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Thursday,  
7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023  
16 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

# RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT (FLOOR VERSION)  
(PART-II)

CONTENT

Papers Laid on the Table (pages 1 - 6 )

Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs - *Presented* (page 6)

Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - *Laid on the Table* (page 6 - 7)

Announcement by the Chair (pages 7 - 8 and page 174)

[P.T.O.]

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NEW DELHI

Matters raised with permission-

Issue of hate speech in the country (pages 8 - 9)

Demand for completion of coastal highway project in Odisha (page 10)

Need to address the problem of preparing AADHAAR card for differently-abled citizens (pages 11 - 12)

Need to protect ancient monuments and archaeological sites at the holy shrine Tirumala (pages 12 - 13)

Vandalism at Sirhind Railway Station (pages 13 - 14)

Need to address challenges of *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana* (PM-JAY) Programme (pages 14 - 15)

Demand to organise a National Level Program on Kittur Rani Chennamma (pages 15 - 17)

Concern over rising coastal erosion along shores of Kerala (pages 17 - 18)

Regularisation of local passenger Train Nos. 07380 and 07379 (page 18)

Demand to establish Industrial Units in Auraiya and Etawah Districts of Uttar Pradesh (pages 18 - 19)

Demand for a flyover on NH-31 in Begusarai (pages 19 - 20)

Demand to start Medical Coach facility for serious patients in Trains (pages 20 - 21 )

Concern over negative impact of Cinema on our youth (pages 21 - 22)

Shortage of emergency beds in AIIMS, Delhi (pages 23 - 24)

Harassment due to SPAM Calls and SMSs despite TRAI Regulations (page 24)

Demand for rescue operation and financial assistance to cyclone-affected farmers and other victims (pages 25 - 26)

Rising atrocities against *Dalits* (pages 26 - 27)

Need to stop deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks (pages 27 - 28)

Need to prohibit the use of all bannable pesticides immediately by prohibiting its production, import, export, marketing and use in India (page 28 )

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Oral Answers to Questions (pages 28 - 120)

*[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>]*

Short Duration Discussion-

Economic situation in the country (pages 120 - 174 )

Special Mentions -

Demand for empowering Tea garden educated youths through skill development schemes (pages 174 - 175 )

Demand to protect railway printing presses (pages 175 - 176 )

Demand to implement PM-KUSUM scheme in Odisha (pages 176 - 177)

Demand of voting rights for people living in Cantonment Boards (pages 177 - 178)

Need to resolve issues of farmers in Odisha (pages 178- 179)

Demand for Development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha (pages 179 - 180)

Concern over non-communicable diseases - action on marketing of unhealthy foods (page 180 )

Demand for waiver of 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Kendu Leaves (pages 180 - 181 )

Demand to withdraw increased toll charges at all Toll Gates and close all the toll gates which are collecting tolls for more than ten years in Tamil Nadu (pages 181 - 182)

Demand to develop Uttarakhand as Sports Hub (pages 182 - 183)

Need to explore sustainable alternatives to stubble burning (pages 183 - 184 )

Demand for bringing innovative policies in Plastic Waste Management (pages 184 - 185)

Need to review and revise EPF Pension fixation formula (pages 185 - 186 )

## RAJYA SABHA

*Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 /16 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

*MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**श्री सभापति :** ऑनरेबल मैम्बर्स, आजकल मुझे यह भी देखना पड़ रहा है कि कितना झुक्कूँ, किसके सामने झुक्कूँ, फोटोग्राफर कहाँ से क्या खींच रहा है, कौन इंस्टाग्राम पर डाल देगा, कौन ट्विटर पर डाल देगा, कौन मेरी रीढ़ की हड्डी को तय करने लगेगा। मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि झुकना और नमस्कार करना मेरी आदत है और मैं यह नहीं देखता कि सामने कौन हैं। आप बहुत सम्मानित व्यक्ति हैं, पर कई बार बड़ी पीड़ा होती है, बड़ा बुरा लगता है, क्योंकि गिरावट की भी कोई सीमा होती है।

**एक माननीय सदस्य :** सर, क्या हो गया, किसने कर दिया? पता होना चाहिए।..(व्यवधान)।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I leave it to your sound wisdom. यदि कोई ऐसी संस्था, जिसका देश की राजनीति में बहुत बड़ा स्थान है और वे लोग ऑफिशियली ऐसा करते हैं, I can only express my pain, my anguish. और सबसे खतरनाक बात यह है कि when I thought it wise to share my anguish, my sentiment with one of the senior leaders, it resulted in more challenging scenario by putting it on Twitter. I thought wisdom will dawn. They will reflect. I am a modest man. Arrogance can never be part of my life. By nature, I am humble. If I am not, I try to be more humble. पर हमें संस्कारों का मज़ाक नहीं उड़ाना चाहिए। नमस्कार करना, झुकना हमारी सांस्कृतिक विरासत है। पद की गरिमा तब रहती है, जब आदमी ज्यादा से ज्यादा झुके, पर यह पीड़ा मुझे उन लोगों ने दी है, जिनकी मैं बहुत इज्जत करता हूँ।

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

### Report and Accounts (2022-23) of NCGG, New Delhi and related papers

**कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. जितेन्द्र सिंह) :** महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

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

- (a) Annual Report of the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), New Delhi, for the year 2022-23.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Centre for Good Governance

(NCGG), New Delhi, for the year 2022-23, and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Summary Report of the above Centre.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10117/17/23]

**Notifications of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and related papers**

**पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे) :**  
महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :-

(A) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, issued under sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) S.O. 1094 (E), dated the 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014, extending the period of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- (ii) S.O. 1622 (E), dated the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, constituting the Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (iii) S.O. 2082 (E), dated the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 934 (E), dated the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015.
- (iv) S.O. 2266 (E), dated the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, reconstituting the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (v) S.O. 2569 (E), dated the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, constituting the West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (vi) S.O. 1421 (E), dated the 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, reconstituting the Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (vii) S.O. 2060 (E), dated the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, constituting the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (viii) S.O. 3324 (E), dated the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, reconstituting the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (ix) S.O. 1154 (E), dated the 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, reconstituting the

Gujarat Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.

- (x) S.O. 4097 (E), dated the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, reconstituting the Daman and Diu Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xi) S.O. 679 (E), dated the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017, reconstituting the Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xii) S.O. 803 (E), dated the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 2060 (E), dated the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.
- (xiii) S.O. 274 (E), dated the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, constituting the Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xiv) S.O. 3303 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, constituting the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xv) S.O. 3312 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, constituting the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xvi) S.O. 3546 (E), dated the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, constituting the Odisha Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xvii) S.O. 5096 (E), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018, constituting the Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xviii) S.O. 5097 (E), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018, constituting the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xix) S.O. 5953 (E), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018, constituting the West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xx) S.O. 4137 (E), dated the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, constituting the National Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xxi) S.O. 4620 (E), dated the 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 3975 (E), dated the 31<sup>st</sup> October,

2019.

- (xxii) S.O. 5188 (E), dated the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, constituting the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.
- (xxiii) S.O. 4566 (E), dated the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, amending the Hindi version of the Notification No. S.O. 5188 (E), dated the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.
- (xxiv) S.O. 5119 (E), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 1423 (E), dated the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2020.
- (xxv) S.O. 6071 (E), dated the 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, constituting the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority and specifying its functions.

(2) A Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the Notifications mentioned at I (1) above.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (xxv) See No. L.T. 10887/17/23]

(B) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, issued under sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) S.O. 1244 (E), dated the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2014, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
- (ii) S.O. 3252 (E), dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 1555 (E), dated the 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.
- (iii) S.O. 1212 (E), dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
- (iv) S.O. 1213 (E), dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 20 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
- (v) S.O. 4162 (E), dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
- (vi) S.O. 621 (E), dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 20 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January,

- 2011.
- (vii) S.O. 622 (E), dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (viii) S.O. 1393 (E), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (ix) S.O. 2444 (E), dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (x) S.O. 2445 (E), dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 20 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (xi) G.S.R. 1227 (E), dated the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (xii) S.O. 1002 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (xiii) S.O. 3197 (E), dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 19 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (xiv) S.O. 3840 (E), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2018, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 20 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.
  - (xv) S.O. 4290 (E), dated the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 3303 (E), dated the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

(2) A Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the Notifications mentioned at II (1) above.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (xv) See No. L.T. 10888/17/23]

### **Accounts (2022) of the South Asian University, New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Accounts of the South Asian University, New Delhi, for the year 2022, together with the Auditor's Report on the

Accounts.

- (b) Review Statement by Government on the above University.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10205/17/23]

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

**डा. अनिल जैन** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं विभाग-संबंधित गृह कार्य संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदन (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ -

- (i) 249<sup>th</sup> Report of DRSC on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Two Hundred Forty-Second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Home Affairs; and
- (ii) 250<sup>th</sup> Report of DRSC on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Two Hundred Forty-Third Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

## STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (Assam): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2023-24):-

- (i) Statement showing the Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Nineteenth Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding action taken by the Government on the Thirteenth Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) pertaining to the Ministry of Power on the subject "Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Public Sector Undertaking with special reference to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited."
- (ii) Statement showing the Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Twenty Fourth Report (17<sup>th</sup>

Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding action taken by the Government on the Seventeenth Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) pertaining to the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy) on the subject "Role of autonomous bodies/educational institutions including Central Universities, Engineering Colleges, IIMs, IITs, Medical Institutes etc. in socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with special reference to Pre-Matric/Post-Matric Scholarships in Navodaya Vidyalayas/Kendriya Vidyalayas."

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, notice under Rule 267 received from Shri Raghav Chadha does not merit admittance.

Hon. Members, the notices received from Shri Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, for consideration of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, both as passed by Lok Sabha, and the notice received from Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Culture for consideration of the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha, in Rajya Sabha today were admitted by waiving off the period requirement under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) - all three Bills have been included in today's List of Business.

Hon. Members, the copies of the first two Bills, 'As introduced in Lok Sabha' were circulated to hon. Members through Members' Portal on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 and the 'As passed by Lok Sabha' versions have been circulated today morning. The third Bill was already circulated on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 and re-circulated yesterday evening. Those hon. Members who desire to give notices of amendments to the said Bills may do so now till 1.00 p.m.

Hon. Members, another issue is the allocation of time for the combined discussion on the first two Bills. The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) in its meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 had allocated time of two hours for the combined discussion on three Bills which included the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha. Further, the Business Advisory Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 had allocated two hours for the discussion on the

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha. Both the Bills are listed today for a combined discussion.

Hon. Members, taking into account the allocation of time by the Business Advisory Committee separately for discussion on the said Bills, the time for today's combined discussion works out to be about two-and-half hours. However, I suggest that three hours may be allotted for the combined discussion. I hope the House agrees!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three hours are allocated.

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### MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Matters raised with permission. Shri Pramod Tiwari seeks to raise an important issue, 'Issue of hate speech in the country'. I am sure your input would generate soothing response, wholesome ecosystem and rightful consideration.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Rajasthan): That I always do, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead.

### Issue of hate speech in the country

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान) :** महोदय, मैं एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर आपका और आपके माध्यम से संपूर्ण सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मान्यवर, भारत के संविधान के आर्टिकल 25 में सबको अपनी आस्था के अनुसार धर्म के, विश्वास के पालन का अधिकार दिया गया है। इसके लिए वे स्वतंत्र हैं, परंतु कानून की अस्पष्टता के कारण इसका दुरुपयोग भी बहुत हो रहा है। उसी संदर्भ में मैंने यह प्रश्न उठाया है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि दलों से ऊपर उठ कर इस संवेदनशील विषय पर हम विचार-विमर्श करें। मान्यवर, आईपीसी की धारा 295, फिर उसके बाद अगर आप देखें, पूर्व नियोजित ढंग से अगर किसी के धर्म और आस्था पर प्रहार किया जाए या दुरुपयोग किया जाए, तो फिर आईपीसी की धारा 153 के तहत मुकदमा कायम होता है। यह सबसे बड़ी चिन्ता की बात है। मैं आपके सामने विधि आयोग, लॉ कमीशन की रिपोर्ट रखना चाहता हूँ, जिसके अनुसार 2014 में देश में कुल 323 प्रकरण हुए थे। 2020 में ये 6 गुना बढ़ गए और 1,804 प्रकरण हो गए। 2022 से अभी तक 1,500 प्रकरण हो चुके हैं और इस साल के अन्त

तक यह संख्या बढ़नी है। मैंने आपके सामने विधि आयोग की रिपोर्ट रखी। इसमें सबसे ज्यादा मुकदमे उत्तर प्रदेश में कायम हुए हैं।

मान्यवर, मेरे कहने का आशय सिर्फ इतना है कि सामाजिक संरचना में divide and rule का काम तो अंग्रेजों ने किया था और महात्मा गांधी जी ने इसी को युनाइट किया था। उनका एक प्रसिद्ध भजन है :-

*"रघुपति राघव राजाराम,  
ईश्वर अल्लाह तेरो नाम,  
सबको सम्मति दे भगवान।"*

आज अगर इस आजादी के दौर में उसका दुरुपयोग शुरू हो जाए और उसके बाद उसका परिणाम होता है - दंगे, फ़साद, उत्तेजना, तो जो बात मैंने कही, मैंने आंकड़ों सहित साबित कर दी कि यह उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि की ओर है, तब इस राज्य सभा का या सरकार का दायित्व क्या है? वह इन परिस्थितियों से निपटने के लिए एक संकल्प ले, इन परिस्थितियों से निपटने के लिए वह कानून में आवश्यक संशोधन करे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ...**(माइक ऑफ)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need some more time! Okay, one minute.

