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No. 8



Monday,
31st July, 2023
9 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)
(PART-II)

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 31st July, 2023/9 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oath or Affirmation.

Shri Sadanand Shet Tanawde (Goa)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Report and Accounts (2021-22) of the AI Assets Holding Limited, New Delhi and related papers

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

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

- (a) Fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the AI Assets Holding Limited, New Delhi, 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) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9723/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Coal

कोयला मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

(i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Coal Notification No. G.S.R. 393 (E), dated the 29th May, 2023, publishing the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Amendment Rules 2023, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9709/17/23]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Coal Notification No. G.S.R. 394 (E), dated the 29th May, 2023, publishing the Coal Blocks Allocation (Amendment) Rules, 2023, under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9710/17/23]

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

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह वर्मा): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

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

- (a) Sixty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), New Delhi, 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) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9726/17/23]

Notifications of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर तेली): महोदय, मैं पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस विनियामक बोर्ड अधिनियम, 2006 की धारा 62 के अधीन पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

(1) No. PNGRB/Com/10-NGPL Tariff (11)/2022 (P-4142) dated the 28th March, 2023, publishing the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff) Amendment Regulations, 2023.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9729/17/23]

(2) No. PNGRB/Auth/1-CGD (08)/2020 (P-894) dated the 29th March, 2023, publishing the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2023.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9728/17/23]

(3) No. PNGRB/Tech/7-T4SP1(1)/2022 (P-4116) dated the 29th March, 2023, publishing the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Petroleum Installations) Amendment Regulations, 2023.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9727/17/23]

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
- II. **Report and Accounts (2021-22) of NCRPB, New Delhi and related papers**
- III. **MoU (2021-22) between the Government of India and NCRPB**

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

I. (A) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957:—

(1) No. LM/PM/003/2021/UDAY/LGL/157, dated the 15th May, 2023, publishing the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property

Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

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- (2) No. LM/PM/003/2021/UDAY/LGL, dated the 24th May, 2023, publishing a Corrigendum to the Notification No. LM/PM/003/2021/UDAY/LGL/157, dated the 15th May, 2023 (in Hindi only).

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 9732/17/23]

(B) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Notification No. G.S.R. 395 (E), dated the 29th May, 2023, publishing the Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2023, under Section 102 of the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9732/17/23]

II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 26 of the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985:—

- (a) Annual Report of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22.

Annual Accounts of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New

- (b) Delhi, for the year 2021-22, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9730/17/23]

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) and the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for the year 2021-22.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9733/17/23]

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

- (I) **The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023**

- (II) **The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023**
- (III) **The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Messages from the Lok Sabha. Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I rise to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of 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 Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2023."

(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 National Dental Commission Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2023."

(III)

"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 National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2023."

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

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा (असम): महोदय, मैं अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कल्याण संबंधी समिति (2023-24) के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदनों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (i) Twenty-fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) in formulation, implementation and monitoring of reservation policy' pertaining to

the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training); and

- (ii) Twenty-sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 'Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions/Reserve Bank of India and credit facilities and other benefits being provided by such Institutions/Banks to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes with special reference to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)' pertaining to the Ministry of Finance.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 314th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): Sir, I lay a Statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 314th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 27th, 28th and 29th Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence

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 Ajay Bhatt, I lay the

following statements regarding:—

- (a) Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 27th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on 'Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, MES, ECHS and Sainik School' (Demand Nos. 20 and 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.
- (b) Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 28th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on 'Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy, Defence Planning and MAP' (Demand No. 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.
- (c) Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 29th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on 'Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services)- New DPSUs, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Directorate General of Quality Assurance and National Cadet Corps' (Demand Nos. 20 and 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

REGARDING DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 267

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received today 65 notices under Rule 267. ...*(Interruptions)*... Under the guidance of many Members, I had developed a practice of reading out their names and the subject of their notice under Rule 267. I want the feel of the House whether I should read out all the 65... ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Sir, they are trying to mock parliamentary processes. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are trying to misuse the liberty given to all the hon. Members, and this is clearly reflective of their mentality. ...*(Interruptions)*... When the Government is ready to discuss Manipur, when the Government has already acceded to the sense of the House that there should be a discussion on Manipur, they have already spoiled, Sir, nine important days of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... For nine days, the country has been watching that this

