406 sites have been identified and work has commenced on 80428 sites. The work has been completed on 64967 sites. In addition, large number of water bodies such as farm ponds, dug wells, checkdams and community ponds (water harvesting & Fishery) have been created under the MGNREGS Scheme. Till February, 2023, 64,09,852 number of water harvesting structures have been created under the scheme.

Besides, to meet the challenges of Agriculture in the face of changing climate, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies in agriculture including water productivity. Besides, ICAR has developed cost effective, location specific scientific technologies viz. rainwater harvesting & recycling, precision technologies for irrigation and farming practices, adoption of modern agronomic practices, diversifying cropping pattern from water guzzling crops like low land rice, sugarcane to pulses, oilseeds, maize and agro-forestry etc. It also imparts training and organizes field demonstrations to educate farmers in this regard.

Other major initiatives taken by ICAR to address the impact of climate change in agriculture are as under:-

- i. ICAR has developed resilient varieties in different crops tolerant to climatic stresses to improve the food grain production in the face of changing climate. Since 2014, a total of 2279 varieties have been released out of which 1888 are climate resilient varieties which include 407 abiotic stress tolerant varieties and 1481 biotic stress tolerant.
- ii. Sixty eight location-specific climate resilient technologies have been developed and popularized for wider adoption among the farming communities.
- iii. District level risk and vulnerability assessment of Indian agriculture to climate change has been prepared which is useful for several Ministries/ Departments for prioritizing resources towards developmental programs.
- iv. Based on vulnerability assessment, climate resilient technologies are being demonstrated on farmer's fields in 151 clusters covering 446 villages.
- v. Agricultural contingency plans for 650 districts have been prepared and State officials have been sensitized for preparedness. Agricultural contingency plans have been made available online for policy makers to take decisions in the event of delayed monsoons and other extreme weather events.
- vi. ICAR in collaboration with India Meteorological Department (IMD) is issuing Agromet advisories twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to around 6 crore farmers of the country through Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva Program. The advisories are reaching the farmers through m-KISAN portal, WhatsApp groups, SMS services etc.
- vii. During the past decade, 19,564 capacity building programs were conducted throughout the country under NICRA project to educate stakeholders on various aspects of climate change and resilient technologies, covering 5,60,016 different stakeholders including farmers so as to enable wider adoption of climate resilient technologies.
- viii. ICAR has made efforts to improve the nutritional quality in high yielding varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits using breeding methods and developed 87 varieties under special project on Consortium Research Platform on Biofortification.
- ix. System of Rice Intensification/ Direct Seeded Rice (SRI/ DSR) are also being promoted under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for reducing use of water in agriculture sector.

This Ministry is also implementing several programmes/schemes under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to transform Indian agriculture into sustainable production system. They include Rainfed Area Development Programme, Soil Health & Fertility, Per Drop More Crop, Agro-forestry, National Bamboo Mission, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Sub Mission on Agricultural

Mechanization, Crop Residue Management, Crop Diversification Program, National Bamboo Mission, National Mission for Integrated Development Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security and Nutrition Mission, Mission on Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region etc. Besides, in order to promote climate friendly and water use efficient crops, the Government has taken up various initiatives to increase the cultivation of millets. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme promotes water use efficiency at the farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Till date an area of 79.15 lakh hectare has been covered under Micro irrigation through the PDMC scheme from the year 2015-16. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme is being implemented as a component under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) from 2014-15 in the country. RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. Till date an area of 7.11 lakh hectares has been covered under RAD programme from the year 2014-15. Soil Health Card (SHC) / Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme is operational through the State Governments under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility. Now, this scheme has been merged as Soil Health Management Component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from the year 2022-23. The main objective of the scheme is to assist states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. So far 22.71 crore grid based soil health cards have been distributed to farmers under the scheme. For promoting organic farming, under Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER), 379 Farmer Producer Companies have been formed comprising of 1.89 lakh farmers and covering an area of 1.73 lakh ha. The restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was launched during 2018-19 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). During the year 2022-23 the NBM has been merged with Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme. MIDH is being implemented in which an area of 11.26 lakh ha have been covered. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) was initiated to promote organic farming in the country and so far 11.80 lakh ha area has been covered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Minister.
...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री कैलाश चौधरी: महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.248. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Darshana Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Reforms in telecom sector

†*248.SHRIMATI DARSHANA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering further reforms in the telecom sector;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government is inviting recommendations from industry on various issues including improving quality of services, bridging digital divide and ensuring security of telecom networks;
- (c) whether telecommunication facilities are not available in some villages of the country, especially in remote areas; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide telecom facilities in all villages of the country as well as the steps proposed to be taken for improvement in quality of telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government is committed to bring reforms in telecom sector and has brought various reforms in past 9 years.

(1) These telecom reforms have led to exponential growth of telecom sector, improved quality of services, bridging of digital divide, safety of the users and security of the telecommunication networks in past 9 years as indicated below:

S.No.	Parameters	As on 31.03.2014	As on 31.03.2023
(i)	Mobile Subscribers (in crores)	90.45	114.39

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii)	Mobile Broadband Subscribers (in crores)	4.56	81.20
(iii)	No of Mobile towers (in lakhs)	4.0	9.9
(iv)	Number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) [in lakhs]	6.49	25.42
(v)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid [in lakh kms]	11.05	38.06
(vi)	Mobile Data Tariff (in ₹/ GB)	269	10.1
(vii)	Data Usage per mobile subscriber per month (in GB)	0.27	17.11

(2) Further, the Government has simplified Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) clearance for telecom towers which has resulted in instantaneous SACFA clearances in 85% applications.

(3) The Government has also released National Frequency Allocation Plan 2022, which will guide the users of the spectrum to plan their networks in accordance with relevant frequency and parameters provided therein.

(4) Exemplifying the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects under PM Gati Shakti, the Call Before You Dig (CBuD) app was launched on 22.03.2023 for preventing damage to underlying assets like optical fibre cables, through a 'Whole-of-Government approach' benefitting all stakeholders by improving ease of doing business and minimizing discomfort to the citizens.

(5) With an aim to achieve Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, Government has removed or reduced 107-compliance burden as on date by simplifying Government to Citizen and Government to Business interface.