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी :** महोदय, ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह राजनैतिक कारणों की वजह से हो रही है, राजनैतिक लाभ लेने के लिए हो रही है। मेरा सुझाव है कि जो लोग hate speech दें, उनके चुनाव लड़ने पर रोक लगानी चाहिए। खास तौर से जो संवैधानिक पदों पर बैठे हों, वे अगर इसका दुरुपयोग करें, तो उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए। मैंने बहुत निश्चल मन से, बहुत स्पष्ट करते हुए hate speeches पर अपनी चिन्ता व्यक्त की है और अपील की है कि इसका राजनैतिक लाभ लेने के लिए अंग्रेजों वाली नीति नहीं चलें, बल्कि हम महात्मा गांधी जी के बताये रास्ते पर चलें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the issue raised by the hon. Member, Shri Pramod Tiwari: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Mausam Noor (West Bengal), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Javed Ali Khan (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. Amee Yajnik (Gujarat), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

Now, Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj; demand for completion of coastal highway project in Odisha.

### **Demand for completion of coastal highway project in Odisha**

SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir Odisha has a coastline of about 480 kilometres which makes the infrastructural development of the coastal districts all the more important for the economy of the region.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

The Central Government announced a coastal highway project spanning 346 kilometres in 2015 connecting seven coastal districts of Odisha. The project would have proved to be an important development in terms of promotion of trade, tourism, communication and industry. However, there have been undefined delays in the development of the project. It comprised two parts- one connecting Rameshwar to Ratanpur and the other one connecting Ratanpur to Digha. It was to be developed under four packages. Initially, the first two packages were cancelled without any defined reason on the part of the Central Government. After the clearance for these two packages, the project was stalled due to unavailability of environmental clearance from the Environment Ministry. However, the clearance for the same has been provided since August, 2023. But, there has been no headway made in the project yet by the Central Government.

Thus, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Central Government to come up with a Detailed Project Report (DPR) highlighting the status of implementation of the project. The Central Government needs to work towards completion of the coastal highway project as soon as possible because eight years have already passed since the announcement of the same and no significant development has been made as of now. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the issue raised by the hon. Member, Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Now, Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki; Need for addressing the problem of preparing Aadhaar Card for differently-abled citizens.

**Need to address the problem of preparing AADHAAR card for  
differently-abled citizens**

**डा. सुमेर सिंह सोलंकी** (मध्य प्रदेश): धन्यवाद, माननीय उपसभापति महोदय - नर्मदे हर!

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका एवं सदन का ध्यान एक महत्वपूर्ण संवेदनशील विषय की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मध्य प्रदेश के निमाड़ क्षेत्र के साथ-साथ, देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में एक विकट स्थिति बनी हुई है। दिव्यांग नागरिकों के हाथ के अंगूठे, उंगलियाँ तथा आँखों के न होने के कारण आधार कार्ड बनाने में दिक्कत आ रही है, जिस कारण उन्हें सरकार द्वारा दी जा रही सुविधाओं, जैसे आयुष्मान कार्ड, मोबाइल कनेक्शन, राशन, पेंशन, इत्यादि सरकारी योजनाओं, जिनमें आधार कार्ड की अनिवार्यता कर दी गई है, उनका पूर्ण लाभ नहीं मिल पा रहा है। वर्तमान में, हमारे देश के कुछ महानगरों में ही फेस रीडिंग के माध्यम से आधार कार्ड बनाने की प्रक्रिया संचालित की जा रही है, जो कि हमारी सरकार का एक सराहनीय कदम है, परंतु देश के कोने-कोने में निवास करने वाले दिव्यांगजनों की पहुंच इन महानगरों तक नहीं है, इसलिए दूर-दराज क्षेत्र में रहने वाले दिव्यांगजन आज भी अपना आधार कार्ड नहीं बनवा पा रहे हैं। कुछ दिव्यांग भाई-बहनों के आधार कार्ड बन भी जाते हैं, तो उन्हें भी अनेक प्रकार की समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार, भारत वर्ष में लगभग 2 करोड़, 10 लाख लोग किसी न किसी प्रकार की दिव्यांगता की श्रेणी में आते हैं। माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, इस संबंध में समय-समय पर देश के सामाजिक लोगों के द्वारा मांग की जाती रही है कि सरकार द्वारा इन दिव्यांग नागरिकों के लिए एक विशेष प्रावधान के जरिए इनके आधार कार्ड बनाए जाने चाहिए, ताकि मेरे इन गरीब भाई और बहनों को विकास की इस बहती धारा से वंचित न होना पड़े। इसके लिए सरकार के भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण को दिव्यांग लोगों के लिए एक विशेष तकनीक विकसित करने के लिए निर्देशित करना चाहिए, ताकि उनके आधार कार्ड बनवाने में आसानी हो सके। नई तकनीक विकसित करने से मेरे इन भाई और बहनों को बायोमेट्रिक या अन्य माध्यम से मिलने वाली सरकारी सहायता लेने में किसी भी प्रकार की परेशानी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा और इनको रोजमर्रा के जीवन में आने वाली कठिनाइयों से भी निजात मिलेगी।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है कि देश में प्रत्येक जिला स्तर पर एक विशेष अभियान चलाकर इन दिव्यांग भाइयों और बहनों की पहचान की जाए और उनके आधार कार्ड सरकार के भारतीय विशिष्ट प्राधिकरण द्वारा विशेष तकनीक के माध्यम से बनाए जाना चाहिए। हमारे यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री, माननीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के मन में दिव्यांग जनों के प्रति एक विशेष स्नेह है, इसलिए उन्होंने 3 दिसंबर को 'अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग दिवस' के रूप में मनाने का संकल्प लिया है। माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विनम्र अनुरोध है कि जिन दिव्यांग नागरिकों के हाथ के अंगूठे, उंगलियों तथा आँखों में किसी प्रकार का विकार होने के कारण या किसी कारणवश आधार कार्ड नहीं बन पा रहे हैं, उनके आधार कार्ड बनाने के लिए सरल विकल्पों पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए, जिससे हमारे दिव्यांग भाई-बहनों की समस्याओं का त्वरित निराकरण किया जा सके। मेरा यही अनुरोध है, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki: Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Dr. Sikander Kumar (Himachal Pradesh), Ms. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Ms. Indu Bala Goswami (Himachal Pradesh), Shrimati Darshana Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Shrimati Sangeeta Yadav (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Sadanand Shet Tanawde (Goa), Shri Pabitra Margherita (Assam), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya (Gujarat), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi, Shri Rajmani Patel (Madhya Pradesh) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Now Dr. K. Laxman; need to protect ancient monuments and archaeological sites at holy shrine Tirumala.

**Need to protect ancient monuments and archaeological sites  
at the holy shrine Tirumala**

DR. K. LAXMAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, Bharat is the oldest living civilization in the world. Indian culture and traditions are closely linked to *Sanatana Dharma* whose edifices, the plethora of temples and monuments, spread across the nook and corner of India. Tirumala is supposed to be the world's largest holy and spiritual place covered by seven hills which consists of ancient monuments, temples and mandapas constructed during the regime of Chola, Pallava, Vijayanagaram and Yadava kings. But recently, unfortunately, the TTD demolished an ancient Parveta Mandapa at Tirumala which was in existence for more than 800 years and constructed a new modern mandapa with new dressed granite. TTD is also trying to demolish Padala Mandapam at Alipiri in Tirupati. Instead of demolishing such age old monuments, the opinion of ASI should be taken on structures which have got historical, spiritual and archaeological significance. I urge upon the concerned authorities to view the matter very seriously because the devotees of Lord Venkateshwara Swami of Tirumala are not there in Andhra Pradesh alone, but from places all through the country, thousands of devotees come and pay their homage. The historical, cultural and traditional importance of these ancient temples in and around Tirumala and Tirupati is

of national importance rather than regional importance. Unfortunately, the funds are now being diverted also. Even the funds of TTD are being diverted to the local Tirupati Municipality. This being a year of election year, now, the funds of the devotees, who have donated the funds for expansion of *Sanatana Dharma* or even development of the temple, these funds are being diverted. I urge the concerned authority and the Government to view the matter seriously because the feelings of the devotees and the feelings of the *Sanatana Dharma* people are being hurt. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. K. Laxman: Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

### Vandalism at Sirhind Railway Station

**डा. अशोक कुमार मित्तल (पंजाब) :** महोदय, आज आपने मुझे शून्य काल में अपनी बात रखने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद।

मैं आज सदन के सामने एक संवेदनशील मुद्दा रखना चाहूंगा जो हमारे देश की लाइफ लाइन रेलवे से जुड़ा हुआ है। मैं पंजाब से आता हूँ और पिछले महीने पंजाब के सरहिंद रेलवे स्टेशन पर भीड़ ने अचानक ट्रेन कैंसिल होने पर पथराव किया और स्टेशन को भी डैमेज किया। यह समस्या सिर्फ पंजाब की ही नहीं है, बल्कि कुछ दिन पहले सूरत, गुजरात में भी stampede हुआ, क्योंकि वहां ओवरक्राउडिंग थी। ऐसी बहुत सी घटनाएं भी देखी गई हैं, जब वंदे भारत या बाकी और ट्रेनों पर पथराव किया गया। यह विषय चिंताजनक है और रेलवे तथा यात्रियों की सेफ्टी को कम्प्रोमाइज करता है और इससे रेल हादसा बढ़ने की भी संभावनाएं बढ़ती हैं। यदि आंकड़ों में देखा जाए तो पिछले 4 वर्षों में 1,360 करोड़ की रेलवे की संपत्ति का इस तरीके से नुकसान हुआ है। जब हम इसके कारणों में जाते हैं कि ऐसा क्यों हुआ तो समझ में यह आता है कि रेलवे स्टेशंस पर सुविधाओं के अभाव में यात्रियों को गुस्सा आता है और वह इस तरीके से निकलता है। हालांकि यह गलत है, पर उनका गुस्सा इस तरीके से निकलता है।

सर, मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण देना चाहूंगा। भारत सरकार ने सन् 1916 में दिव्यांगजनों के लिए एक्सेसिबल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर बनाने के लिए कानून बनाया, लेकिन इस कानून की सबसे ज्यादा धज्जियां अगर कहीं उड़ती हैं तो वह रेलवे स्टेशंस पर उड़ती हैं। हमारे हजारों रेलवे स्टेशंस में से ऐसे मुट्ठी पर रेलवे स्टेशंस होंगे जो डिसेबल्ड फ्रेंडली होंगे। वहां लिफ्ट की सुविधाएं नहीं हैं, प्रॉपर वॉशरूम की सुविधाएं नहीं हैं, वेटिंग रूम की सुविधाएं नहीं हैं। कई बार ट्रेन या तो आगे रुक जाती है या पीछे रुक जाती है, इसके कारण यात्री पैनिक में चढ़ते हैं और उससे भी

हादसे की संभावनाएं बढ़ती हैं। अब सर्दियों का मौसम आ रहा है, ट्रेन्स लेट भी होंगी तथा और भी कई समस्याएं आएंगी, तो उसमें हम क्या सुविधाएं यात्रियों को देने जा रहे हैं?