debate could have happened on the first day itself. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government had agreed for it in the all-party meeting. ...*(Interruptions)*... I see no sense and I wonder what is the message they are trying to give! ...*(Interruptions)*... Are they running away from the debate? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is it that they are trying to hide? ...*(Interruptions)*... इनकी दाढ़ी में कुछ काला है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इनको कोई न कोई तकलीफ़ है, जिससे ये भाग रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इनको कोई न कोई तकलीफ़ है कि ये मणिपुर की सच्चाई सामने लाने नहीं दे रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे लगता है कि विपक्ष के लोगों को इंट्रोस्पेक्ट करना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... विपक्ष के लोगों को एक बार पुनः विचार करके तय करना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस सदन में हम मणिपुर पर चर्चा चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम आज के आज चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आज के आज रूल 176 के तहत चर्चा शुरू की जाए और आज के आज दूध का दूध, पानी का पानी हो जाएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे लगता है कि विपक्ष की रणनीति रोज आपको तकलीफ़ देना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... नाम पढ़ने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पूरा सदन इस बात से सहमत है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कार्यवाही शुरू की जाए और आज दोपहर को ही 2.00 बजे मणिपुर के ऊपर चर्चा शुरू की जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्यगण, ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय सदस्यगण, फिलहाल एक ही मुद्दा है कि क्या मैं सब माननीय सदस्यगण के नाम पढ़ूँ या विषय पढ़ूँ? ...**(व्यवधान)**... Hon. Members ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, the importance of listed Business of the House can never be overstated. Many of you have reflected on this time and again. In democracy, this is the highest platform, being the representative of the people, to secure response from the Government, thereby effecting accountability and transparency. Suspension of the Business of the House, that had been listed, has to be effected in the rarest of rare cases...*(Interruptions)*... Rule 267 came to be invoked on the last occasion five years ago, that is, in 2018. Hon. Members, the issue which is being raised by the hon. Members, I would plead with utmost respect, was raised by the hon. Members in all seriousness on 20th of July; and, on that day, hon. Members would recollect, I had taken a call and given my ruling. The Government, on that day, had agreed for a discussion. And today, the Leader of the House says that he is ready to discuss and deliberate right now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, at 2 o' clock. Right now, we have the listed Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... As per Rule 176, we can discuss it whenever they are ready. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्नाटक): सर, एलओपी को बोलने दीजिए।...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, इनको बोलने दीजिए।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल (गुजरात): सर, एलओपी तीन-तीन बार खड़े हुए हैं, कृपया इनको बोलने दीजिए।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would get the sense of the House and the most important input of the hon. LoP, on the statement made by the Leader of the House that the Government is ready to discuss the issue of Manipur today at 2.00 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... On this limited...*(Interruptions)*... Now the Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Respected Chairman, Sir, I have already given notice under Rule 267. I think this is the ninth or tenth day, continuously, Members from I.N.D.I.A. parties, they are giving notices to discuss...*(Interruptions)*... and we want under Rule 267...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, we request the Government and yourself to give us a chance to discuss ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members,...*(Interruptions)*... on this issue, the Government is agreeable for a discussion at 2.00 p.m...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): सर, एलओपी खड़े हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, you cannot represent another Member. I find in the last few days, your activity has become hyper. Good! I want people to be really involved, but please, don't try to help those who can help themselves and who will have to help you. So, not required. ...*(Interruptions)*... We should never advise people, whose advice we believe in. So, that is not to be done. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, I had, when I gave my ruling, indicated, taking note of the rule regime that (i), the notice has been accepted by me. Then, I said, 'I would come, after consultation with the Leader of the House, as is the mandate of the rule, as for the date and time.' So, this is a way forward. Further to my ruling, the Leader of the

House has indicated that the Government is prepared to have the discussion on Manipur issues at 2.00 p.m. today. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, that is the requirement of the legal regime. ...*(Interruptions)*... First, consideration of notice by me; I accepted it. I have to consult the Leader of the Council of States, only for date and time. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has volunteered today at 2.00 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, secondly, as the Leader of the Opposition has reflected, the issue is being raised every day. Think within, this is an issue on which the Chair has given a ruling. We come out with it every day! ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no! ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you agreeable for the discussion at 2.00 p.m.? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We have demanded discussion under Rule 267 and many of our people have personally visited Manipur. ...*(Interruptions)*... Manipur is burning. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are requesting the Prime Minister to give statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want the House to focus... ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you agreeable for the discussion at 2.00 p.m.? ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House will meet again at 12.00 noon today.