(6) Gati Shakti Sanchar portal launched on 14.05.2022 to streamline the process of Right of Way (RoW) applications and permissions of establishing telecom infrastructure across the country. This has resulted in the fastest 5G rollout in the world covering 717 districts with installation of more than 3.15 lakhs 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in just 10 months.

(7) The Government has launched Sanchar Saathi portal on 16.05.2023, a major reform towards the safety and security of users, which includes Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) module for tracing, blocking stolen/lost mobiles, Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFMCP) module which enables subscriber to know mobile connections registered in his/her name, Artificial

Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) module to identify fraudulent subscribers. By using Sanchar Saathi portal, more than 50 Lakh fraudulent connections have been disconnected so far.

(8) To improve the mobile coverage in border villages, the RoW permissions for the installation of Base Transceiver stations (BTSS) have been facilitated in border area.

Further, the Government is regularly consulting with all the stakeholders including different industry associations, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) etc. to bring and implement the reforms in telecom sector for overall growth of sector.

(c) and (d) Government is implementing various schemes to provide the telecom coverage to all uncovered 38,901 villages at an outlay of more than ₹ 41000 crores. Bharat Net scope recently expanded to cover all the inhabited villages at an outlay of ₹ 1.39 lakhs crores.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of service providers against the benchmark for various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters by way of Quality of Service regulations issued from time to time. The Government has also requested the TRAI to review the existing QoS Regulations and incorporate more stringent parameters/benchmarks to improve the present QoS significantly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Darshana Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Sir, the statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती दर्शना सिंह: धन्यवाद, माननीय सभापति महोदय ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.249. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Narain Dass Gupta. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Effects of Radio Frequency radiation

*249. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the ill-effects of uncontrolled radiation of Radio Frequency (RF) affecting pre-adolescent children, pregnant women, elderly people, patients with pace makers, birds, flora and fauna, insects etc.; and
- (b) steps taken by Government to control ill-effects of RF near cellular towers in residential areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW): (a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by base stations. "

In August 2016, drawing conclusion from scientific research, WHO has recorded on its website that in the area of biological effects and medical applications of non-ionizing radiation approximately 25,000 articles have been published over the past 30 years. Despite the feeling of some people that more research needs to be done, scientific knowledge in this area is now more extensive than for most chemicals. Based on a recent in-depth review of the scientific literature, the WHO concluded that current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields.

In February, 2020, WHO has again clarified, in Question & Answer (Q&A) published on its website on 5G mobile networks and health, that To date, and after much research performed, no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in its Guide on electromagnetic fields and health of 2020 has referred to WHO note, in terms of EMF and health as "All reviews conducted so far have indicated that exposures below the limits recommended in the International Commission for Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) 1998 EMF guidelines, covering the full frequency range from 0-300 GHz, do not produce any known adverse health effect. Studies and further research in this

area for better health risk assessments and knowledge about biological effects are ongoing process.

Government is following relevant International agencies/ organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for possible effects of radio radiation on humans, flora and fauna.

ICNIRP have issued guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (up to 300 ghz). ICNIRP has prescribed its norms for general public exposure as under:

Frequency Range	E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter)	H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter)	Power Density (Watt/Sq.Meter)
400MHz to 2000MHz	$1.375f^{1/2}$	$0.0037f^{1/2}$	$f/200$
2GHz to 300GHz	61	0.16	10

(f is frequency in MHz)

Both WHO and ITU recommend to adopt ICNIRP guidelines for EMF exposure. 137 countries have already adopted ICNIRP norms. ITU in 2019 has noted that “Because disparities in standards around the world have caused increasing public anxiety about exposure from the introduction of new technologies, WHO has commenced a process of harmonization of EMF standards worldwide.”

The Government of India has adopted extremely strict norms for EMF radiation which is 10 times more stringent than the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP. The present EMF exposure limits laid down for Base Transceiver Stations (BTSS) in India are as follows:

Frequency Range	E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter)	H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter)	Power Density (Watt/Sq.Meter)
400MHz to 2000MHz	$0.434f^{1/2}$	$0.0011f^{1/2}$	$f/2000$
2GHz to 300GHz	19.29	0.05	1

(f is frequency in MHz)

Telecom Service Providers have complained that such stringent norms have adverse impact on quality of service.

Government of India has put in place a well-structured process and mechanism so that Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) strictly adhere to these prescribed norms including submission of certificate by Telecom Service

Providers before commercial start of BTS site and extensive audit of compliance. DoT has provisioned to impose financial penalty on defaulting TSPs whose BTSs are found exceeding the prescribed EMF emission limits and closure of BTSs as per procedure if they are not brought within prescribed emission limits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Narain Dass Gupta. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Sir, the statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 250. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri S. Selvaganabathy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Production of exotic fruits in Puducherry

*250. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of exotic fruits in Puducherry during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, variety-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the extent to which farmers have benefitted from production of exotic fruits; and
- (c) whether Government is helping the States to grow exotic fruits and, if so, the details of schemes/ programmes under which Government is helping Puducherry for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW) promotes holistic development of horticulture including exotic crops through regionally differentiated programmes like Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) with an end to end approach encompassing components for planting material production, new plantation, horticulture mechanization, rejuvenation, protected cultivation,

training of farmers, post harvest management and creation of marketing infrastructure etc. The Ministry has identified globally popular fruits namely Avocado (Butter fruit), Blue berry, Dragon fruit (Kamalam), Kiwi, Mangosteen, Persimmon, Passion fruit, Rambutan and Strawberry for promotion and scale up of production under MIDH scheme in all States and Union Territories (UTs) including Puducherry. The support has been provided under MIDH to promote exotic fruits specially dragon fruit (Kamalam) in Puducherry. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has conducted various programmes like trainings, demonstrations and farm fest for promotion of exotic fruit crops in Puducherry. MoA&FW has also sanctioned Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Dragon Fruit (Kamalam) at IIHR, Bangalore to provide quality planting material, technical knowledge through trainings and demonstrations to the farmers of all States/ UTs including Puducherry.