इन सब बढ़ते हुए केसेज और कम फैसिलिटीज के लिए मैं सरकार से निवेदन करूंगा कि इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए वह एक well strategy बनाए, ताकि हम तोड़-फोड़ और ऐसी ही अन्य घटनाओं को रोक सकें। यह इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि अभी रेलवे स्टेशंस का रिडेवलपमेंट प्लान चल रहा है, अपग्रेडेशन प्लान चल रहा है। उसको जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा किया जाए और ज्यादा से ज्यादा रेलवे स्टेशंस इस प्लान में शामिल किया जाए, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

**Need to address challenges of *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana*  
(PM-JAY) Programme**

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important question. The Ayushman Bharat, the PM-JAY, is a flagship programme of the Government. This noble initiative strives to give a comprehensive health coverage to the poor and vulnerable. But, in spite of five years from the starting of the programme, there still suffers several challenges which this entire Yojana faces like, low level of awareness, uneven distribution of empanelled hospitals, shortage of healthcare, infrastructure and equipment, shortage of doctors and other human resources. The empanelled private hospitals also have certain issues, which they voice to many of us, Member of Parliament, namely, reimbursement, delay in payments, complaints of low package rates and cumbersome process and procedures. Some very, very serious issues regarding the implementation have come to the fore after a CAG report on the performance audit of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana was made. According to this report, not only are there invalid names and unrealistic date of births of lakhs of beneficiaries, but also issuance of duplicate PM-JAY IDs, ineligible households which have got registered as beneficiaries, to whom crores of money has already gone from the Government coffers. Sir, in addition, the Report reveals that the benefit of the scheme has got extended to people, who are dead, shown to have availed treatment after such

death. Some patients are shown as admitted in multiple hospitals at one given time. There are some cases where surgeries were shown after discharge. There are dates in the record showing discharge before admission. All these numbers run in thousands if not lakhs, resulting in expenditure of several hundred crores. Further, Sir, shockingly the report reveals that in all, as many as 9.85 lakh beneficiaries have been linked to the same mobile numbers which do not exist at all. All these are resulting in crores of money being disbursed in contravention of the guidelines. The report also points out that some of the empanelled health care centres neither fulfill the minimum criteria of support system and infrastructure nor conform to the quality standard criteria. In several cases, the mandatory compliances like fire safety measures, bio-medical waste management, pollution control, even hospital registration certificate, have not been followed. However noble the intention of the scheme, PM-JAY is suffering from glaring irregularities and need to be amended at the earliest; or else, this would tantamount to playing with the lives of the poor. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Vandana Chavan: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shi Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

The next speaker is Shri Iranna Kadadi; demand to organise a National level Program on Kittur Rani Chennamma.

### **Demand to organise a National Level Program on Kittur Rani Chennamma**

SHRI IRANNA KADADI (Karnataka): \* "Sir, from the pages of history, we have learnt that lakhs of people have participated in our Nation's Independence Struggle. For the first time, a brave lady revolted against the mighty British Empire, the empire on which the sun would never set. She was the torch-bearer of the independence struggle; she

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\*English translation of the original speech delivered in Kannada.

was none other than Karnataka's Kittur Rani Chennamma. In 1824, she fought against the British East India Company and she was the First Indian Woman who killed a British Officer named John Thackeray.

She was born on 23rd October, 1778 in Kakati village of Belgaum District. She was married to the King of Kittur, Mallasarja Desai. After the death of her husband, she took up the administration of Kittur. She fought against Britishers to ensure that her adopted son inherits the throne. In the course of history, we learn that just two soldiers of Kittur Army held the British officers and their family members hostage and after negotiating with them, they were set free honourably. This incident shows the dignity of the Kittur Dynasty. In order to avenge this incident, the Britishers frequently attacked the Kingdom of Kittur. In one such attack, Rani Chennamma and Kittur Army defended their fort for 12 days, however, Britishers arrested the Rani Chennamma treacherously.

Even though Rani Chennamma won only once against the British, she was an inspiration to countless freedom fighters. Even today the people of Karnataka proudly narrate the story of her valour to their children. She was an inspiration to the Indian freedom fighters as she was the first lady to fight the mighty British Empire, the Empire over which the sun never set. The freedom struggle continued for years.

After independence Shri Bangarappa's Govt started an initiative to keep the memories of Rani Chennamma alive although the dynasty has ceased to exist. The event which began in Kittur gradually got extended to Taluk level and then to District level Festival (utsav) and now it is a State-wide festival in Karnataka. Various initiatives including the repair and maintenance of Kittur fort are being taken up and programmes celebrating the glorious history of Rani Chennamma are being organized. On 11th September 2007, the hon. former President, Shrimati Pratibha Devi Singh Patil inaugurated Rani Chennamma's statue in the Parliament premises thereby according due recognition to this pioneer of freedom struggle. The year 2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the first war against the British which took place in 1824. The people of Karnataka aspire to celebrate this great occasion and request to rename the Belgaum Airport as Rani Chennamma Airport as a mark of respect to the great freedom fighter. On the behalf of the people of Karnataka, I humbly request the Government to celebrate Kittur Festival on national scale and rename the Belgaum Airport as Rani Chennamma Airport and issue a commemorative coin and postage stamp on this occasion, as a mark of respect for all our freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the cause of the Nation. Namaskar!"

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Iranna Kadadi: Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

The next speaker is Shri Jose K. Mani; concern regarding rising coastal erosion along shores of Kerala.

### **Concern over rising coastal erosion along shores of Kerala**

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that requires immediate attention to the alarming increase in coastal area of India particularly along the shore of Kerala. This issue not only poses a threat to the environment but also to the livelihood of the coastal communities. In India, about 7,560 kilometers of coastline and, in Kerala, about 590 kilometers stretch of coastline, starting from Poovar to Thiruvananthapuram to Thalapadi in Kasargod, are the most densely populated land areas in the country. According to the study by the National Centre for Coastal Research, 33.6 per cent of the Indian coastline is vulnerable to erosion and nearly 46 per cent of coastline of Kerala is already affected. The statistic should not be viewed as a mere number but a warning of the impending crisis that looms over the State and the nation. This coastal erosion is due to various factors such as climate change, unregulated human activities, inadequate coastal zone management, mining and tourism. In Kerala alone, with over 11 lakh fishermen belonging to the economically weaker sections, coastal erosion is rendering these families refugees in their own land. It is imperative that we recognize the urgency of the situation. Firstly, I implore upon the Government to initiate a comprehensive coastal protection plan that leverages the latest scientific and technological advancements. Adequate financial allocation is crucial. The Government must reflect its commitment in budgets, setting aside sufficient funds for coastal protection projects, community development initiatives and research programmes. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive scientific study into the issue of coastal erosion along India's coasts. Such a study will offer a detailed understanding of regional variations enabling the identification of high risk zones and implementation of targeted measures for coastal protection. Sir, additionally, it will facilitate the integration of indigenous knowledge with advanced scientific insights fostering a holistic approach. This comprehensive study stands as a crucial step towards serving our coastal heritage, sustaining the livelihood and fortifying the resilience of our coastal communities in the face of escalating environmental challenges. I hope the Government will take immediate action to address this crisis. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour raised by the hon. Member Shri Jose K. Mani: Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shri Elamaram Kareem (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

#### **Regularisation of local passenger Train Nos. 07380 and 07379**

SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE (Goa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to an important issue affecting the residents of Kulem, Kalay and surrounding villages in South Goa. The prolonged cancellation of local passenger trains, specifically Train No.7380 Vasco to Kulem and Train No.7379 Kulem to Vasco due to the ongoing railway doubling project from Kulem to Vasco has created severe challenges for the local population. The suspension of these trains has disproportionately impacted the daily lives of villagers, particularly students, who rely on these services for commuting for education and employment opportunities. Despite persistent representations made by the local villagers to the South Western Railway, a resolution has not been reached. The absence of alternative transportation from Kulem to Vasco has led to significant hardships for students, workers, employees and domestic passengers while goods trains operates seamlessly on the same route. Sir, I urgently request your intervention to address this matter. I appeal for the regularisation of Train No.7380 Vasco to Kulem and Train No.7379 Kulem to Vasco without further delay. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member Shri Sadanand Shet Tanawde: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal).

#### **Demand to establish Industrial Units in Auraiya and Etawah Districts of Uttar Pradesh**

**श्रीमती गीता उर्फ चंद्रप्रभा (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** उपसभापति जी, उत्तर प्रदेश के जनपद औरैया एवं इटावा भौगोलिक दृष्टि से उत्तर प्रदेश में एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान पर स्थित हैं। लगभग उत्तर

प्रदेश के मध्य में स्थित इन स्थानों से मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान राज्यों की सीमा बिल्कुल निकट है तथा उत्तर प्रदेश के किसी भी हिस्से में सरलता से पहुंचा जा सकता है। दोनों जनपद देश के प्रमुख रेल मार्ग से - एक हावड़ा-दिल्ली रेल मार्ग एवं राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों, अनेकों एक्सप्रेस-वेज से अच्छी तरह से जुड़े हुए हैं। जनपद औरैया में भारत सरकार के उपक्रम गेल एवं एनटीपीसी भी स्थित हैं। महत्वपूर्ण भौगोलिक स्थान पर स्थित होने तथा रेल व सड़क मार्ग से अच्छी तरह से कनेक्ट होने के कारण इन दोनों जनपदों में अभी औद्योगिक विकास की अनेकों संभावनाएं हैं। दोनों जनपदों की औसत साक्षरता दर देश और प्रदेश की औसत साक्षरता दर से अधिक है। रोजगार के अवसर कम होने के कारण वहां के प्रतिभाशाली युवा अनेकों शहरों में रोजगार की तलाश में जाते हैं। इसलिए दोनों जनपदों एवं आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ाने तथा जनपद के संपूर्ण विकास के लिए एक्सप्रेस-वे एवं रेल मार्ग के किनारे औद्योगिक इकाइयों की स्थापना अति आवश्यक है।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से आग्रह करती हूं कि वहां पर औद्योगिक इकाइयां स्थापित की जाएं, जिससे वहां के युवाओं को रोजगार प्राप्त हो सके।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta alias Chandraprabha: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

#### **Demand for a flyover on NH-31 in Begusarai**

**श्री राकेश सिन्हा** (नामनिर्देशित): उपसभापति महोदय, जो नेशनल हाईवे का चौड़ीकरण ...(व्यवधान)... हाल के वर्षों में मोदी सरकार ने नेशनल हाईवे का चौड़ीकरण, विस्तारीकरण किया है, जो अभूतपूर्व कदम है और देश के लिए एक बहुत बड़ा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकसित हो रहा है। इस संदर्भ में बिहार के बेगूसराय से जो नेशनल हाईवे 31 गुजर रहा है, उसमें एक फ्लाईओवर बनाया जा रहा है, जो एक ट्रैफिक चौक तक ही आता है। यदि उसे खातोपुर तक, यानी कुछ मीटर्स आगे बढ़ा दिया जाए, तो एक्सिडेंट्स की संभावनाएं कम हो जाएंगी, जैसी कि आंशका जताई जा रही है।

दूसरा, उसी एनएच 31 पर बलिया में पावर हाउस से यदि जानीपुर तक एक फ्लाईओवर बनाया जाता है, तो लोग सुरक्षित रहेंगे। यह विषय मैं इस संदर्भ में उठा रहा हूं कि पैदल चलने वालों का एक प्राकृतिक और मौलिक अधिकार होता है। जब नेशनल हाईवे का चौड़ीकरण हो रहा है, तो उन स्थानों पर छोटे-छोटे व्यापारी, फल विक्रेता और रेलवे स्टेशन या बस स्टैंड पहले से स्थित होते हैं। उसके कारण जो आंकड़े आते हैं, जितने पैदल चलने वाले लोग होते हैं, उनमें 31 प्रतिशत व्यावसायिक कारणों से चलते हैं और जो रोड पर एक्सिडेंट्स हो रहे हैं, उनमें 58 प्रतिशत एक्सिडेंट्स, दुर्घटनाएं पैदल चलने वालों की हो रही हैं। भारत में 2022 में यह आंकड़ा लगभग 32,825 है और यह ग्लोबल ट्रेंड है। पूरी दुनिया में 1.2 मिलियन एक्सिडेंट्स होते हैं। 2022 में

अमेरिका में 7,500 एक्सिडेंट्स हुए हैं। यह 2010 की तुलना में 77 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि है। भारत में भी यह वृद्धि लगातार हो रही है।