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

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM MALAWI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming H.E. Ms. Catherine Gotani Hara, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Malawi and the delegation. They are on a visit to India under bilateral exchange, as our honoured guests. The Parliamentary Delegation from Malawi arrived in India in the morning of Sunday, 30th July, 2023 and are now seated in the Special Box. Besides Delhi, they will also visit Agra before their departure from India. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the

Members of Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Malawi.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Question Hour. Q. No. 106.
...(Interruptions)...

Continuous rise in prices of LPG cylinders

*106. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of LPG cylinders are continuously on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details of such an increase in prices during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there has been an increase even when the prices of other petrol related products see a decline in the international market; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to stabilize the prices of LPG cylinders and also to insulate public from huge variation in prices?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) India imports more than 60% of its domestic LPG consumption. Prices of LPG in the country are linked to its price in the international market. However, for domestic LPG, Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer. The subsidy, as admissible, is credited to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. In addition, Government has started a targeted subsidy of Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg cylinder for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries for upto 12 refills a year for years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

During the period 2020-21 to 2022-23, the average Saudi CP (international benchmark for LPG pricing) went up from \$415 per MT to \$712 per MT. However, the increase in international prices was not fully passed on retail prices, due to which

the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) suffered under recoveries of approximately Rs.28000 crore on sale of domestic LPG. To compensate this, the Government approved a one-time compensation of Rs. 22,000 crore to OMCs in FY 2022-23. During Covid Pandemic, Government also provided about 14.17 Crore free LPG refills to PMUY households under Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Package during 2020. The details of Retail Selling Prices (RSP) of Petrol, Diesel and Domestic LPG in Delhi during last one year are given below :

RSP as on	Petrol (Rs./Litre)	Diesel (Rs./Litre)	Domestic LPG (Rs./14.2 Kg Cylinder)
25.07.2022	96.72	89.62	1053.00
01.03.2023	96.72	89.62	1103.00
25.07.2023	96.72	89.62	1103.00

Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC)

The details of retail selling prices of domestic LPG at Delhi since April 2020 are given as Annexure.

Annexure

Effective Date	Retail Selling Price of Domestic LPG at Delhi (Rs./14.2 Kg Cylinder)*
01-Apr-20	744.00
01-May-20	581.50
01-Jun-20	593.00
01-Jul-20	594.00
02-Dec-20	644.00
15-Dec-20	694.00
04-Feb-21	719.00
15-Feb-21	769.00
25-Feb-21	794.00
01-Mar-21	819.00
01-Apr-21	809.00
01-Jul-21	834.50
17-Aug-21	859.50
01-Sep-21	884.50
06-Oct-21	899.50
22-Mar-22	949.50
07-May-22	999.50

Effective Date	Retail Selling Price of Domestic LPG at Delhi (Rs./14.2 Kg Cylinder)*
19-May-22	1003.00
06-Jul-22	1053.00
01-Mar-23	1103.00

Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC)

Note: Retail Selling Price of Domestic LPG excluding targeted subsidy (*DBT) of Rs.200 for PMUY consumers w.e.f. 21 May, 2022.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Sir, I am asking my supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, एलओपी को तो बोलने दीजिए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Sir, is it a fact that due to the explosion of gas cylinder at Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask the question only; that's all. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Sir, I am putting my question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Due to the explosion of gas cylinder, nine people have died. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thambiduraji, you are required to put specific question only. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are an experienced man; you know the procedure more than anyone else. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Is it a fact that due to the explosion of gas cylinder at Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu, nine people have died? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, is it a fact that nine people have died and 15 have been injured? I want to know this from the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, we have checked with all our companies which supply LPG cylinders, IOCL, BPCL and HPCL, and they have stated categorically that they have not supplied any cylinder to any facility in that area. ...*(Interruptions)*... Having said that, the cause of the explosion could not have been the gas cylinder. ...*(Interruptions)*... In fact, the Minister in the Government of Tamil Nadu, he has himself admitted that this facility was in the vicinity, next door, to a fire cracker factory. ...*(Interruptions)*... The question arises: Why does a fire cracker factory