Horticulture crops are also covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to provide safeguards to farmers. The assistance is also available for creation of infrastructure in Horticulture sector under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme of Government of India. National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also providing support for development of commercial horticulture, protected cultivation and post harvest infrastructure including cold storages, pack-houses, primary processing etc. The support is also available to promote micro irrigation in horticulture crops through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMKSY). Plantation of Dragon fruit (Kamalam) under horticulture plantation has been permitted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Puducherry has reported area and production of horticulture crops including exotic fruits like Dragon fruit (Kamalam) as 8150 ha and 27810 MT respectively, as per first advance estimate of 2022-23.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S. Selvaganabathy. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री कैलाश चौधरी: महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.251. ...(*Interruptions*)... Ms. Dola Sen. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Declining Textile and Apparel Exports

*251. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to address the challenges faced by the textile and apparel industry due to decline in the exports and the lack of cost competitiveness;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is considering removal of 11 per cent import duty on cotton to alleviate the financial burden on textile manufacturers and exporters; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government is implementing various schemes viz, Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA), SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector), Silk Samagra, National Handloom Development Programme, National Handicraft Development Programme, Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP), National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM), Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) etc. catering exclusively for development of textile sector in the country. Further, Government is promoting production of MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics and Products of Technical Textiles in the country through Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles.

India has so far signed 13 Free Trade Agreements including recently concluded agreements with UAE and Australia; and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements with various trading partners. In order to boost export and to make these products cost competitive, Government extended continuation of Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on exports of Apparel/Garments and Made-ups. Further, textiles products not covered under the RoSCTL are covered under Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) along with other products.

Government also provides financial support to various Export Promotion Councils and Trade Bodies engaged in promotion of textiles and garments exports, for organising and participating in trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets etc.

(c) and (d) The proposal to reduce Basic Customs Duty on Raw Cotton was examined as part of Budget exercise 2023-24 and the request was not acceded to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Dola Sen. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती दर्शना विक्रम जरदोश : महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.252. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Lack of adequate food processing units

*252. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 40 per cent of perishable food is wasted in the country due to lack of adequate food processing units, cold chain and storage despite significant growth in the sector; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve it?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PASHUPATI KUMAR PARAS): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per studies conducted by Indian Council for Agricultural Research – Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology (ICAR-CIPHET), 2015 and NABARD Consultancy Service Pvt. Ltd (NABCONS), 2022, the estimated percentage of Harvest and Post Harvest loss of perishable food is as follows:

Commodities (Perishables)	Estimated Percentage Loss	
	As per ICAR-CIPHET study (2015)	As per NABCONS study (2022)
Fruits	6.70-15.88	6.02-15.05
Vegetables	4.58-12.44	4.87-11.61
Milk	0.92	0.87
Fisheries(Marine)	10.52	8.76
Fisheries(Inland)	5.23	4.86

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) supports the creation and expansion of the processing/preservation capacity through implementation of various schemes to reduce post-harvest losses and create higher value-addition. The schemes are as follows:

- (i) Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)
- (ii) PM-Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME)
- (iii) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री पशुपति कुमार पारस: महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.253. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Amar Patnaik. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Inclusion of crop loss due to attacks by wild animal under PMFBY

*253. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has considered the request from Government of Odisha for inclusion of crop damage due to inundation and attacks by wild animals under the localised calamity peril category under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
- (b) if so, by when Government plans to bring the provisions for this, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government will consider sharing the premium subsidy for coverage of crop loss due to attacks by wild animals, between the Centre and State in the ratio 80:20, instead of 50:20 ratio under PMFBY; and
- d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been operational since Kharif 2016 and till 2022-23 (as on 30.06.2023), 4846 lakh farmer applications have been enrolled over an area of about 3497 lakh hectare insuring a sum of Rs. 14,45,978 crore. Against premium of Rs. 29,123 crore paid by farmers, claims of Rs. 1,40,599 crore have been paid to about 1457 lakh farmer applications.

The PMFBY provides for comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage due to non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest for the crops/areas notified by the concerned State Government. The losses to crops due to wild animals being preventable in nature were therefore, not covered. However, at the request of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and State Governments, States have been allowed to notify the losses by wild animals on individual assessment as add on cover keeping in view requirement of the State at their own cost. Detailed protocol for coverage has been given in the Operational Guidelines of the scheme.

Inundation as a risk cover is available to all notified crops. The hydrophilic crops like paddy, jute, mesta etc. are eligible for claims against the risks/provisions including damage of crop reported in the yield estimation through Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs), except for localized risk as because of the physiology of these hydrophilic crops, stagnation of water is generally beneficial for growth of these crops.

The review/revisions/rationalisation/improvements in the crop insurance schemes is a continuous process and decision on suggestion/representations/recommendations of the stakeholders/studies are taken from time to time after consultation with various stakeholders. Accordingly, Government has revised the premium subsidy sharing pattern 50 : 50 to 90 : 10 between Central and State Government in North Eastern States (from Kharif 2020 season) and for Himalayan States (from Kharif 2023 season). The premium sharing pattern of remaining States/UTs is 50:50 subject to certain conditions. At present, no proposal to revise the subsidy sharing pattern between Centre and State in respect of attacks by wild animals is under consideration before the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Amar Patnaik. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री कैलाश चौधरी: महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.254. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas.
...*(Interruptions)*...

Quality checks and practices under ATMA Scheme

*254. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism or criteria to assess the quality and relevance of technologies and practices disseminated through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has received any feedback from farmers or other stakeholders for improving the quality and relevance of technologies and practices disseminated through the Scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government on such feedback or suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government of India launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms' popularly known as ATMA Scheme in 2005-06 aimed at providing technical knowledge to farmers on a broad scale to improvise their various skills and transfer of new technologies not only in Agricultural field but also in other allied sectors like Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries and Sericulture for increasing their farm income. Presently, Scheme is being implemented in 704 districts of 28 states & 5 UTs in the country. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Under the scheme, Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government's efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers

Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc. Till 7th August, 2023, over 653.59 lakh farmers have been benefited under the scheme through different extension activities since its inception.

While the concept of district level Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) has been promoted with an idea to provide a platform for integrated extension delivery involving all the Stakeholders, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) operating at the same level act as an outreach arm of NARS facilitating validation and adopting of new technologies through front line demonstrations & awareness programs and other initiatives. KVK at district level provides knowledge and validate new technology for dissemination among farmers through ATMA network. Thus, a mechanism is in place to develop and validate new agricultural technologies by the NARS system at various levels before its dissemination among large number of farmers through ATMA network.