इस संदर्भ में मैं इन दो फ्लाईओवर्स की मांग करते हुए सामान्य संदर्भ में कहता हूँ कि जहाँ भी सड़क का चौड़ीकरण, विस्तारीकरण हो, वहाँ स्थानीयता को सुरक्षित रखा जाए, यानी स्थानीय लोग पैदल यात्रा करते हैं, कन्वेंशनल तरीकों से चलते हैं, बैलगाड़ी, टमटम या घोड़ा गाड़ी आदि से चलते हैं, तो उनके अधिकारों की रक्षा करना हमारा कर्तव्य है। चूंकि नेशनल हाईवे बड़े-बड़े शहरों को जोड़ता है, तो इसमें स्थानीय लोगों को असुरक्षित महसूस नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं इस संदर्भ में सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि बेगूसराय एनएच 31 पर फ्लाईओवर को खातोपुर तक ले जाया जाए और दूसरा फ्लाईओवर बेगूसराय के ही बलिया में पावर हाउस से लेकर जानीपुर तक बनाया जाए। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Rakesh Sinha: Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

#### **Demand to start Medical Coach facility for serious patients in Trains**

DR. PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Minister of Railways. I am talking about the trains that continuously run for more than 18 hours from one end to another end. इसके बारे में बोलने से पहले मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि मेरा पहला अनुभव है, while I was coming to Delhi by Rajdhani Express, जब कानपुर पास हो गया then there is only one stoppage, which is at Delhi. उस समय यह हुआ कि एक 38 साल के व्यक्ति को तभी स्ट्रोक आया, we could find out a doctor from there but he could not help. उसने बोला कि अगर ऑक्सीजन का एक सिलेंडर होता, तो मैं इसे जिंदा रखता। आपको यह सुनकर खराब लगा होगा, मुझे भी बहुत खराब लगा था कि उस 38 साल के व्यक्ति ने दम तोड़ दिया। महोदय, सिर्फ यही एक कहानी नहीं है, ऐसी बहुत सारी कहानियाँ हैं, ऐसी बहुत सारी न्यूज़ भी आ रही हैं। महोदय, मैं इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए एक और बात कहना चाह रहा हूँ कि कोरोना के बाद, almost all the children are prone to deficiency of oxygen. जब ट्रेन में जा रहे हैं, तो उनके माँ-बाप भी जानते हैं कि इसको नेबुलाइज़र की जरूरत है, वे नेबुलाइज़र लेकर भी आते हैं, लेकिन वहाँ नेबुलाइज़र काम नहीं करता है, क्योंकि बोगी में जो 110 डीसी करंट है, उससे नेबुलाइज़र काम नहीं करता है। उसके बाद यह भी होता है - यह ज्यादातर कोरोना के बाद से हो रहा है कि शरीर में immediately sodium deficiency हो जाती है और उसे एक saline की जरूरत पड़ती है, जिससे वह जिंदा रह सके, लेकिन उस सेलाइन के आने से पहले ही दम घुट जाता है। So, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Railway Minister, who

is also very much concerned about the passengers, to this aspect. He will, definitely, take note of this and do something. All these trains which are running for more than 18 hours should have a special coach/ medical van where there should be at least two ICUs, one ventilator, oxygen cylinder and other things along with doctors and nurses. I think this will be accepted by all my learned colleagues. It is very, very necessary and it is high time for us to think about it. I hope the way the Railway Minister is working, he would, definitely, take note of this particular request of mine. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Member associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member: Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Shrimati Mausam Noor (West Bengal), Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde (Maharashtra), Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray (West Bengal), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa (Assam), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Rajmani Patel (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur) and Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

जो माननीय सदस्य एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, they may send their names. Now, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan — Concern over negative impact of cinema on our youth.

### **Concern over negative impact of Cinema on our youth**

**श्रीमती रंजीत रंजन (छत्तीसगढ़) :** उपसभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह बताना चाहती हूँ कि सिनेमा समाज का आईना होता है। हम लोग सिनेमा देखकर बड़े हुए हैं और सिनेमा, पिक्चर्स हमारी लाइफ में, खासकर युवाओं की लाइफ में बहुत influence रखती हैं। आजकल कुछ इस तरह की पिक्चर्स आ रही हैं कि अगर आप कबीर से शुरू करें, पुष्पा से शुरू करें और अभी एक एनिमल पिक्चर भी चल रही है, तो मैं आपसे कह नहीं पाऊंगी कि मेरी बेटी के साथ बहुत सारी बच्चियाँ थीं, जो कॉलेज के सेकंड ईयर में पढ़ती हैं, वे आधी पिक्चर में ही उठकर रोती हुई चली गई कि इतनी हिंसा है। महिलाओं के साथ हो रही disrespect को पिक्चरों के द्वारा justify करने पर मुझे लगता है कि कबीर पिक्चर में वह जिस तरह से अपनी वाइफ को ट्रीट करता है, इस मूवी में जिस तरह से अपनी वाइफ को ट्रीट करता है और लोग, समाज एवं

पिक्चर भी जिस तरह से उसको जस्टिफाई करती हुई दिखा रही है - यह बहुत ही शोचनीय विषय है।

उपसभापति जी, मेरा दूसरा विषय युवाओं को लेकर है। बहुत सारे ऐसे एग्जैम्पल्स हैं कि इन पिक्चर्स को, ऐसी वॉयलेंस को और गलत एवं नेगेटिव रोल को हीरो की तरह पेश करने से हमारे बच्चे, खासकर 11वीं और 12वीं के बच्चे इन्हें रोल मॉडल मानने लगे हैं। हमें इस तरह की कई हिंसाएँ समाज में देखने को मिल रही हैं, जिनके एग्जैम्पल्स वे फिल्मों से लेकर आते हैं।

मेरा तीसरा बिंदु है कि पंजाब के हरि सिंह नलवा का एक उच्च कोटि का इतिहास है। उसमें एक गाना है - 'फड़के गंडासी मारी, अर्जन वैल्ली ने'। इस इतिहास को एक गैंगवार ने दो परिवारों की नफरत की लड़ाई में, जिसका बेटा अपने बाप के प्यार के लिए मरता हुआ दिखता है, यह पिक्चर उसको भी जस्टिफाई नहीं कर पाई है। इसमें वह सरेआम हॉस्टल में, कॉलेज में, बिल्डिंग्स में बड़े-बड़े हथियार लेकर मारता है और कोई कानून, कोई लॉ एंड ऑर्डर उसे कोई भी सजा नहीं देता है - यह भी हम पिक्चर में जस्टिफाई कर रहे हैं। उपसभापति जी, जहाँ तक अर्जन वैल्ली का सवाल है, हरि सिंह नलवा, जो सिख फौज के Commander-in-Chief थे, जिन्होंने मुगलों के खिलाफ, अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ उनकी बढ़ती हुई सत्ता को रोकने के लिए लड़ाई लड़ी थी, अर्जन सिंह नलवा उनका बेटा था। पाकिस्तान के गुजर्राँ से, जब 1947 में हमारा पूरा इंडिया एक साथ था, उन्होंने कई मुसलमानों को बचाने का काम किया था। इस उच्च कोटि के इतिहास को आप एक गैंगवार के रूप में उस गाने को बैकग्राउंड में रख कर दिखाते हैं, जो हमारी धार्मिक आस्था को भी बहुत ज्यादा दर्द महसूस करवाता है। गुरु गोबिंद सिंह जी, जो सिखों के दसवें गुरु हैं, वे जब मुगलों से लड़ाई लड़ रहे थे, तो एक डाडी फोक होता है, जिसके तहत आप एक फोक सॉन्ग से अपनी फौज में जोश पैदा करते हैं, ...(समय की घंटी)... सर, मेरा एक ही सवाल है, मुझे 30 सेकंड दे दीजिए। प्लीज़ मेरा माइक ऑन कीजिए। Thank you, Sir.

सर, सेंसर बोर्ड ऐसी पिक्चरों को बढ़ावा कैसे दे रहा है और किस तरह से ऐसी पिक्चरें पास होकर आती हैं, जो हमारे समाज के लिए बीमारी हैं! हमारे समाज में ऐसी पिक्चरों का कोई भी स्थान नहीं होना चाहिए। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री उपसभापति :** धन्यवाद, श्रीमती रंजीत रंजन जी।

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan: Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Ram Chander Jangra (Haryana), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhatisgarh), Shri Rajamani Patel (Madhya Pradesh), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal) and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

श्री विवेक के. तन्खा, 'Concern over Shortage of Emergency Beds in AIIMS, Delhi.'

### Shortage of emergency beds in AIIMS, Delhi

**श्री विवेक के. तन्खा** (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मैं आपकी परमिशन से पब्लिक हेल्थ के बारे में कुछ बोलना चाहता हूँ। एम्स एक ऐसा अस्पताल है, जिसके प्रति लोगों की बहुत आस्था है और दूर-दूर से पेशेंट्स, जो पीड़ा में रहते हैं, एम्स आते हैं, क्योंकि it is less expensive, क्योंकि इस देश में private hospitals are very expensive. मेदांता जाना या कहीं भी जाना, it is very expensive. मैं काफी दिनों से देख रहा हूँ, चूँकि मैं बहुत पेशेंट्स भेजता हूँ, क्योंकि मैं मेडिकल मिशन से बहुत कनेक्टेड हूँ, मैं देखता हूँ कि रोज करीब 250 लोग एम्स की इमरजेंसी में जाते हैं, and these are all very sick people. मतलब आदमी काफी बीमार होता है, तभी वह एम्स जाएगा। उनमें से मुश्किल से 82 beds are available for emergency. 150 आदमी, who are very, very serious are outside with their families. मुझे लगता है कि time has come कि हमको सोचना चाहिए कि हम एम्स की फैसिलिटीज बढ़ाएँ, क्योंकि आप इसको रोक नहीं पाएँगे। यह पब्लिक हेल्थ को लेकर पब्लिक की एक्सपेक्शन है।

नंबर टू, फैसिलिटीज बढ़ाने के बाद, you make an effort कि क्या हम इन पेशेंट्स को कहीं और भेज सकते हैं for the same treatment. गवर्नमेंट को उसकी फैसिलिटी एक्टिवली करनी चाहिए।

सर, मैं दो बातें और कहना चाहता हूँ। आपने ऑनलाइन फैसिलिटी रखी है for registration for emergency. अब ऑनलाइन में जो सीरियसनेस है, उसे आप उतनी बता नहीं सकते, तो डॉक्टरों को भी एकदम से आभास नहीं होता कि इन सब ऑनलाइन पेशेंट्स, जो 250 की संख्या में हैं, उनमें से किसको सेलेक्ट करें। They have to see them. It is very dehumanizing. लेकिन जो वहाँ जाते हैं, वे सभी सीरियस पेशेंट्स होते हैं, especially after Covid when heart attacks have become so common even in young people. Sir, more than five thousand young people have died of heart attacks. इसलिए मेरा यह कहना है कि somewhere, we will have to humanize this whole process, make it people-friendly. हम फैसिलिटीज में जाएँ।

Last, Sir, the doctors of AIIMS are the best in India. इनकी सभी अस्पतालों में बहुत डिमांड है। जब ये रिटायर होते हैं, even before retirement, every private hospital wants to take them on big package. इनकी रिटायरमेंट एज 65 से 70 करने के लिए प्रपोजल बहुत दिन से पीएमओ में पेंडिंग है। I would request the Government कि आप इस एज को बढ़ाइए, क्योंकि these doctors are required for the good of the country. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vivek Tankhaji.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Vivek K. Tankha: Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhatisgarh), Shri Rajamani Patel (Madhya Pradesh), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri

Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Now, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu; 'Concern over continuing harassment due to spam calls and SMS despite TRAI regulations.'

### **Harassment due to SPAM calls and SMSs despite TRAI regulations**

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India developed the National 'Do Not Call' Register in India in 2007. In spite of the TRAI regulations, there has been an increase in spam phone calls and SMSs on a massive scale. The Government's role in regulating measures to curb these calls has not been effective.

The issue of unregistered telemarketers is rampant and unyielding. Around 74 per cent of the people registered in the regulator TRAI's 'Do Not Disturb (DND)' list receive unwanted SMSs, which is evident from many studies. Out of 9,252 people who responded to the poll, 51 per cent stated that they receive calls 'selling financial services' and 29 per cent said that they receive calls 'selling real estate' and credit card solicitation. Access to customer contacts is a breach of privacy. There is a pressing need to have a preventive framework other than just filing complaints through TRAI.