exist in a residential area? The Minister of Tamil Nadu has also admitted that they are doing a survey to find out as to why fire cracker factories are in these areas, and to prevent it in the future. ...*(Interruptions)*... As far as I am concerned, I also want to add that the hon. Prime Minister, when the reports of this incident became available, has also provided relief from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The hon. Prime Minister had come forward and given relief for the people immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to know whether the Government will instruct the Government of Tamil Nadu to find out the reason behind this incident, whether it was the gas cylinder explosion or the fire cracker explosion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I want to thank the hon. Member for asking the second supplementary. It stands to reason that if a firecracker factory exists in the midst of a residential or a commercial area, that firecracker factory could not have been licensed. So, the question arises how an unlicensed facility is existing in a highly densely populated area. This is something the Tamil Nadu Government is already saying that they are addressing. Apart from the survey, they may also like to inquire, and we will be taking it up with the Tamil Nadu Government to find out what the facts are. From the period of 2014, that is, from 14 crore LPG connections, today, we have something like 32-33 crore connections. Gas cylinders don't explode by themselves; even if there is a leak from somewhere, there has to be a cause. So, you cannot have a firecracker factory in the midst of a residential area. Thank you, Sir.

डा. अनिल जैन: महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या देश में नैचुरल गैस बनाने का कोई प्रयास चल रहा है? ...*(व्यवधान)*... माननीय मंत्री जी यह भी बताने की कृपा करें कि कोयले से गैस उत्पादन के लिए क्या सरकार की कोई योजना है? ...*(व्यवधान)*... अगर है, तो उस पर कितना खर्च किया जाएगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, the hon. Member has done what I call a 'hop step and jump'. This is a question on liquefied petroleum gas which is made from crude oil. ...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Member has moved to natural gas. I will be very happy that there are many questions there. I will sit with him and tell him; but the answer is that we are constantly endeavouring to increase both the domestic production of natural gas because we have not allowed any shortfall or even a slight shortfall to come in the way of consumer. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, by the way, liquefied

petroleum gas is consumed in kitchen, in households, whereas natural gas is used for industrial purposes; it is used for fertilizers, automobile, etc. So, these are two different situations. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am always ready to sit with this hon. Member or any other hon. Member to have a seminar on this issue. Thank you, Sir.

श्री नरेश बंसल: सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि गरीबों का जीवन आसान करने के लिए 'प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना' के अंतर्गत अब तक कितने कनेक्शंस मुफ्त में दिए गए हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या उनमें से कुछ रीफिल भी किए गए हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... यदि हाँ, तो उनकी संख्या क्या है और उन पर कितनी राशि व्यय हुई है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I want to thank the hon. Member. Sir, the facts in respect of this query are all in the public domain. I am very happy to inform the House that since the scheme was started, the total number of connections under Ujjwala, which is a scheme designed to provide relief to our citizens, who are in the economically weaker sections or in the below poverty line, has gone up to nine crore sixty lakhs, that is, 9.60 crores. And during COVID pandemic, we supplied three free cylinders to all Ujjawala beneficiaries. Equally, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Member that consumption of the LPG overall has increased dramatically and I gave some figures from 14 crores in 2014 to 33 crores now. Under Ujjawala also, consumption per person has gone up from 3 to 3.7 and now an average family of poor people would consume that. So, the consumption is increasing both under Ujjawala and the Government in order to mitigate and to help our brothers and sisters, who come under the economically weaker sections, is also providing two hundred rupees subsidy which goes directly to the beneficiary, initially given by the oil companies, and then reimbursed to them, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, my supplementary arises from the fact that the prices of LPG cylinders have increased. But, Sir, the Ujjawala gas programme, enunciated by hon. Prime Minister, has benefited most of the poorer sections of the people in the North Eastern Region. I want to know from the hon. Minister what about the transportation leakage loss to gas cylinders and how they are going to make it up, with the dealers.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I am glad and I want to thank the hon. Member, through you, that finally we have come to the operative thrust of this question which is on prices because we came from Tamil Nadu to natural gas, etc. Sir, the situation is

very simple. We are dependent for our consumption on 60 per cent of imports and the Saudi contract price has gone up from 400 dollars a metric ton to 700 dollars a metric ton. It remained at 400 dollars a metric ton went up to 700 dollars a MT over two full financial years.