(c) and (d) Activities of the scheme are monitored and evaluated at periodic intervals through a specific mechanism generated at different levels (Block, District, State and National level). At National level, 4 evaluation studies through outside agencies have been carried out so far during 2009-10, 2017-18, 2019-20 and 2020-21 by Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd., Creative Agri Solutions, Indian Society of Agri-business Professionals and DMEO, NITI Aayog respectively. The gist of these evaluation studies is as under:-

- ATMA has a strong institutional presence on the ground, the activities conducted have enabled farmers to learn about new technologies and have the opportunities to interact with scientists to enable them to increase their knowledge.
- Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) of the certified seeds has increased significantly through ATMA intervention.
- Farmers admitted that after adopting new technologies, not only yield of crops but milk production has also increased.
- Farm demonstrations and Farm Schools have a good learning impact on farmers and the production is also increasing.
- Mobilization of Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs)/Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs)/ Food Security Groups (FSGs) under ATMA scheme are integrating with Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कैलाश चौधरी: महोदय, विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 255. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Jawhar Sircar.
...*(Interruptions)*...

Suburban railways services of Howrah and Sealdah railway stations

*255. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects to improve passenger travel in the suburban railway services of Howrah and Sealdah Railway stations during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether frequencies and speeds can be increased and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the new projects that are being envisaged for these suburban rail services;
- (d) the annual capital and revenue expenditure for these suburban rail services as percentage of total railway budget; and
- (e) the measures taken to improve and increase the metro rail services in Kolkata and by when will the current extension projects be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Suburban services and long distance services use the same railway network in Howrah & Sealdah and improvement in railway network improves the suburban services as well. Railways have taken up/commissioned 08 Railway projects (06 Doubling, 01 Gauge Conversion and 01 New Line) costing Rs. 4,118 Cr. to improve passenger travel for suburban railway services for Howrah and Sealdah Railway stations in the last 3 years and the current Financial Year 2023-24 as detailed below:-

S. No.	Name of the Project	Cost (Rs. in Cr.)	Status
1	Sondalia — Champapukur	279	Commissioned

	(23.64 Km) Doubling		
2	Dankuni — Chandanpur (25.41 Km) 4th line	697	Commissioned
3	Boinchi — Shaktigarh (25.83 Km) 3rd line	517	Commissioned
4	Bandel — Boinchi (30.53 Km) 3rd line	595	Commissioned
5	Bhattanagar — Baltikuri (2.70 Km)	77	Commissioned
6	Naihati-Ranaghat (36 Km) 3rd line	284	Naihati — Kalyani (10.37 Km) 3rd line section commissioned. Kalyani — Ranaghat (25.17 Km) 3rd line section taken up.
7	Krishnanagar — Amghata (8.30 Km) Gauge Conversion	50	Work taken up
8	Tarkeshwar-Bishnupur New Line Project (82 Km)	1619	Tarakeshwar -Goghat (33.93 Km) & Mayonapur - Bishnupur (22.68 km) sections have been commissioned. Goghat- Kamarpukur (5.5 Km): Work has been stopped by local villagers at Bhabadighi Tank. Kamarpukur- Mayonapur (20.35 Km) : Work taken up. Work on remaining section kept in abeyance due to land acquisition issue in West Bengal.

Also 05 Metro projects covering 98 Kms length under Kolkata Metro rail has been taken up out of which approximately 20 Km sections have been commissioned. During last 3 years, an expenditure of Rs. 8,289 Cr. has been incurred on Metro projects in Kolkata.

Increase in frequency and speeding up of existing services is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, resources availability, etc.

Upgradation/modernization of stations on Indian Railways is also a continuous and on-going process. As per Minimum Essential Amenities norms, all passenger amenities/facilities are provided as per the respective category of the station. Further, enhanced/desirable amenities are provided depending upon need, volume of passenger traffic and inter-se priority and also subject to availability of funds.

Recently, the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme has been launched for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like "One Station One Product", better passenger information systems, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each such station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballast less tracks, Roof Plazas as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

So far, 1,309 Stations including Howrah and Sealdah Railway Stations have been identified under this scheme over Indian Railways.

Speed upgradation is a continuous process in Indian Railways. Sectional speed of most of the suburban sections of Howrah and Sealdah divisions in Eastern Railway is varying between 100 kmph to 110 kmph. During last 2 years, sectional speed has been raised to 100/110 kmph in 599 km of above suburban sections. Further raising of sectional speed will not be of much use as Trains stop at every station in suburban sections.

In Accounting and Budgeting Heads of the Railway Budget, Budget provision is made under the relevant heads meant for different activities under Revenue and Capital grants.

Suburban services in Kolkata area are being run on Eastern Railway (ER), South Eastern Railway (SER) and Metro services on Metro Railway Kolkata. Provision of funds is made as per requirement and overall availability of resources. Expenditure under these Railways in Revenue and Capital grants in the last three

years and provision for the current year is shown in the following table. Besides, funds are also provided to Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (KMRCL) for execution of East-West Corridor of Kolkata Metro. Expenditure and outlay for the same is also shown in the table.

Capital Segment

(₹ in crore)

	Actual 2020-21	% of total	Actual 2021- 22	% of total	Actual 2022- 23 (Prov.)	% of total	Budget Estimate 2023-24	% of total
Eastern	4745	3.1%	5356	2.8%	5269	2.6%	4516	1.7%
South Eastern	6441	4.2%	8990	4.7%	9106	4.5%	7017	2.7%
Metro Rly	1174	0.8%	2512	1.3%	3188	1.6%	3467	1.3%
KMRCL	800	0.5%	300	0.2%	300	0.1%	500	0.2%

Revenue Segment

(₹ in crore)

	Actual 2020-21	% of total	Actual 2021- 22	% of total	Actual 2022-23 (Prov.)	% of total	Budget Estimate 2023-24	% of total
Eastern	9564	7.0%	10626	6.8%	11451	6.4%	12357	6.6%
South Eastern	8200	6.0%	8972	5.7%	9690	5.4%	10628	5.6%
Metro Rly	438	0.3%	473	0.3%	529	0.3%	597	0.3%