Sir, I urge the Telecom Department to take immediate action to curb unsolicited calls and SMSs received despite the TRAI regulations or 'DND' registration, manage the operations of unregistered telemarketers by introducing block chain-based technology and take steps to address the existing errors in the complaints mechanism of TRAI.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu: Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri N.R. Elango (Tamil Nadu), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh) and Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal). Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

**Demand for rescue operation and financial assistance to  
cyclone-affected farmers and other victims**

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): \*Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, crop damage caused by Cyclone Michaung in the districts stretching between Srikakulam and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh is nearly Rs. 7,000 crore. Because of torrential rains and heavy winds, crops on thousands of acres have been totally damaged. Sir, crops in the districts of Eluru, Anakapalli, Bapatla, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Guntur, Palnadu, Krishna, NTR and some other districts have been totally damaged because of heavy rains. The Central Government was requested to provide assistance against the loss caused by cyclone Michaung. There is a primary need to release Rs. 2500 crore for giving compensation to the farmers. In the present circumstances, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the present Government is not providing basic facilities and rehabilitation centers. Because of the inaction of the State Government, farmers are facing a lot of difficulties...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ayodhya Rami Reddyji, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: \*Cyclone victims are facing a lot of troubles as they are not being provided food and other basic amenities. Victims did not receive the assistance which was promised to them earlier. The people of Andhra Pradesh are in a very poor condition as farmers have lost their crops, they have not received compensation, and are neglected by the State Government with no rehabilitation centres. If this situation continues, they will not have houses to live in and fodder to feed the cattle. Under these circumstances, there is a need for the Central Government to issue special Government Orders (G.O.) and provide special financial assistance. Sir, the compensation and assistance promised earlier by Shri Chandrababu Naidu to the victims affected by the Titli and Hudhud cyclones is yet to be provided. I request the Central Government to keep these points in mind and take necessary actions and also provide financial assistance to the victims, particularly farmers, and setup rehabilitation centres. Thank you, Sir. "

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar: Dr. John

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\* English translation of the original speech delivered in Telugu.

Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

### **Rising atrocities against *Dalits***

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I stand before this august House with a heavy heart and I am compelled to address the pressing and painful issue that demands immediate attention of this Government and of the society.

Sir, the NCRB report reveals the disturbing truth of a 13 per cent rise in the cases of atrocities on *dalits* in one year. They are also called 'Hindus' and the society says that all Hindus are one, but statistics reveal that in 2020, the number of cases of atrocities on *dalits* was 50,291; in 2021, the number was 50,900, an increase, and in 2022, it was 57,582. This increasing trend shows how we are treating our fellow brothers in this country. The top three States here are Uttar Pradesh - 15,368 incidents, Rajasthan - 8,752 and Madhya Pradesh - 7,733. These are the top three States. Sir, the women are the worst hit. Among *dalits*, women are vulnerable and they are succumbed to atrocities like rape, naked parade, destruction of their self-respect and modesty. The statistics say that in 2021, 3,893 rapes were committed; in 2022, rapes have been increased to 4,252. Sexual harassment on *dalit* women were 932 in 2021 which increased to 1,022 in 2022. The cases reported on assault on their self-respect were 2,000 in 2021 which increased to 2,167 in 2022. Totally, 7,756 cases were reported on atrocities on women in 2021 and 343 atrocities relating to naked parade were done on women of this country. This is really shameful. Even today, I have read in newspaper that in Tirunelveli district, a Scheduled Caste boy was murdered because he was in love with an upper caste girl. It is not his mistake, but it is called by the Press and other media as *maryada hatya*. This *maryada hatya* is going on across the country. I request the Government to take it seriously and come out with concrete steps to stop this massacre. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri L. Hanumanthaiah: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik (Rajasthan), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta (National Capital Territory of Delhi), Dr. Ameer Yajnik (Gujarat), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri

Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra).

The next speaker is Shri Harnath Singh Yadav on 'Need to impose Uniform Civil Code in the country to maintain communal harmony'. उपस्थित नहीं हैं। The next speaker is Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas on 'Need to end deaths due hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks'.

### **Need to stop deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks**

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, recently four migrant workers from Bihar died while cleaning a septic tank in Surat, Gujarat. The Union Government has stated that there have been no deaths due to manual scavenging in the country. However, the Government's own data states that over 300 people have died in the last five years due to accidents while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Manual scavenging has been prohibited in India since 2013. However, *dalits* and tribles are forced to take up these jobs mainly due to poverty and lack of employment elsewhere. The historical repression and marginalization of these groups still exists, leaving them no other source to earn a living. The Government needs to take urgent measures to ensure that no person should have to demean himself by cleaning sewers and septic tanks manually. The law should be enforced strictly in this regard, especially on private firms who employ such persons on *per diem* basis which do not show them on their rolls, often without providing them any protective gears.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

The technological solutions need to be enhanced and mechanical desludging and the use of robots should become the norms. Self-employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers need to be revived. Besides one-time cash component, the emphasis needs to be put on skilling and providing them soft loans to enable them to carve out alternative means of earning, livelihood or other career. We must ensure dignity of life and livelihood for every Indian citizen. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah (Karnataka), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra)

and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra). The next speaker is Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde.

**Need to prohibit the use of all bannable pesticides immediately by prohibiting its production, import, export, marketing and use in India**

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE (Bihar): Sir, I want to speak on an important issue 'Demand for prohibiting the use of all bannable pesticides immediately by prohibiting their production, import, export, marketing and the use in India'.

There are enough research reports about the havoc being caused by herbicides world-over. The issue is much bigger. In fact, India continues to have nearly 150 pesticides that have been banned or disallowed in one or more countries. There is a large body of scientific evidence, both on the ill-effects of synthetic pesticides as well as well as positive impacts of organic and natural farming. I welcome the hon. Prime Minister's stand urging the farmers to give up toxic chemicals and save the Mother Earth. But it is unfortunate that deadly chemicals, like monocrotophos, etc., are not being banned by the Minister of Agriculture. In May, 2020, the Government of India published draft ban order on 27 hazardous pesticides, that too after consulting with the pesticides industry representatives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal). Now, Question Hour.

**12.00 Noon**

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

\* Q. No. 46. [*The questioner was absent.*]

**Foreign visits by Union Ministers**

\*46. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign visits undertaken by the Union Ministers since 2020 to till date; Ministry-wise;

(b) the details of objectives, discussions held and the outcome thereof during the said visits; and

(c) whether any bilateral agreements/MoUs were signed during such visits, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. JAISHANKAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) to (c) Details of Foreign visits are placed at Annexure I.

The visits by Union Ministers are means to foster closer relations with foreign countries and promote India's multi-faceted engagements at bilateral, regional and global level. Through such visits, we convey India's viewpoint and shape the agenda at bilateral, regional and global levels on issues such as peace and security; climate change; reformed multilateralism; transnational crime and terrorism; emerging technology and cyber security; trade, investment and resilient supply chain; energy security, critical minerals and food security; cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts; evacuation of Indian nationals and Diaspora issues, among others.

These visits are meant to serve the national interest and enable India to strengthen its relations with partner countries across a wide-range of sectors. Such outcomes contributed to India's national development agenda, promote economic growth and well being of our people, ensure our political and security interests, develop consensus on G-20 issues and put forth the views of the developing countries as part of the Voice of Global South.

Details of MoUs signed during the period are placed at Annexure II.

**Annexure — I**  
**Foreign Visits by Union Ministers**

<b>Sl No.</b>	<b>Period of Visit, Country</b>	<b>Name of Union Minister</b>
1.	14 January 2020, Oman	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister of Minority Affairs
2.	21-24 January 2020, Switzerland	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Railways
3.	22-23 January 2020, Tunisia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
4.	17-21 February, 2020, Sweden	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways
5.	23 February 2020, Saudi Arabia	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
6.	28-29 February 2020, Bhutan	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Commerce and Industry
7.	22-25 June 2020, Russia	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
8.	2-5 September 2020, Russia	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
9.	9-10 September 2020, Russia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
10.	11-12 October 2020, Kuwait	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel
11.	24-25 November 2020, Bahrain	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
12.	27-28 December 2020, Qatar	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
13.	20 -21 February 2021, Maldives	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
14.	21-24 February 2021. Mauritius	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

15.	04 March 2021, Bangladesh	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
16.	29 March — 01 April 2021, Tajikistan	Shri Rajnath Singh Raksha Mantri Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
17.	18-19 April 2021, UAE	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
18.	03-07 May 2021, UK	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
19.	23-28 May, 2021, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
20.	9-11 June 2021, Kuwait	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
21.	12-14 June 2021, Kenya	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
22.	25-27 June 2021, Greece	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
23.	27-30 June 2021, Italy	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
24.	7 July 2021, Iran	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
25.	7-9 July, 2021, Russia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Ram Chandra Prasad, Minister of Steel Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers
26.	15-16 July 2021, Uzbekistan	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

27.	13-16 July 2021, Tajikistan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
28.	09-10 July 2021, Georgia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
29.	28 July 2021, Tajikistan	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
30.	5-6 August 2021, Iran	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
31.	16-19 August 2021, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
32.	02-03 September 2021, Slovenia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
33.	3 September 2021, Croatia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
34.	04-05 September 2021, Denmark	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
35.	05-06 September 2021, Italy	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
36.	16-17 September 2021, Tajikistan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
37.	19-26 September 2021, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
38.	26-28 September 2021, Mexico	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
39.	01 — 02 October 2021, UAE	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
40.	10-11 October 2021, Kyrgyzstan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
41.	11-12 October 2021, Kazakhstan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
42.	11-18 October 2021, USA	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs
43.	12-13 October 2021, Armenia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
44.	26-31 October 2021, Italy	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry

45.	17-21 October 2021, Israel	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
46.	24-25 October 2021, Saudi Arabia	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
47.	29 October 2021, Italy	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
48.	30 October — 02 November 2021, UK	Dr S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs Dr Bhupender Singh Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change
49.	13-14 November 2021, UAE	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
50.	14-18 November 2021, UAE	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
51.	16-20 November 2021, Singapore	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education
52.	27 November - 05 December 2021, Switzerland	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
53.	04-05 December 2021, UAE	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
54.	13-14 December 2021, UAE	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
55.	10-13 February 2022 , Australia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
56.	13 - 15 February 2022, Philippines	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
57.	18-20 February 2022, Germany	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
58.	19 - 23 February 2022, UAE	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras, Minister of Food Processing Industries

59.	20-24 February 2022 , France	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
60.	28 February- 04 March 2022, Kenya	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
61.	01-06 March 2022, Hungary	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
62.	01-07 March 2022, Romania	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation
63.	09-17 March 2022, UAE	Shri Ram Chandra Prasad, Minister of Steel
64.	20-22 March 2022, Senegal	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
65.	23 — 25 March 2022, UAE	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
66.	25 — 28 March 2022, UAE	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting
67.	26-27 March 2022, Maldives	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
68.	01—07 March 2022, Slovak Republic	Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law and Justice
69.	28 — 29 March 2022, UAE	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
70.	28-30 March 2022, Sri Lanka	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
71.	5-8 April 2022, Australia	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles
72.	06-07 April 2022, France	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
73.	11-12 April 2022, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
74.	11-14 April 2022, USA	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri

75.	18-27 April 2022, USA	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
76.	22-25 April 2022, Japan	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
77.	28-29 April 2022, USA	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation
78.	28-29 April 2022, Bangladesh	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
79.	29-30 April 2022, Bhutan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
80.	01-03 May 2022, Germany	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
81.	02-04 May 2022, Canada	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation
82.	03-06 May 2021, UK	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
83.	9-11 May 2022, Israel	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
84.	09-11 May 2022, Cote d'Ivoire	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
85.	13-15 May 2022, Jordan	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers
86.	16 - 20 May 2022, Brazil	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs

87.	17-18 May 2022, France	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting
88.	22-26 May 2022, Switzerland	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
89.	22-26 May 2022, Switzerland	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
90.	22-26 May 2022, Switzerland	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
91.	23-24 May 2022, Japan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
92.	26-27 May 2022, UK	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
93.	31 May-04 June 2022, Sweden	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
94.	04-06 June 2022, Czech Republic	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
95.	02-04 June 2022, Slovak Republic	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
96.	08-16 June 2022, France	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
97.	8-10 June 2022, Vietnam	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
98.	13-16 June 2022, Mongolia	Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law and Justice
99.	15 June 2022, France	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology
100.	15-17 June 2022, Russia	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers
101.	16 June 2022, Belgium	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology

102.	17-18 June 2022, Belgium	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
103.	20-22 June 2022, Cambodia	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
104.	June 22-25 2022, Rwanda	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
105.	25-29 June 2022, Portugal	Shri Jitender Singh, MoS (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
106.	26 June - 03 July 2022, Germany	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
107.	03-06 July 2022, UK	Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law and Justice
108.	03-08 July 2022, Australia	Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Coal and Mines
109.	11-15 July 2022, Australia	Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy
110.	15-18 July 2023, Thailand	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
111.	28-30 July 2022, Uzbekistan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
112.	3-5 August 2022, Cambodia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
113.	16-18 August 2022, Thailand	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
114.	18-21 August 2022, Iran	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
115.	21-23 August 2022, Paraguay	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
116.	21-23 August 2022, UAE	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
117.	21-24 August 2022, Australia	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education and Skill Development and