This quarter, for the first time, it has come down to 400 dollars. But, in the interim, the oil marketing companies incurred a loss of Rs.28,000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, while the international prices went up, though we were dependent upon imports, we did not pass on the entire extent of the international price increase to our consumers. In the process, the companies incurred a loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am very happy to inform you that we took that loss unto ourselves and we reimbursed Rs.22,000 crores out of that Rs.28,000 crore loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are two to three models in dealing with this. One is our model where we, in the case of petrol and diesel, lowered the excise; our BJP Governments reduced their VAT. ...*(Interruptions)*... The others, -- another model championed by our friends in the Opposition, when they were in power -- on petrol and diesel, they floated oil bonds for Rs.1,40,000 crore, and I ended up paying Rs. 3,20,000 crores. Sir, the grandfather takes a loan and the grandchildren have to pay for it! ...*(Interruptions)*... This is their model. And our model is very clear; we try to cushion the impact on the consumer. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 107, Shrimati Sangeeta Yadav.

Steps undertaken for prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace

*107. SHRIMATI SANGEETA YADAV: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, Ministries are mandated to have an Internal Committee;
- (b) if so, whether all organizations/autonomous bodies/sub-ordinate offices under the Ministry have functional internal complaints committee;
- (c) whether Ministry has conducted any exercise to ensure compliance of this requirement by offices concerned;
- (d) if so, the details thereof with organizations yet to set up Internal Committee;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) number of cases referred to internal complaints committee in the last three years along with cases where action was taken on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013' (PoSH Act), all the organizations under the administrative control of Ministry of MSME have functional Internal Complaints Committees (ICC).

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The details of number of cases referred to Internal Complaints Committee in the last three years along with cases where action was taken on such complaints is as follows:

Name of the Office / Organisation/ Autonomous Body / Statutory Body	Cases referred to ICC during last 3 years	No. of cases where action was taken	Status
Ministry of MSME	1	1	
Office of Development Commissioner-MSME (DC-MSME), New Delhi	1	1	
Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai	3	2	One complaint dated 24.2.2023 under investigation by ICC.
National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), New Delhi	1	1	
Coir Board, Kochi, Kerala	2	1	In one case, the Competent Authority has

			requested to obtain a fresh complaint by the Complainant for referring to the newly constituted ICC.
Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI), Wardha	1	1	
National Institute of MSME, Hyderabad	0		

श्रीमती संगीता यादव: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि आपके मंत्रालय, एमएसएमई के अंतर्गत ऐसे कितने मामले हैं, जिनमें शिकायतकर्ता महिला की शिकायत को इंटरनल कम्प्लेंट कमिटी के पास भेजा गया और उन पर कोई एक्शन नहीं हुआ है? यदि कोई एक्शन नहीं हुआ है, तो क्यों नहीं हुआ है?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, महिला कर्मचारियों के द्वारा जो शिकायतें की गईं, उनके लिए हमारे विभाग में सब जगह आईसीसी का निर्माण कर दिया गया है और सारी शिकायतों को विधिवत सुना जाता है, उनका प्रार्थना-पत्र लिया जाता है तथा कार्यवाही की जाती है। मात्र खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग में तीन शिकायतें आयी थीं, जिनमें से दो शिकायतों का निस्तारण किया जा चुका है और एक शिकायत पर आईसीसी द्वारा जांच की जा रही है।

महोदय, कॉयर बोर्ड के अंतर्गत दो शिकायतें आयी थीं, जिनमें से एक का निस्तारण कर दिया गया है और एक के मामले में अभी जांच शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है, उसमें कार्यवाही की जा रही है।

श्रीमती संगीता यादव: महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि इंटरनल कम्प्लेंट कमिटी का कंपोजिशन क्या रहता है, उसमें कितनी महिला अधिकारी और कितने पुरुष होते हैं?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने यह जानकारी मांगी है कि आईसीसी के अंतर्गत कितने सदस्य होते हैं। मैं यहां बताना चाहूंगा कि आंतरिक शिकायत समिति के अंतर्गत जो अध्यक्ष होती हैं, वह महिला अधिकारी होती हैं। उन्हें वरिष्ठ कर्मचारी के स्तर पर नियुक्त किया जाता है। दो महिला सदस्य न्यूनतम होते हैं, जिन्हें महिलाओं के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए नियुक्त किया जाता है। एक महिला सदस्य गैर-सरकारी संगठन (एनजीओ) के द्वारा ली जाती हैं। आईसीसी में जिन महिलाओं को लिया जाता है, उन्हीं के द्वारा सारे निर्णय किये जाते हैं।