Completion of any railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical condition of area, law and order situation in the area of the project site, number of working months in a year for particular site due to climatic conditions, etc. and all these factors affect the completion time of the project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jawhar Sircar. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Jawhar Sircar, go to your seat and raise the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Sir, the statement is laid on the Table of the House.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए।...(व्यवधान)... I am in the Chair. ...(Interruptions)... Please.
...(Interruptions)... Take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Ms. Dola Sen, take your seat.
...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Ms. Sushmita, please
take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Take
your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Ms. Sushmita, please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...
Take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Members. ...(Interruptions)... One second.
...(Interruptions)... One second, listen to me and take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... I
am addressing that. ...(Interruptions)... I am addressing the issue. ...(Interruptions)...
I am addressing the issue, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Take your seat.
...(Interruptions)... माननीय सदस्यगण, आज हमारे लिए बहुत सोचने और चिंतन करने का
मौका है। आज प्रातः ही मुझे अटल जी की एक कविता का ध्यान आया - "क्या खोया, क्या पाया"
...(व्यवधान)... 20 तारीख को अगर आप चेयर की बात मानते, तो कल जो लोक सभा में हुआ है,
जिस तरह से लोक सभा में व्यापक स्तर पर मणिपुर के ऊपर चर्चा हुई है, गृह मंत्री जी ने चर्चा की
है, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने चर्चा की है...(व्यवधान)... लेकिन आप यह मौका चूक गए। ...(व्यवधान)...
No. ...(Interruptions)... Are we.....(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned to meet
at 2.00 p.m. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m. today.

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

The House then adjourned at forty-three minutes past twelve of the clock.

*The House reassembled at two of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

- (I) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (II) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Messages from Lok Sabha; Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

(I)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 2023.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 2023.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Bills on the Table.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

£The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023

&

£The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Bills for consideration and return. The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to be discussed together. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Telangana): Sir, what about Private Members' Business? It is a Private Members' day.

£ Discussed together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to move a motion for consideration of the following Bills: - The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The questions were proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion for consideration of the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 are now open for discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... I now call upon Members whose names have been received for participation in the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to reply to the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Leader of the House, what is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are dealing directly with the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to reply to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, LoP. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall first put the motion regarding consideration of the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Sir, we walk out... ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to move that the Bill be returned.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the motion regarding consideration of the The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to vote. The question is:

" That the Bill further to amend the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to move that the Bill be returned.

SHRIMATI NIRAMLA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, sitting in this chair, I am obligated to observe scrupulous adherence to rules and past precedents. The issue that was raised was not worthy of attention for the reason that due diligence had not been engaged. The premise is that the BAC did not allocate time for it. In the past, many Bills had been taken for consideration when BAC had not allocated the time; the South Asian University Bill, 2008, the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2008, the AIIMS (Amendment) Bill, 2008, the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2016, just to illustrate a few instances. In this House, we have to follow a practice that we contribute in a substantive manner. Procedural wrangling does not give impactful response to the job we are required to do. Yes, the Leader of the House.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Hon. Chairman, Sir, it is with a deep sense of anguish that I have risen to raise a very pertinent issue related to hon. Member, Shri Raghav Chadha, who has repeatedly indulged himself in gross impropriety and misconduct that is unexpected and unbecoming of a Member of Parliament. His conduct is far distant from the ethical standard expected of a Member of this august House. On 7th of August, 2023, he moved an amendment under relevant rules for referring the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to a Select Committee consisting of 19 Members including hon. Members, Shri Narhari Amin, Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. M. Thambidurai and Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi. It also included Shri S Niranjana Reddy, who did not realise his name has been included and, therefore, at that point of time, did not raise an objection, but, subsequently informed us that he had also not given his consent. When the motion came up for consideration before the Council on 7th August, 2023, at about 9.35 p.m., some Members, whose names figured in the list, took severe exception for being included for the proposed Select Committee moved by Shri Raghav Chadha. The Members who objected in the House that day included (i) Dr. Sasmit Patra, who stated, and I quote, "As per Rule 72 (2), no such discussion has been done by me. My name has been taken without my permission. This is a matter of privilege. This is completely wrong." (ii) Dr. M. Thambidurai stated and I quote, "I did not sign anywhere. It is a misuse. It is a privilege issue. Somebody has misused my name. Action should be taken against him." (iii) Shrimati S.

Phangnon Konyak stated and I quote, "Sir, I wish to say something. Under Rule 72(2), I object to it. I also understand that the hon. Member thinks he is smart. I accept that but I would appreciate if he would not undermine another Member by mentioning her name without her consent. I object to it." (iv) Shri Narhari Amin stated and I quote, "My name has been included fraudulently." Sir, I have translated that from the Hindi remarks he made.

Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi also objected to the proposal, even though, he did not get a chance to state his views on the mike because his mike was not on. Shri S Niranjana Reddy mentioned to us, after the House was adjourned, that he had also not given his consent. Hon. Chairman, Sir, Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, explicitly states that the mover shall ascertain whether a Member, proposed to be named by him, is willing to serve on the Committee. The purposeful intent of this provision is that in the Parliament of the largest democracy, the mother of democracies, home to one-sixth of humanity, hon. Members enjoy constitutionally-ordained privileges. The views expressed by the Members on the floor of the House left no doubt that there was an outrage of privilege of these Members by hon. Member, Shri Raghav Chadha, by including their names in the motion without securing their willingness. This is contrary to the provisions of Rule 72(2) as stated before. Hon. Chairman, Sir, whips had been issued on that day. All of us were bound to be present and vote as per our respective party decisions, on an important matter, a matter which affected the lives of crores of people living in the NCT area. Now, this could jolly well lead to a situation where a very eminent hon. Member of Parliament would be subject to scrutiny by his constituents, by his party and his very conduct, by having accepted a motion which opposed the Bill, which his party was supporting, could have invited severe consequences on the hon. Members. It could go as far as losing their membership of the House. That is the level of breach of privilege that hon. Member, Shri Raghav Chadha has done. Tomorrow, God forbid, if a party was to start suspecting, -- I am taking your name, with due apology, Dr. Sasmit Patra -- that Dr. Sasmit Patra was disobeying the party whip, was going along with the other side and breaking the whip of the party, it could have severe consequences that his very membership was at risk and, so was the case for the other five Members. And, all these six Members are extremely disturbed. They are extremely hurt and they are looking forward to the Chair and to all of us, as the Members of this august House, to provide protection to them, to provide protection to their rights and give them due justice. Unfortunately, Sir, rather than remorsefully expressing regret for his unethical conduct, outrageous disregard of the rules, unacceptable arrogation of privileges of other senior Members, Shri Raghav Chadha