		Entrepreneurship
118.	23-24 August 2022, Uzbekistan	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
119.	24-26 August 2022, Saudi Arabia	Dr. Mansukh Madaviya, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
120.	25-26 August 2022, Argentina	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
121.	31 August- 02 September 2022, UAE	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
122.	05-07 September 2023, Mongolia	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
123.	05-08 September 2022, Italy	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
124.	5-10 September 2022, USA	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
125.	7-10 September 2022, Japan	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
126.	10-12 September 2022, Saudi Arabia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
127.	11-14 September 2022, Denmark	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
128.	15-16 September 2022, Uzbekistan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
129.	18-19 September 2022, Saudi Arabia	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
130.	18-21 September 2022, Egypt	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
131.	21-23 September 2022, USA	Shri Jitender Singh, MoS (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
132.	25-27 September 2022, Canada	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation

133.	25-28 September 2022, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
134.	28-29 September 2022, UAE	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
135.	04-07 October 2022 , Australia	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
136.	06-09 October 2022, New Zealand	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
137.	6-11 October 2022, USA	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
138.	09-12 October 2022, Australia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
139.	11-17 October 2022, USA	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs
140.	14-16 October 2022, Egypt	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
141.	20-22 October 2022, Australia	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways
142.	30 October- 1 November 2022, UAE	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
143.	6-9 November 2022, Egypt	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
144.	10-13 November 2022, Cambodia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
145.	04-05 December 2022, UAE	Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS for Science & Technology
146.	12-13 December 2022, UAE	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
147.	13-15 December 2022, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
148.	16-20 December 2022, Canada	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
149.	29-31 December 2022, Republic of	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

	Cyprus	
150.	31 Dec 2022-03 January 2023, Austria	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
151.	19-21 January 2023, Morocco	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers
152.	8-11 January 2023, USA	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
153.	12-16 January 2023, UAE	Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy
154.	16-20 January 2023, Switzerland	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Women & Child Development Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways and Communications, Electronics & Information Technology Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
155.	18-19 January 2023, Maldives	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
156.	18-19 January 2023, Sri Lanka	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
157.	14-17 February 2023, Fiji	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS for External Affairs Shri Ajay Kumar, MoS for Home Affairs Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, MoS for External Affairs
158.	17-19 February 2023, Australia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
159.	27 February — 1 March 2023, USA	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti

160.	21-24 March 2023 , USA	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti
161.	09 — 16 April 2023, USA	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs
162.	10-13 April 2023, Uganda	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
163.	12-13 April 2023, France	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
164.	12-14 April 2023, Italy	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
165.	13 April 2023, Ethiopia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
166.	13-15 April 2023, Mozambique	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
167.	15-16 April 2023, Japan	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
168.	18-21 April 2023, Austria	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways
169.	20-24 April 2023, Guyana	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
170.	24-25 April 2023, Panama	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
171.	25-27 April 2023, Colombia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
172.	26-28 April 2023, South Korea	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
173.	25 April - 01 May 2023, UK	Shri Jitender Singh, MoS (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
174.	27-29 April 2023, Dominican Republic	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
175.	29-30 April 2023, Japan	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology

176.	1-3 May 2023, Maldives	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
177.	02-03 May 2023, Germany	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
178.	02-05 May 2023, Republic of Korea	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
179.	07-11 May 2023, Canada	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
180.	8-12 May 2023, USA	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology
181.	9 May 2023, Myanmar	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
182.	11-13 May 2023, Bangladesh	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
183.	11-13 May 2023, Japan	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
184.	13-14 May 2023, Japan	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
185.	13 -15 May 2023, Sweden	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
186.	15-16 May 2023, Belgium	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS for Electronics and Information Technology
187.	17 May 2023, UAE	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry
188.	19-21 May 2023, Japan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
189.	28-29 May 2023, Nigeria	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
190.	31 May - 4 June 2023, South Africa	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

191.	4-6 June 2023, Namibia, 05 June 2023, UK	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice
192.	11-17 June 2023, Norway	Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Earth Sciences
193.	13 June 2023, Switzerland	Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Minister for Labour & Employment
194.	14-17 June 2023, Uruguay and Brazil	Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
195.	20-21 June 2023, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
196.	22 June 2023, Ethiopia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
197.	22-23 June 2023, France	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
198.	10-11 July, 2023, Malaysia	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
199.	12-14 July 2023, Indonesia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
200.	13-15 July, 2023, USA	Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region
201.	15-18 July 2023, Thailand	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
202.	22 August 2023, South Africa	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
203.	21-24 August 2023, Norway	Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
204.	07 September 2023, Indonesia	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
205.	11-14 September 2023, Russia	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Port, Shipping, Waterways and AYUSH
206.	22-30 September, 2023, USA	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

207.	1-3 October 2023, The Czech Republic	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways
208.	8-9 October, 2023, Saudi Arabia	Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy
209.	10-12 October 2023, Sri Lanka	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
210.	10-15 October 2023, Morocco	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs
211.	15-18 October 2023, Vietnam	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
212.	18-21 October, 2023, Singapore	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
213.	24-25 October, 2023, Saudi Arabia	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industries
214.	25-26 October 2023, Kyrgyzstan	Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
215.	28-30 October 2023, Mozambique	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas
216.	01-03 November, 2023, Sri Lanka	Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister
217.	8-9 November 2023, Austria	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
218.	13-16 November, 2023, USA	Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry
219.	15-17 November 2023, Indonesia	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri
220.	16-18 November 2023, Maldives	Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Earth Sciences

**Annexure- II**  
**MoUs signed with foreign countries between 2020-2023**

S/N	MoU details	Signing Date
1	MoU between Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology and Niigata University, Japan on collaborative research in basic/applied sciences and technology and related areas and academic co-operation	01/08/2020
2	MoU between Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines, Gol and Geological Survey of Brazil – CPRM, Ministry of Mines and energy of the Federative Republic of Brazil on cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources	01/25/2020
3	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the period 2020-24	01/25/2020
4	Inspiresat-1 Agreement between Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology and University of Colorado Boulder, USA on design, fabricate, assemble and demonstrate in space the Inspiresat-1	01/29/2020
5	Cooperation Agreement between Gol and Portuguese Republic in the field of maritime transport and ports.	02/14/2020
6	MoU between the Ministry of Shipping, Gol and the Ministry of National Defence of the Portuguese Republic for cooperation in development of National Maritime Heritage complex at Lothal, Gujarat, India.	02/14/2020
7	MoU between the Indian Space Research Organization Bangalore, India and the University of Texas at Austin United States of America Department of Space	02/21/2020
8	MoU between the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology – IIST Thiruvananthapuram Kerala India and the Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'espace isae-superaero Toulouse,	02/26/2020

	France on mutual cooperation	
9	MoU between Gol and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking.	02/27/2020
10	MoU between the Ministry of Communications, Gol and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on cooperation in the field of communications.	02/27/2020
11	MoU between Ministry of Railways and DB engineering & consulting GMBH of Germany for technological cooperation in rail sector.	02/28/2020
12	Plan of Cooperation between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Israel Space Agency regarding cooperation in electric propulsion for small satellite	04/27/2020
13	MoU on cooperation in the field of mining and processing of critical and strategic minerals between Ministry of Mines, Gol and Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources for Australia, the Government of Australia	06/03/2020
14	MoU between Gol and Australia on co-operation in the field of public administration and governance reforms	06/04/2020
15	MoU between the Government, Gol and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes	08/13/2020
16	Agreement for electronic exchange of customs data of postal shipments signed between India Post and United States Postal Service.	10/24/2020

17	Specific Cooperation Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation, Gol and the Mexican Space Agency of the united Mexican states on forest fire management using eo data and capacity building	10/28/2020
18	MoU between Gol and the Royal Government of Bhutan on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	11/19/2020
19	MoU between Geological Survey of India and Geological Survey of Finland (Geologian Tutkimuskeskus) on cooperation in the fields of geology and mineral resources.	12/03/2020
20	Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants	12/04/2020
21	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Vereniging Van Registercontrollers, the Netherlands	12/10/2020
22	Memorandum between Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Gol and the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the exchange of pre-arrival information on goods moved across the state border.	12/10/2020
23	MoU between the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology — IIST Thiruvananthapuram Kerala India and the Institut Supérieur De L Aeronautique Et De L Espace Isae-Supaero Toulouse, France on Mutual Cooperation.	26/02/2020
24	Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies between the Ministry of Communications, GOI and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan	01/15/2021
25	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE	01/21/2021
26	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Certified Practising Accountants Papua New Guinea	02/08/2021

27	MoU between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Maldives on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development	02/20/2021
28	Implementation Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Concerning Collaborative Activities on Aprsaf/Safe Rice Crop Area and Air Quality Monitoring	03/11/2021
29	MoU between the National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Gol and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Peoples Republic of Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management Resilience and Mitigation.	03/27/2021
30	Implementation Arrangement between Human Spaceflight Centre and the Centre National Detudes Spatiales Cnes for Service and Supply - First Face Activities Concerning the Human Spaceflight Programme Support	04/15/2021
31	MoU between Ewi, Tu Delft (Delft, the Netherlands) and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology	05/17/2021
32	Implementing Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation, Gol and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America on Cooperation in Earth Observation Data Exchange	06/10/2021
33	Agreement for the Electronic Exchange of Postal Service Data with UPU	06/15/2021
34	Agreement for Electronic Exchange of Customs Data with UPU	06/15/2021
35	MoU between Competition Commission of India and Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil	06/18/2021
36	MoU between the Department of Telecommunications, Government, Gol and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport of the United Kingdom on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications/ ICTS	06/23/2021

37	Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and European Space Agency Concerning Network and Operations Cross-Support	06/23/2021
38	MoU between the Department of Civil Protection of the Residency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic and the National Disaster Management Authority, Gol on cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.	06/24/2021
39	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Qatar Financial Centre Authority	06/28/2021
40	MoU on Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms between Gol and the Gambia	07/08/2021
41	Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and CPA Australia	07/29/2021
42	Memorandum on Cooperation between the Competition Commission of India and Japan Fair Trade Commission	08/06/2021
43	MoU between the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK	08/09/2021
44	Agreement Among the Brazilian Space Agency, the State Space Corporation Roscosmos, the Indian Space Research Organization, the China National Space Administration and the South African National Space Agency on Cooperation on BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation Department of Space Multilateral - BRICS	08/18/2021
45	MoU between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes	09/06/2021
46	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand	09/10/2021

47	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Years 2021-2025	09/24/2021
48	Implementation Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Concerning Cooperation in Installation and Maintenance and Operation of Irnss Range and Integrity Monitoring Station	09/27/2021
49	MoU between Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines, Gol and the Florida International University Board of Trustees on behalf of its Department of Earth and Environment, College of Arts, Sciences and Education, United States of America on Cooperation in the field of Geology under the Research Project Title Study of Post-Collisional Magmatism in the India-Asia Collision Zone (Ladakh Granitoids, Indus Ophiolite Belt) and Integrative Geological and Geochronological Studies of the Mishmi Tectonic Belt, Northeastern India (Arunachal Pradesh)	10/06/2021
50	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on cooperation in the field of Culture and Arts	10/11/2021
51	Prime United States Postal Service Tracked Service Agreement with US	10/20/2021
52	Implementing Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organization, Department of Space, Government of India and the Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan concerning cooperation on the Development of a Joint Small Satellite	10/24/2021
53	General MoU for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange between National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Department of Sp Ace, Government of India Gadanki 517112 Ap India and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Kyoto University Uji, Kyoto 6110011 Japan	11/11/2021

54	Agreement between Gol and the Government of the Russian Federation on Technology Protection Due To Cooperation in field of Research and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes and Building and Operation of Launch Vehicles and Ground-Based Space Infrastructure	12/01/2021
55	MoU on cooperation in field of Geosciences between the Joint Stock Company Rosgeologia (Rosgeo), a Legal Entity Incorporated Under the Laws of the Russian Federation and the Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines, Gol	12/01/2021
56	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Government, Gol and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Years 2021-2024	12/02/2021
57	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia	12/02/2021
58	MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation and Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, UAE regarding cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes	12/05/2021
59	Technical Implementing Plan between ISRO and European Space Agency for support to Chandrayaan-3 Mission	12/16/2021
60	Technical Implementing Plan between ISRO and European Space Agency for support To Aditya-L1 Mission	12/16/2021
61	Implementing Arrangement between ISRO and MBRSC on cooperation in aerosol and greenhouse monitoring satellite missions	01/05/2022
62	Implementing arrangement between Indian Space Research Organisation and Australian space agency relating to cooperation on establishing and operating transportable telemetry terminals in the cocos keeling islands, Australia for the Gaganyaan human space flight mission	01/07/2022