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, if the Internal Complaints Committee arrives at a conclusion that the allegations were false and malicious, it may recommend that the action be taken against the complainant who made the complaint. ...*(Interruptions)*... This could deter the woman from filing a complaint and seek protection. ...*(Interruptions)*... Through the proposed legislation, does the Government have any plans to redress the same? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आंतरिक शिकायत समिति के सामने जब कोई प्रार्थना-पत्र आता है, तब यह समिति सारे तथ्यों को देखती है। वे सब महिला कर्मचारी से पूछते हैं कि आपने किन तथ्यों के आधार पर शिकायत की है।...*(व्यवधान)*... अगर तथ्यों के आधार पर समझ में आता है कि शिकायत सही है, तो कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाती है और यदि कोई शिकायत नहीं आती है, तो उसका वहीं निस्तारण कर दिया जाता है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. अनिल सुखदेवराव बोंडे: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि विशेषतः प्राइवेट एमएसएमई में कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं पर होने वाले अत्याचार को रोकने के लिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... तथा पीड़ित महिलाओं को कॉम्पनसेशन देने के लिए और प्राइवेट एमएसएमई के ओनर के ऊपर रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी फिक्स करने के लिए सरकार क्या योजना लाई है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह वर्मा: सभापति महोदय, दस से अधिक कर्मचारियों वाली एमएसएमई में आंतरिक शिकायत समिति (आईसीसी) होती है। इसके अंतर्गत यदि प्राइवेट एमएसएमई में कोई महिला कर्मचारी शिकायत करती है, ...*(व्यवधान)*... तो यह समिति इसकी जांच करती है और जांच के आधार पर जो पाया जाता है, उसी के आधार पर निर्णय किया जाता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यदि कर्मचारी बाहर का है, तब उसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाती है और यदि कर्मचारी उसी इकाई का है, तब भी उसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाती है। यह समिति नियमानुसार कार्रवाई करती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: क्वेश्चन नंबर 108. Q. No. 108. Ms. Indu Bala Goswami. ...*(Interruptions)*...

New Heliports in Himachal Pradesh under UDAN-2 program

†*108. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether the Government is planning to construct new heliports in Himachal Pradesh under the UDAN -2 project;
- (b) if so, the number of heliports proposed to be built in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (c) the total amount likely to be spent on the construction of new heliports in Himachal Pradesh?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) In the Budget 2023-24, the Government announced the revival of 50 additional Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodrome for improving regional air connectivity. An amount of Rs. 1000 Crore has been earmarked for this purpose. Identification of such airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes is carried out on the basis of various rounds of bidding under under RCS which is an ongoing process. Based on the assessment of demand, helicopter operators submit bids for operating routes under UDAN. If any helipad is included in an awarded network of helicopter routes and requires development, it is taken up for development/upgradation under the scheme.

In the 2nd round of bidding under UDAN, 6 heliports were identified for RCS operations in Himachal Pradesh, namely Kasauli, Manali, Mandi, Nathpa Jhakri, Rampur and Shimla (Sanjauli). Out of these Mandi and Rampur have been operationalised.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, I lay the statement on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.109. क्वेश्चन नंबर 109. श्री संदोष कुमार पी ...(व्यवधान)...

Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises

*109. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total beneficiaries under the Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTSME) in each State and UT since its inception;

- (b) the total loan amount disbursed under the scheme in each State and UT since inception;
- (c) the existing Non Performing Asset (NPA) calculated under the scheme; and
- (d) the reasons for NPA and the proactive measures that Government has introduced to decrease NPA under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NARAYAN RANE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) provides guarantee for the credit extended by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs), without collateral and third party guarantee. The details of the guarantees approved under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSEs, in each State and UT, since inception in 2000-01 till 31.03.2023 are given in Annexure-A.

(c) and (d) The details of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) reported under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises, cumulative as on March 31, 2023 are 10, 12,825 amounting to Rs. 40,720 crore. Comprehensive steps have been taken to recover and to reduce NPAs; these steps include, *inter alia*, the following:

- Amendment to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has been amended to make it more effective.
- Pecuniary jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRTs) increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.
- Public Sector Banks have created Stressed Asset Management Verticals.
- Wilful defaulters are not sanctioned any additional facilities by banks or financial institutions.
- Wilful defaulters and companies with wilful defaulters as promoters/directors have been debarred from accessing capital markets to raise funds.
- Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets issued by RBI.