in his interaction with the Press, outside the House, ridiculed the objections raised by his fellow colleagues for including their names in the proposed Select Committee without their consent. His tweets on 10th of August, 2023 at about 1.58 p.m., which I saw, on the same issue, are highly unbecoming of an hon. Member of Parliament. Regrettably, he went to equate inclusion of names of the Members in the motion to that of a birthday invitation card. Hon. Chairman, Sir, even earlier, Shri Raghav Chadha made misleading statements before the Press by stating that his fellow colleague, Shri Sanjay Singh, was suspended from the Council on 24th July, 2023 for raising questions. He knew fully well that the suspension of Shri Sanjay Singh from the House was due to his unruly behaviour including repeated violations of rules and directives of the Chair. In utter defiance to the rules, provisions and directions of the hon. Chair, Shri Raghav Chadha in his Press interviews justified the misconduct of Shri Sanjay Singh's refusal to leave the precincts of the Council even after his suspension on 24th July, 2023, after due process.

Such blatant defiance, forged action and disrespectful conduct of Shri Raghav Chadha seriously compromise the dignity of the Members of Parliament, as also the august position of the House. By his conduct, he has brought the institution of Parliament in severe disrepute. Sir, his latest misconduct is also to be viewed in the context of two breach of privileges, that are pending already before the Committee of Privileges. To overlook such repeated acts of misdemeanour, specially viewed in the context of the prestige of Parliament, of the largest democracy on earth, and from the status of Members of such an august Parliament would, certainly, be very inappropriate.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, it is very painful for me to initiate an action against a fellow Member of the House. However, it will be an abdication of constitutional responsibility and obligations to shun from such a responsibility as well. In view of the severe misdemeanour, outrageous disregard of rules and trampling of privileges of other hon. Members, with utmost constraint, I move the following Resolution:

"That the Council disapproves gross violation of rules, defiant attitude, mischievous and contemptuous conduct of hon. Member, Shri Raghav Chadha resulting in lowering the dignity of the Council and blatant disregard to the framework of Code of Conduct for Members of Rajya Sabha as prescribed by the Committee on Ethics and thus, approves Suspension of Shri Raghav Chadha from the Council till the Committee of Privileges submits its findings on cases of breach of Privilege pending against him".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I have two submissions. Firstly, I would suggest that we may note that it was adopted unanimously. This has become a regular practice of disrespect to the Chair and the House of not participating in the proceedings or when participating, disturbing the House. So, it is a unanimous approval of the House. Sir, I have one more submission to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, taking a holistic view on the gravity of his misdemeanour, violation of Rules, defiant attitude and inappropriate conduct, I find it expedient, invoking Rule 266, read with Rule 256 and suspend Shri Raghav Chadha, Member, from the service of the Council, till the Council has the benefit of the Report by the Committee of Privileges.

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): महोदय, इस मैटर को एक बार रिव्यू कर लें।

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I have one more submission. Hon. Member, Shri Sanjay Singh who is under suspension, for the remaining period of the current session, with effect from 24th July, 2023, has been a habitual violator of rules and directives of the hon. Chair. Shri Sanjay Singh, on a Motion approved by the Council, on 24th July, 2023, was suspended from the service of the Council for the remaining period of the current session of Rajya Sabha. This was on account of his repeated violation of rules, disregard to the directives of the Chair and his highly disrespectful conduct which the entire nation and this august House and our hon. Members saw on that eventful day. The way he came into the Well of the House, almost threateningly, reminding us of an earlier incident, where he had attacked the Chair, he had thrown articles on the Chair, and very clearly, we were all very worried, at what could happen on that eventful day, and to what extent, hon. Member, Shri Sanjay Singh could have gone on that day. Therefore, I had moved the Motion for his suspension which the House had adopted.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, as per Rule 256(3), once a Member gets suspended, he or she should leave the precincts of the Council forthwith without any delay whatsoever.

However, Shri Sanjay Singh, in defiance to the rules, did not leave the Chamber. Despite repeated requests by the hon. Deputy Chairman, Shri Singh did not leave the Chamber and forced the Chair to adjourn the sitting twice on that day,, at 2.00 p.m. and at 3.00 p.m. Ultimately, it resulted in the Council not transacting any business on that day. This is showing gross disrespect to the Chair and a shocking

behaviour. The world today, country today, every countryman, the children in our schools, etc. are asking us this question that taxpayers' money, crores of rupees, is spent. We have been elected to both Houses, by the honourable people of India, to work for the future of India, to make India a developed nation, to make India a prosperous nation, to take the fruits of development to every part of India, to every citizen of India, and that is what we are all trying to do here. Just in the garb that this type of situation has happened in the past, therefore, we have a right to do this again, and not allow the House to transact any Business, is becoming misuse of precedents. Now this has to stop some day. The House will have to start working in an orderly fashion, will have to start serious dialogue, debate and discussion, as you have been urging from the Chair very often. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this behaviour did not stop here. After his behaviour, which itself is unbecoming of a parliamentarian, Shri Sanjay Singh did not express any remorse or any regret whatsoever for his misconduct. Instead, he continued to justify his unruly behaviour at various forums often by taking recourse to misleading information, which is also very much evident in his interactions with the Press. We have observed his Press statements made outside the House, at formal Press conferences. We saw that he did not leave the precincts of the Parliament for several days after. That can make, in a way, a visual which was very demeaning of the entire Parliament and for all of us Members. We all felt ashamed at this kind of behaviour of a colleague as Member of Parliament. Hon. Chairman, Sir, it is also pertinent and very, very important for the House and the nation to know, through you, that the hon. Member, Shri Sanjay Singh, who has been in this House for about five years and a few months, had entered into the Well of the House on 56 previous occasions in the last 12 Sessions of the Rajya Sabha. 56 occasions! I can understand, once or twice they are agitated, they disturb the House, they disturb the proceedings on the issue they are very emotional about. This is a deliberate attempt to undermine the proceedings and orderly conduct of Parliament and directly has an impact on the privileges of every other Member of this House, whether on that side or on this side. On 56 previous occasions, he has entered into the Well of the House and was named in the Bulletins of Parliament. Hon. Chairman, Sir, he has also been suspended from the services of the Council twice before during the 252nd and the 257th Sessions. This repeated and deliberate misconduct deserves to be noted by the House, deserves to be recognized by the people of India and, therefore, it is important to note that a Member of Parliament repeatedly committing the same act of disobedience, repeatedly disturbing the orderly proceedings of the House, repeatedly not allowing the House to transact its Business and, in addition to that, already having three cases of breach of privilege and contempt of the House

pending against him before the Committee of Privileges, deserves exemplary action. Therefore, with your permission, Sir, I would like to move a motion for the consideration of this august House.