63	MoU between Gol and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes	02/02/2022
64	Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Deep Space Network support for ISRO's Chandrayaan3 lunar lander and Chandrayaan2 lunar orbiter missions	02/10/2022
65	MoU between the Competition Commission of India and the Competition Commission of Mauritius	02/23/2022
66	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Gol and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of the Government of Japan in the field of sustainable urban development	03/19/2022
67	Cultural and Educational Exchange programme between Gol and the Government of the Hellenic Republic, Greece for years 2022-2026	03/23/2022
68	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the College of Banking and Financial Studies, Oman	03/31/2022
69	Programme of Cooperation between Gol and the Government of Turkmenistan in the fields of Culture and arts for the years 2022-2025	04/02/2022
70	MoU between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Department of Space, Gol for cooperation in safety of spaceflight and the provision of space situational awareness services and information	04/11/2022
71	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the years 2022-2026	04/29/2022

72	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of India and the Ministry of Culture of Denmark for the years 2022-2026	04/30/2022
73	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Senegal for the years 2022-2026	06/01/2022
74	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture, Gol and the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2022-2025	06/13/2022
75	Charter on the establishment of the Space Climate Observatory with SCO	06/27/2022
76	Specific Cooperation Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Space, Gol and the Mexican Space Agency of the United Mexican States on crop monitoring drought assessment and capacity building	06/29/2022
77	Cultural Exchanges Programme between Gol and the Government of Romania for the period 2022-2027	07/01/2022
78	Letter of Intent between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Centre National d etudes Spatiales, France	07/13/2022
79	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors	08/10/2022
80	MoU between the Ministry of Mines, Gol and the Secretariat of Mining of the Ministry of Economy of the Argentine Republic on cooperation in the field of mineral resources	08/26/2022
81	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Suriname	08/30/2022
82	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan	09/16/2022

83	MoU between Physical Research Laboratory, India and National University of Singapore for collaboration in quantum science & technologies and allied applications	11/14/2022
84	Prime Tacked Service Agreement between Department of Posts - UPU	11/16/2022
85	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria	11/21/2022
86	MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal	11/21/2022
87	Agreement between Indian Space Research Organisation and Physikalisch - Technische Bundesanstalt, Germany on collaboration for installing & reception of data from navic receiver	12/12/2022
88	The Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture, Gol and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam 2022-2025	12/15/2022
89	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the years 2022-2027	12/22/2022
90	MoU in the field of culture between Gol and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt	01/25/2023
91	Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture, Gol and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for the Period 2023-2026	03/04/2023
92	Cultural Exchange Programme between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Colombia for the Years 2023-2026	04/26/2023
93	Implementing Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Centre National Detudes Spatiales, France for Implementation of Short Term Plan of Maritime Domain Awareness of Indian	06/06/2023

	Ocean With Existing Satellite Constellations	
94	Implementing Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Centre National Detudes Spatiales, France concerning cooperation on the Joint Visible Short Wave and thermal Infra Red Earth Observation Mission thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High Resolution Natural Resource Assessment Trishna	06/06/2023
95	Bilateral Agreement for the Tracked Packet Service between Department of Posts Bilateral - Canada	06/07/2023
96	Programme for Cultural Cooperation between Gol and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the years 2023-2026	07/06/2023
97	Agreement between ISRO and CNES concerning Caesar Service Conjunction Analysis and Evaluation Service Alerts and Use of Expert Modules of Jac Software Java for Assessment of Conjunctions with France	07/10/2023
98	Bilateral Agreement for Tracked Packet Service between India Post and Koninklijke Post, Netherlands	07/18/2023
99	Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the European Space Agency concerning the Operational Coordination of the Biomass Satellite Over India	09/25/2023
100	Bilateral Agreement for Tracked Packet and Registered Items between Deutsche Post Ag and Department of Posts, Germany	10/04/2023
101	MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Space, Government of India and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council under the Aegis of the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation of the Republic of Mauritius concerning cooperation on the development of a Joint Small Satellite	11/01/2023

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Syed Nasir Hussain; not present. Now, supplementaries; Dr. John Brittas.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, even while appreciating the engagements of the hon. External Affairs Minister and other Ministers, I have a question which concerns the interest of India. There have been numerous reports in the media that an Indian official has been implicated by the U.S. authorities on account of an alleged attempt to kill a U.S. citizen, and it has been widely reported that the Indian Government is applying its mind and seeing the inputs of the U.S. Government as the basis for an inquiry. On the other count, there have been reports about India rebutting the stand of the Canadian Government. Is it a fact that we are not having an equitable treatment and what is the status of the charges and allegations made by the U.S. authorities?

SHRI S. JAISHANKAR: Sir, the matter is not directly connected to the question, which is on the foreign visits of the Union Ministers. But, nevertheless, since it has been asked, through you, I would like to clarify to the hon. Member that in so far as the U.S. is concerned, certain inputs were given to us as part of our security co-operation with the United States. Those inputs were of concern to us because they related to the nexus of organised crime, trafficking and other matters. So, because it has a bearing on our own national security, it was decided to institute an inquiry into the matter and an inquiry committee has been constituted.

In so far as Canada is concerned, no specific evidence or inputs were provided to us. So, the question of equitable treatment to two countries, one of whom has provided inputs and one of whom has not, does not arise.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Sir, between January 2020 and November 2023, there have been 220 foreign visits by various Union Ministers and these visits have substantially helped India's standing in the globe. But, out of these 220 visits, only six visits have been made to the Latin American countries, namely, Brazil in May 2022 and then Panama, Colombia, Guyana and Dominican Republic in April 2023, and Uruguay and Brazil in June 2023. Why is this important part of the globe being neglected, particularly when China is making such deep inroads into Latin America? I think we have much affinity and similarities with Latin America. So, I would like to hear from the hon. External Affairs Minister on what needs to be done to enhance this.

SHRI S. JAISHANKAR: Sir, I thank the hon. Member, through you, for the interest he has taken on Latin America. I would like to say that the visits he referred to are

actually the visits that I have myself undertaken. In many cases, these were the first ever visits by any Foreign Affairs Minister to Colombia, Guyana, Dominican Republic and Panama. I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Government, actually, is very committed to developing our ties. One of the reasons why there have not been that many visits is, obviously, a matter of distress. But, having said that, today, our trade with Latin America is nearing \$50 billion. We have a very significant flow of people there. There is lot of services trade which is taking place in Latin America. We have also designated special conclaves for which Latin American delegations come here and I am confident that we will see many more visits to Latin America not only by me but by my other ministerial colleagues as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other Ministers and constitutional functionaries !

SHRI S. JAISHANKAR: Certainly, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was slight murmur because you addressed the hon. Member as hon. Minister but you are known to turn out prophetic. Now, Shri Saket Gokhale.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. I would like to ask the hon. Minister a question on the foreign visits from 2020 till date. Have any Union Ministers, during their foreign visits, attended events or meetings organised or held by an organization called, Overseas Friends of the BJP, which is a unit of the supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party in different countries. Have any Ministers attended events of the Overseas Friends of the BJP, and, if yes, on what grounds have they attended these events during their foreign visits?

SHRI S. JAISHANKAR: I am very confident that many Ministers would have attended such functions. I have myself done so. The reason why we have done so is when we go abroad, we meet members of the Indian community, which is part of our tradition. The Modi Government values the Indian diaspora. We know they make an enormous contribution to the image and the profile that India has today. We treat all members of the community with respect, and, if members of the community happen to belong to political parties or have political affiliations, that is a fact of life but the primary purpose for which Ministers go is official business and Ministers discharge their official responsibility fully and satisfactorily, which is visible in the results of the foreign policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Rakesh Sinha.

**श्री राकेश सिन्हा :** सभापति महोदय, आपका धन्यवाद। महोदय, दुनिया के अनेक देशों में केंद्रीय मंत्रियों का जो लगातार दौरा हो रहा है, उसमें खासकर ऐसे छोटे देश, जो अब तक उपेक्षित थे, जैसे मंगोलिया और वियतनाम हैं। जहां माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने भी दौरा किया था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन दौरों से सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को बढ़ाने के लिए खासकर वियतनाम और मंगोलिया में क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं?

**SHRI S. JAISHANKAR:** Sir, during the visits which have been undertaken by the Prime Minister and by Members of the Cabinet, just as I said, the Indian community is an important pillar of the relationship. Building our cultural and civilizational linkages with these countries is also very important. Hon. Member has specifically referred to Mangolia and Vietnam. I would like to inform the House, through you, that as far as Mangolia is concerned, we have actually undertaken a very extensive project of digitizing manuscripts and providing support to one of the leading monasteries. As far as Vietnam is concerned, there is, actually, a very significant archaeological site going back to the Champa period. It is an era about which, as you know, Shri Jaishankar Prasad has written as well. It goes back to the Champa period and there is a site called MySon where there are ancient Shaiva temples. We are very proud that the Archaeological Survey of India has contributed to the renovation and restoration of heritage at the MySon temple complex. It is greatly valued because it has now become a very major tourist site. There are many other countries where cultural and civilizational connects are built through our cooperation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, Dr. M. Thambidurai.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question from the hon. Minister about the foreign visits to Sri Lanka. So many visits have taken place to Sri Lanka. What efforts have been made on our side to solve the issues faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen? Often, the Sri Lankan Navy arrests and harasses them. Also, to protect the Sri Lankan Tamils, a constitutional amendment is still pending. I want to know, through you, Sir, whether the Indian Government people visited there to take care of this problem.

**SHRI S. JAISHANKAR:** Sir, the House would be aware that a lot of the fishermen's issues arise from agreements and understandings which were reached in the 1970s. In so far as the constitutional issue relating to the rights of the Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka is concerned, this was a matter of agreement which we had between the two countries in 1987. Our endeavour today is to see that our fishermen are allowed to

fish, do their occupation in the areas of our jurisdiction in a peaceful manner. And wherever there is any friction, because often boats are seized and fishermen are detained, to resolve that friction, we make sure that these detentions are not long, and if there is any misunderstanding, we make sure to solve it. In so far as the constitutional issue is concerned, we have been continuously supportive of the implementation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution and efforts by the Sri Lankan Government to ensure that their own Tamil-speaking citizens live a life of dignity and fairness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will be open to a discussion about role of Indian Diaspora, if there would be a suggestion. We will structure it.

Question No. 47.

### **Air pollution in NCR and the country**

\*47. SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds released by the Central Government to each State/UT to combat air pollution in the last three years and the funds spent by them, year-wise;
- (b) the list of meetings called on by the Environment Minister with Chief Ministers/Ministers of Haryana, UP, Punjab, Delhi and other concerned States regarding air pollution in Delhi NCR during the last three years;
- (c) the list of attendees and the decisions taken during each meeting; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Central Government to combat air pollution in Delhi- NCR during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January, 2019 which is a long-term, time-bound national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution with an objective to improve air quality in 131 Non-attainment and Million Plus Population Cities/Urban Agglomerations.

Central Government has earmarked an amount of Rs.19,711 Cr. to 131 cities during the period FY 2019-20 till FY 2025-26 out of which 49 Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations are funded under Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) air quality grant. An amount of Rs. 9,103.92 Cr. was released to 131 cities to implement City Action Plans in their respective cities during last three years (FY 2020-21 to 2022-23).

State-wise and year-wise details of funds released and utilization in 24 States/UTs having 131 targeted cities under NCAP are provided at **Annexure-1**.

(b) and (c) List of meetings chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate change with Hon'ble Environment Ministers of Haryana, UP, Punjab, Delhi states is given below:

- Meeting of Hon'ble Environment Ministers of Delhi, NCR States and Punjab to discuss the implementation of action plan for improvement of Air Quality in NCR held on 23.09.2021.
- Meeting of Hon'ble Environment Ministers of Delhi and NCR States to review Air Quality Management in the NCR held on 11.10.2022.
- Inter-Ministerial Meeting under co-chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on the issues of Management of Crop Residue Burning held on 03.08.2023.
- Review Meeting on Air Quality Management in Delhi NCR with Hon'ble Environment Ministers of Delhi and NCR States held on 20.10.2023.