Annexure –A

Cumulative Guarantees Approved since inception till 31.03.2023			
Sr. No.	States / UTs	Number of Guarantees Approved	Amount of Guarantees Approved (In Rs. Crore)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	4,301	307
2	Andhra Pradesh	6,30,345	11,863
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9,948	697
4	Assam	1,75,110	9,166
5	Bihar	2,77,918	15,045
6	Chandigarh	20,681	1,461
7	Chhattisgarh	1,01,186	6,304
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	3,338	619
9	Delhi	1,27,499	16,663
10	Goa	29,218	2,060
11	Gujarat	3,15,219	32,060
12	Haryana	1,43,110	14,232
13	Himachal Pradesh	95,545	5,933
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2,11,523	6,230
15	Jharkhand	1,93,012	14,153
16	Karnataka	5,08,606	35,815
17	Kerala	3,96,563	13,043
18	Ladakh	808	81
19	Lakshadweep	543	17
20	Madhya Pradesh	3,61,086	19,809
21	Maharashtra	5,61,045	49,729
22	Manipur	14,016	654
23	Meghalaya	13,873	828
24	Mizoram	7,486	413
25	Nagaland	14,408	747
26	Odisha	2,74,865	14,558
27	Puducherry	11,091	547

28	Punjab	1,93,086	12,133
29	Rajasthan	2,99,171	17,250
30	Sikkim	4,552	257
31	Tamilnadu	6,01,788	33,730
32	Telangana	1,95,349	13,591
33	Tripura	20,500	840
34	Uttar Pradesh	7,72,681	41,257
35	Uttarakhand	91,464	5,047
36	West Bengal	3,44,546	22,525
TOTAL		70,25,480	4,19,665

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: Sir, let me put my question. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have every right to put my question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, it is my question. I have every right to put my question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, though it is Question Hour, as a very special case, as an extraordinary situation... ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seats. I am allowing the hon. Leader of the Opposition to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is required to be in order. ...*(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 eighteen minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled at two of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

REGARDING DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 267 - Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please... ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री घनश्याम तिवाड़ी (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, राजस्थान के बारे में ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: पंडित जी, "अग्ने अग्ने ब्राह्मणा, नदी नाले बरजन्ते।" Let there be order in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, when the notice was received under Rule 176, in terms of the rules, that notice was considered by me, and I had accepted the notice. This means, the Short Duration Discussion on that subject, issues connected with Manipur, is to be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*... The next part of the rule is, the date and time had to be fixed in consultation with the Leader of the Council of States. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, you had not given any ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, I had given the ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, I said that I had taken a view on the same issue on 20th July, 2023, in categorical terms. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, the listed Business is Short Duration Discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... It has been indicated... ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्नाटक): सर, आपने ही ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jairam Ramesh, your assertion is that, with respect to one of the notices, there was withdrawal. The fact of the situation is that there has been no such intimation to my Secretariat. Therefore, what you have indicated on the floor of the House... ...*(Interruptions)*... I am on the first point of what you have said. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, would you please take your seats? ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, all of us are bound by the rules. I had considered notices — mark my words carefully — that were given under Rule 176 and those notices emanated from those whose names have been shown in the listed Business today, including those who seconded the notice. That is why I am indicating to the hon. Members that even on the day I accepted the notice, under Rule 176, for discussion on issues connected with Manipur, the Government had on that day said, 'We agree to it.' Now the next step was the date and time, which had been fixed in the pre-lunch Session. The Government is extremely keen ...*(Interruptions)*... I would, therefore, take up ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: But you have not given any ruling, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, 65 Members have given notices for this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, you have not given any ruling...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given. ...*(Inerruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: No, Sir. ...*(Inerruptions)*... Sixty-five Members have given notice ...*(Inerruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I got your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... The impression that I have not given a ruling on the 65 notices that had been given under Rule 267, I think, you need to go back to the record. I had indicated that on 20th of July, 2023, similar notices had been declined by me. And, thereafter, there has not been a single day when such notice has not been given. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, you are such an experienced Member. Notices under Rule 267 have not been admitted by me. They have been declined by me. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is most unfortunate...
...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is most unfortunate that my decision which was in categorical terms on 20th of July, 2023, which has been reiterated by me, is not being appreciated. On the other hand, I find, responsible Members of the House are challenging the decision! I would appeal to the hon. Members to kindly go through the proceedings, take note of the decision I have imparted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Right now, the listed Business is, Short Duration Discussion on issues connected with Manipur. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A.A. RAHIM (Kerala): Sir, I have not submitted...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the House prepared to take discussion on Manipur? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government is keen.. ...*(Interruptions)*... I, therefore, call upon Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya to initiate the discussion on the Short Duration Discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Recent law and order situation and other related issues in the State of Manipur and steps taken by the Government to restore peace and normalcy in the State