Sir, I move:

“That the Council disapproves the repeated violation of rules, directives of the Chair and unruly conduct of hon. Member, Shri Sanjay Singh, as the same are not in conformity with the rules to be observed by the Members of the Council, as the same lowers the dignity of the Council, and as the same are in violation of the framework of code of conduct for Members of Rajya Sabha, as prescribed by the Committee on Ethics and thus approves the continuation of suspension of Shri Sanjay Singh till the Committee of Privileges submits its findings on cases of breach of privilege pending against him.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, this too is a unanimous decision of the House.

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता: सर, मेरा निवेदन है कि मुझे दो मिनट बोलने का समय दिया जाए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will come to you. Taking conspectus of his continued misconduct, violation of directions and blatant disregard of the rules of the House, I find it expedient to refer the matter, as indicated earlier, to the Committee of Privileges. Further, I invoke Rule 266 read with Rule 256 that the Suspension Order dated 24th July, 2023, in respect of Shri Sanjay Singh may continue beyond the current Session till the Council has the benefit of recommendation by the Committee of Privileges.

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता: सर, मेरा निवेदन है कि मुझे दो मिनट बोलने का समय दिया जाए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, when someone gets into Parliament, it is a historical achievement. When someone gets into the Upper House, the Council of States, the House of Elders, as compared to Lok Sabha, where the term is six years and the House is ever in continuity unlike Lok Sabha, then, it is a privilege, an honour to be ever remembered. If, in this House, we fail to live up to the highest expectations of the people and framers of the Constitution, then, we are abdicating our constitutional obligations. Let me invite the attention of the hon. Members that the Constituent Assembly met for three years; it had 18 sessions; some of the most divisive, difficult issues, contentious issues came up for deliberations. They engaged

in dialogue, discussion, debate, deliberation and had behind-the-scene negotiations. But, there was not a single instance of disruption or disturbance, much less Members getting into the Well of the House!

The hon. Leader of the House spoke of 'one or two instances of coming into the Well to be condoned'; but, in this Chair, I would not agree to that. Even one misdemeanour of a Member coming into the Well is painful. The Member is not aware that his conduct will find disapproval by more than 1.3 billion people. How can a Member come into the Well, get away from his seat and still try to make a contribution? Disorder can't be allowed to be the order of the House. This has been weaponised as a political strategy. And that is anti-democratic, anti-constitutional. It will be very difficult for me, sitting in this chair, to overlook such kind of transgressions.

Let me invite your attention to the fact that this country came to have Ethics Committee in the late 90's. The first Chairman of the Ethics Committee was a veteran parliamentarian, a man who held high positions in the Government, both in the Ministries of Home and Finance, Shri S.B. Chavan. He rendered a report to this House on 1st December, 1998 and he indicated framework of code of conduct for Members of Rajya Sabha:

"Members should acknowledge the responsibility to maintain the public trust reposed in them and should work diligently to discharge their mandate for the common good of the people. They must hold in high esteem the Constitution, the law and parliamentary institutions and, above all, general public. They should, constantly, strive to translate the ideals laid down in the Preamble to the Constitution into a reality. The following are the principles which they should abide by their dealings — I will refer to only two of the principles — (I) Members must not do anything that brings disrepute to the Parliament and affects their credibility." I will pause here for a moment. Coming into the Well; rising from their seats; shouting slogans; coming with a garland of tomatoes — where are we heading to? Forget about the people at large, even your blood relations, your near and dear ones will not approve of it. It is now 25 years since this Report was put before this House. The second one is, Members are expected to maintain high standards of morality, dignity, decency, and values in public life. Each word is getting outraged. I must share my concern with the hon. Members, what I saw in the last few days, -- challenging manners with physical dimensions, and daring the Chair virtually -- what can the Chair do? I have been extremely indulgent. But those of the Members who have come in utter disregard, it has pained me. It was no rejoicing for me that even a Senior Advocate, Mr. Vivek Tankha, came into the Well. A man, holding a high position in the legal fraternity,

engages in such kinds of transgressions! Imagine if it happens in a court of law, what the consequences will be! Ours is a much elevated institution. We have to decide the fate of every other institution in the country. We are the repository of power to ensure that constitutional institutions continue to be within their bounds. I, therefore, earnestly appeal to you and plead with you, please informally reach out to your friends on the other side and discuss with them; otherwise, the consequences for us will be that we will surge into irrelevance. And, that being the situation, the point is very clear. It is, perhaps, towards the end of the road that we must awaken ourselves and do our duties.

Now, I will take up the next item. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Gupta, are you on your seat? Just imagine. How can I give you a chance? I don't have to tutor you every day. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता: मैं अब अपनी सीट पर हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you were not on your seat. That is why I did not hear you. ...*(Interruptions)*... You may have a grievance ...*(Interruptions)*... You may have a grievance, but I did not hear you. Why? It is that I am also bound by rules. I was telling you at that point of time. Quite a number of times, the rule has been read out in the House that you can speak only from your seat. This can't be our norm. We have to exemplify our conduct by our actions so that people, at large, emulate us. They take us as role models. But, if they take us as role models, right now, what will happen to the nation at large? ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, valedictory remarks.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we have come to the conclusion of the 260th Session of the Rajya Sabha. Let us make an assessment of the ground we have covered in our journey towards meaningful governance and legislative action. Let me tell you, in Lok Sabha, the hon. Home Minister, for more than an hour, reflected only on Manipur. The hon. Prime Minister, in his discourse, focussed on Manipur, indicated to the nation a soothing and healing touch. अब सोचिए, हमने क्या खोया, क्या पाया। On 20th of July, on the very first day, when the matter came up for consideration, the Government had immediately agreed after I had accepted the notice. It was my discretion, my judgement to accept the notice that this House must debate Manipur. The debate did not take place. It was listed in the Supplementary