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to discuss the situation of Manipur. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Digvijaya Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let there be order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: For a point of order, there has to be order in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Digvijaya Singhji, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Digvijaya Singhji, for a point of order, there has to be order in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am trying to restore order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, I have a right to raise a point of order...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Provided there is order in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. What is your point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, it is the right of the Leader of the Opposition to intervene at any point of time of the proceedings. Therefore, please allow the LoP to say something. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्नाटक): सर, आपने एलओपी को बुलाया था। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, आपने एलओपी को बोलने के लिए बुलाया था। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्रीमती रंजीत रंजन (छत्तीसगढ़): सर, एक मिनट मुझे भी बोलना है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, Digvijaya Singhji has indicated that it is the prerogative, unqualified right of the Leader of the Opposition to intervene any time, which means, that right accrues on him also. ...*(Interruptions)*... With utmost respect, such a right is dependent upon the rules and the directions given by the Chairman. There can be no such unqualified, unregulated and blanket right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do you want discussion or not?... ...*(Interruptions)*... Speak from your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Unless the Members are on their seats*(Interruptions)*... The Members have to be on their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Hon. Members,... *...(Interruptions)...* The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m. today.

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

The House re-assembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. *...(Interruptions)...* Please. Nothing will go on record. *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Members, it is a very unusual spectacle. The proceedings of the House were not taking place for the last several days. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, when there is time for discussion on Manipur, no one can appreciate why discussion is not taking place, why this House is not starting the discussion. *...(Interruptions)...* Do we take it that the demand for discussion on Manipur was not serious, was never meant? *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down. Don't do like this. *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Members, my Office will send notice to some of the leaders of the House. We meet at 2.45 p.m. to find a way out. *...(Interruptions)...*

The House is adjourned to meet at 3.30 p.m. today.

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

The House re-assembled at thirty-minutes past three of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members *...(Interruptions)...* Nothing will go on record. *...(Interruptions)...* We are not setting a good example to the nation. *...(Interruptions)...* The entire nation is watching us. *...(Interruptions)...* The Government is ready for a discussion on Manipur. *...(Interruptions)...* I want to start the discussion right now. *...(Interruptions)...* It is most unfortunate that from 20th of July, the precious time of the House has not been utilised. People have to pay heavily for this. *...(Interruptions)...* We are ridiculing ourselves, sending a very, very dangerous signal to the world outside. *...(Interruptions)...* As Upper House, it is our prime obligation to set an example in serving public interest. *...(Interruptions)...* We are far from it at the moment. *...(Interruptions)...* I appeal to all the Members to kindly take their seats so that we can discuss the listed Business and, that is, the issue in Manipur. *...(Interruptions)...*

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री; कोयला मंत्री; तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रहलाद जोशी): सर, सप्लीमेंटरी लिस्ट ऑफ बिजनेस में ...(व्यवधान)... आप ऑलरेडी मणिपुर पर चर्चा के लिए अनुमति दे चुके हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... मेरा निवेदन इतना है कि अगर मणिपुर के विषय में ये रियली सीरियस हैं, अगर ये पॉलिटिक्स नहीं करना चाहते हैं, तो चर्चा शुरू करने दें। ...(व्यवधान)... हम तुरंत चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... हमारे गृह मंत्री तीन से ज्यादा दिनों तक उधर रुके हुए थे। ...(व्यवधान)... Our MoS for Home was there for 23 days. ...(Interruptions)... It has never happened during their period. ...(Interruptions)... We are ready for the discussion. ...(Interruptions)... Right now, the Government is ready for the discussion. ...(Interruptions)... Whether they are serious or not, let them tell the country. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 1st August, 2023.

The House then adjourned at thirty-three minutes past three of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 1st August, 2023.

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