List of Business. I had indicated to the entire House saying, "The Short Duration Discussion is limited to two-and-a-half hours, but I invoke my authority under the rules and I will keep it open-ended." Members of this House are extremely and enormously talented. We have *Padma* awardees of the highest category here, three of them. This House, on account of unruly conduct and indecorous behaviour, could not avail of the historic opportunity of guiding the Lok Sabha on Manipur, and that was on account of our actions. This was very painful. Once again, we yielded to the allure of narrow interests and allowed disorder to be the new normal in the proceedings of the House. It appears that my appeals have not resonated well with our Members. The frequent, unwholesome spectacle of disruptions only indicate that my message has not found the attentive audience it deserves. I would be open to any kind of idea. I have interacted with the hon. Members, the floor leaders, in my Chamber, and they agreed with me. And, once they come to the House, things were otherwise. It is a worrisome, alarming scenario. A total of 44 hours and 58 minutes, during the 17 sittings of the House, were lost due to avoidable disruptions, adversely impinging on our overall productivity of this Session. The people, at large, are in pain. They have got us elected here. They are sustaining us by their fiscal power. It is a heavy drain on exchequer. Our accountability and transparency has nosedived. Can we allow such a scenario to continue?

Hon. Members, we have been able to pass a few Bills during the Session that witnessed some lively and animated debate. We could take up questions on a few occasions, but I feel the productivity of the Question Hour could have been much better. I will make an appeal to the media also. It pains me when the media carries a news report, "Rajya Sabha passes Bills in absence of Opposition." It is factually wrong. The media is required to be on tenable factual ground. The Members chose not to perform their constitutional duty by being present. They walked out not from the House but from their solemn duty, their constitutional obligations. Therefore, such kind of reporting by media, I appeal to the media to be more sensitive to the sentiments of the people at large and properly and fairly report the proceedings of the House. The Rajya Sabha also witnessed a positive development while giving fair representation to our dynamic women Members to be part of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen.

I wish to utilize their innate managerial skills for the smooth conduct of the proceedings of the House, and friends, this decision was taken after careful deliberation; and I get a feel that Women Chairpersons have performed from this

Chair in a manner which is of the highest standards. When, for the first time, Shrimati P.T. Usha, who got a Padma Award in 80s, sat on this Chair, I got messages from all over the globe that she has glorified this position. This gave me the spinal strength to put more hon. Women Members of this House in the Chair. The first Member of Parliament from Nagaland, Shrimati Konyak, gave remarkable performance, and the same applies to others. I think they have vindicated the role and made us proud.

In a similar vein, the Secretariat, in a laudable move, undertook a progressive initiative to empower its women employees by affording them the opportunity to attend to the significant Table duties within the hallowed Chamber. Right now, you will see; all four are women. And there was a time when for the first time, -- I could see in the media later on -- in the Chair was a lady Member of this House, the speaker was a lady Member and the Table was occupied by lady employees; that photograph has been appreciated all around.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION; AND THE MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): Sir, though our colleague, Mrs. Sulata Deo is not from a Hindi-speaking area, but during her conduct, she speaks good Hindi. You should acknowledge that also.

श्री सभापति: माननीय मंत्री जी, मैं आपको बताऊँ, I have had involved interaction with all of them at Up-rashtrapati Niwas, and I have come to know about her outstanding contributions. She is a leader in her own right; I wouldn't say, a potential challenge to the hon. Minister!

As a matter of fact, let me report to this House that in the next Session, I will be having another team because many have interacted with me and they have a huge commitment to their duty, huge experience; some of them have come from *Sarpanch* to this level. They have led empowerment of women programmes extensively with attendance of thousands. But your point is well taken.

Hon. Members, the Secretariat, in another commendable endeavour, started a two-week Rajya Sabha Internship Programme with inaugural batch of 20 interns from North-Eastern States. I had the occasion to be with them along with the hon. Minister, Sonowalji. I had dinner with them yesterday. Look at the brightness in their eyes, the kind of experience they had, and, at the highest level, attention was paid to their internship, a 1991 batch IAS Officer, Secretary to Rajya Sabha, was overlooking everything; and they will carry our message in the entire region. This Programme, we will continue. I have no doubt, our young interns gained better understanding and

insights; had this House been in a functional mode, it would have been much better. One of the interns told me, 'We have been to the Convention Centre'; the second one said, 'We have been to Prime Minister Museum'; and the description was so vivid as if I was in the Museum. So, that is a great achievement. We will take it further.

Hon. Members, I have given certain rulings and made some observations keeping in mind the expectations of the people from this august House. I know some of them may have been bitter, but I have suffered many such observations, as a Senior Advocate, from the courts. The court is never ill-motivated against any lawyer. They make observations only to ensure that we rise up in our contributory mechanism in a positive manner. I have made that. I have taken a very few painful decisions, and that was in deference to my constitutional obligation and the respect I have for this esteemed office.

If I had not taken those unpalatable decisions, then, your respect for me would have gone down.

I must express my deep sense of gratitude to the hon. Deputy Chairperson, a man of enormous patience, gifted with intellect, who always gave me sagacious advice. We interacted every day of the Session. Though I am always careful when dealing with journalists and he is one, his disarming approach brought us together. But for him, things would not have been as productive from our perspective as they have been.

Hon. Members, to have an experienced and talented man as Secretary-General is a great asset. Having discussed the matter with him on two occasions, everything about the Secretariat, the buck stops on his table. I have enough time to deal with my other duties. He has created a new and energetic mechanism for the employees and in togetherness we are all determined that our Secretariat employees are the best we can have and we are determined to empower them. As for digitization, we are not making formal most things by declarations as to what we have accomplished. Our paper consumption has been reduced to 50 per cent. The Secretary-General, a former Chairman of CBDT, knows that the enforcement is that we buy only 50 per cent. So, you cannot consume more than you buy. So, buy only 50 per cent.

Hon. Members, to conclude, our greetings for the 77th Independence Day and a vast array of festivals that await all of us. Thank you. *Jai Hind!*

NATIONAL SONG

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the National Song.

(The National Song, "Vande Mataram", was then played.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned sine die at forty-nine minutes past two of the clock.

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