The details of discussion and decisions taken along with list of attendees in each of the meetings are given in Record of discussion of the meetings which are enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

(d) With a view to abate and control air pollution in Delhi / NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), constituted in 2021, has devised a comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution in NCR in July, 2022, stipulating sector specific action points quantifying targets along with timelines and implementation plan by various agencies in NCR States including the State of Punjab with respect to abatement of air pollution owing to crop residue burning. The policy framework details sector-wise interventions, quantified targets and timelines for various sectors viz. vehicular pollution, industrial pollution, dust from construction and demolition project activities, road and open areas dust, biomass burning, agricultural stubble burning, Municipal Solid Waste burning, fires in sanitary landfills and air pollution from dispersed sources etc.

Since inception the CAQM has so far issued 78 directions and 11 advisories, besides executive orders to various agencies concerned in the NCR including State Governments of Punjab, GNCTD, and various bodies of the Central and State Governments in the region. Due to these concerted efforts general improvements in the AQI level has been witnessed in the region.

To address the deterioration of Air quality actions under 'Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)' are also imposed based on AQI. The GRAP calls for a set of emergent preventive/restrictive actions depending on air pollution levels, to be implemented by the identified agencies for combating the adverse air quality scenario generally prevailing in Delhi owing to unfavorable climatic and meteorological conditions during the winter months. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for abatement of air Pollution in Delhi & NCR was notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January 2017. The Commission has issued revised GRAP in October, 2023 which is being operationalized by the Sub-Committee having representation from Pollution Control Boards/Committee of NCR State Governments and GNCTD, CPCB, IITM, Pune and IMD, New Delhi.

The CAQM has deputed 40 teams of CPCB officers since December 2021, for conducting incognito inspections of air polluting industries, C&D sites, DG sets in Delhi-NCR to check implementation status of pollution control measures and compliance of other provisions of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981. A total of 16037 units/entities/ projects have been inspected as on November 24, 2023. Based on these inspections, CAQM has issued closure directions in 899 cases and out of these resumption orders have been issued in 708 cases while 132 cases are still under closure and cases of 59 balance units have been transferred to SPCBs / DPCC for final decision. Further, steps for control of stubble burning are as following:

1. MoA&FW in 2018 launched scheme for providing subsidy for purchase of crop residue management machinery and establishment of custom hiring centres (CHCs) in NCT of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. During 2018-2022, total fund released to Delhi and other States under the said Scheme is Rs. 2440.07 crores using which, over 2 lakh crop residue machineries have been delivered to individual farmers and CHCs, and over 39,000 CHCs have been established.
2. CPCB has framed guidelines for providing one-time financial assistance for setting up of paddy straw based pelletization and torrefaction plants which may help in addressing the supply chain issues and the issue of open burning of paddy straw in agriculture fields in Northern Region. A maximum amount of Rs. 28 lakhs or 40% of the capital cost considered for plant and machinery of a 1 TPH plant, whichever is

lower, shall be given as one-time financial support by CPCB, subject to a maximum total financial support of Rs. 1.4 crore per proposal. A corpus of Rs. 50 crores has been earmarked for utilisation through the guidelines. A total of 10 plants have been approved so far.

3. An addendum to the above said CPCB Guidelines was also issued under which one-time financial assistance is provided to Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Zilla Parishads of the states of Punjab, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, for establishing paddy straw based briquetting plants for use of briquettes for crematoria only.

4. Directions issued by CAQM to State governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to strictly and effectively implement framework and revised action plan to eliminate and control stubble burning.

The details of various other steps taken by CPCB to combat air pollution in Delhi-NCR during the last 03 years is given at **Annexure-III**.

#### Annexure – I

State and year wise details of funds released and utilization in 131 targeted cities during FY 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 under NCAP									
S N	State	Fund released				Fund Utilized			
		FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	Total	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	Total (Rs. In Cr.)
		1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5	6	7	8=5+6+7
1	Andhra Pradesh	152.28	77.58	75.06	304.92	0.04	2.31	59.70	62.05
2	Assam	12.00	0.00	24.10	36.10	0.29	1.27	17.89	19.45
3	Bihar	211.00	88.97	7.09	307.06	8.34	56.20	102.02	166.56
4	Chandigarh	5.00	4.61	6.87	16.48	5.13	2.03	4.23	11.39
5	Chhattisgarh	120.00	68.70	57.94	246.64	0.08	23.87	53.81	77.76

6	Delhi	0.00	11.25	22.50	33.75	0.00	0.00	10.77	10.77
7	Haryana	48.00	6.25	19.28	73.53	0.00	0.78	0.00	0.78
8	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	0.48	3.59	14.07	0.09	7.39	5.61	13.09
9	Jammu & Kashmir	8.00	12.84	32.50	53.34	6.08	2.01	7.84	15.93
10	Jharkhand	159.00	72.44	42.00	273.44	0.00	14.83	116.68	131.51
11	Gujarat	405.00	217.71	173.29	796.00	19.31	142.66	343.60	505.57
12	Karnataka	280.52	154.67	128.52	563.71	6.94	1.49	3.02	11.45
13	Madhya Pradesh	300.52	151.20	135.04	586.76	224.92	178.05	103.50	506.47
14	Maharashtra	804.40	453.24	386.83	1644.47	0.51	19.76	449.49	469.76
15	Meghalaya	3.00	0.00	0.45	3.45	0	1.89	0.95	2.84
16	Nagaland	6	0.93	3.95	10.88	0	0.00	1.62	1.62
17	Odisha	6.04	3.64	38.52	48.20	0.23	3.23	42.33	45.79
18	Punjab	105.04	33.75	56.88	195.67	0.06	15.90	117.93	133.89
19	Rajasthan	284.80	122.94	103.76	511.50	0.69	9.86	351.30	361.85
20	Tamilnadu	236.00	131.70	129.22	496.92	102.50	192.05	176.22	470.77
21	Telangana	247.76	118.79	92.96	459.51	34.51	186.28	157.51	378.30
22	Uttar Pradesh	726.16	218.63	672.79	1617.58	44.10	354.67	607.40	1006.17
23	Uttrakhand	11.00	5.67	22.30	38.97	0.20	1.53	14.80	16.53
24	West Bengal	432.00	165.60	173.42	771.02	6.93	161.23	7.06	175.22
<b>Total</b>		4573.52	2121.59	2408.86	9103.97	460.95	1379.29	3241.54	5081.78

**Annexure II****Record of Discussion****Meeting of Hon'ble Ministers of NCR and Punjab to discuss the implementation of action plan for improvement of Air Quality in NCR Region****Date: 23.09.2021****Venue: Hybrid (Physical & VC)**

1. A meeting of Hon'ble Environment Ministers of NCR and Punjab State was called under the Chairmanship of Sri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on 23.09.2021 @ 1030 hrs to discuss the preparedness and to address any issues which requires any inter-State and Inter-ministerial co-ordination for well-coordinated approach towards the concern of poor air pollution apprehended from burning of Parali (Paddy Stubble) during the ensuing harvesting season.
2. The meeting was attended by Sri. Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Sri. Sukhram Bishnoi, Hon'ble Minister for Forest & Environment, Govt. of Rajasthan, Sri. Gopal Rai, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Wildlife, Govt. of NCT-Delhi, Sri. Dara Singh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment & Zoological Gardens, Govt. of UP, Secretaries of Central Ministries and State Government, Chairman Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR &AA, Chairman and Member Secretary of Central and State Pollution Control Boards. The list of Participants is at **Annexure I**.
3. Hon'ble Minister Sri. Bhupender Yadav welcome all participants and highlighted that Air pollution in NCR is a cause of concern and the sources are diversified. Major sources which contributes to the poor air quality in the region, can be attributes to emission arising from seasonal burning of Parali and other continuous emission sources such as vehicular, Thermal power plants and other industrial emissions. He highlighted that CAQM has been constituted with participation of State Government of NCR and have been working in coordination with State Department. Many consultation meeting, advisories (8) and directions (42) have been issued by CAQM. Efforts and options are also being worked out by Central Ministries in consultation with concern department of States to evolve use of parali as resource.
4. He complemented the States for their efforts towards preparedness to plan for the measures in advance for abatement and control of burning of Parali and the coordinated work done so far.
5. Secretary, EF&CC highlighted that more than 12 meetings has been held in last 45 days with various ministries and Sate Governments to explore the possibilities to use the parali as resources viz. Supplementary use in Power Plants, Fodder in Fodder deficit area of Rajasthan and Gujrat. Task force has been formed to provide plan for fodder transportation. NTPC and other Thermal Power Plants in NCR has been directed to use 5-10% of Biomass as supplementary fuel and some enabling policy intervention in this regard is under consideration with Ministry of Power.
6. Dr. M. M. Kutty highlighted the preparedness made by the States administration on the action plan for prevention of paddy straw burning in ensuing harvesting season. He highlighted that the IT-enabled mobile tools are being used to allot machines by custom hiring centers, and the use of such machine will be higher.

Similarly, all States have taken aggressive efforts to promote the bio-decomposition through mass awareness campaign. He also highlighted some of the possible options for implementation for non-agricultural issues, which needs to be implemented by concern States.

7. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana informed that the States has completed necessary preparatory work to control of Parali burning, which includes providing machines, incentives, monitoring of Red and Orange villages identified with respect to active fire events in last year and constitution of monitoring cum enforcement committee at each district and Taluka. He highlighted that his government has allocated Rs 200 Cr for providing incentives towards prevention and control of Parali burning in this year. He requested to consider the proposal submitted to MEF&CC for use of alternate clean fuel options for industries, where LPG/CNG/PNG infrastructure is not available.
8. Two power plants based on Biomass as fuel (6 ME + 60 MW) is under commissioning which will be consuming about 12 lakh MT of parali. Furnace Oil and Tyre Pyrolysis is banned activities in Haryana, and about more than 40000 MT compressed bailing facility is operational. 100 Kl of Ethanol plants using paddy straw is also under development. All brick kilns have been converted in zig-zag technology. Incentive for conversion of Diesel run Auto rickshaw to cleaner fuel is also provided.
9. Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Wildlife, Govt, of NCT-Delhi highlighted that using Pusa Bio decomposer, about 2000 acres were treated and very encouraging result has been observed both in-terms of soil enrichments and also betterment in yield of subsequent crop. He expressed that air quality management shall be taken up as on air-shed approach instead of area specific action plan. Delhi Govt, through its Electrical Vehicle is providing incentives to the buyers of EVs and Hot spot management has been also initiated to improve air quality. He highlighted that technologies are available for retrofitting the old DG sets to reduce the emission. He talked about the newly commissioned Smog Tower built in compliance to Hon'ble Supreme Court and requested other States to also adopt. All industries in Delhi are operating on PNG. Anti-Dust campaign, Red light On- Gaddi Off campaign has yielded good results and can be adopted by other States, specially Ghaziabad, Noida and Gurgaon.
10. Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment & Zoological Gardens, Govt of UP highlighting the success of bio-decomposing of stubble informed that State of UP has planned more than 10 lakh acres in this season. A very successful scheme "**Parali lao-Khaad le Jao**" is also availed by many farmers. Parali is also used in fodder at Goshala. UP was the first State to have dust management Cell operational and is working with World Bank on air shed approach for improvement of air quality in Indo-Gangetic Air shed. He also emphasized that there has been more than 23 Crore tree plantation with geo-tagging.
11. Govt of Punjab informed that necessary preparatory work has been completed for allocation and optimized used of machinery by the farmers. IT-enabled tools is being used. There has been significant reduction in non-basmati cultivation and it is estimated that harvesting may be staggered over longer period. Provision of an incentive fund of Rs. 25 CR has been made for the industries to switch over to cleaner fuel and promote parali with rice husk as fuel in industry. Religious leaders and local motivators are creating awareness to local farmers on ill effect of parali burning. 28 critical sites/zones have been identified

and the enforcement measures have been strengthened. It was also submitted that Central government may consider providing VGF for the power generating units to cover the extra financial liability arising due to higher cost of equipment and process as compare to convention fuel fed boilers. This will improve the off-take of parali as fuel in small and medium scale industry. Further it was also requested that NTPC may be requested to include Parali composition in the bio-mass to create a good market sentiments and assurance to the farmers that Parali is a resource for fuel.

12. Additional Secretary, MoP informed that the proposal for extending policy level supports such as merit order dispatch for promoting use of Bio-mass as fuel is under active consideration. Further, MoP is also considering to issue some regulatory advisory to SREC and CREC to extend enabling support for use of Bio-mass as fuel.
13. NTPC informed that condition to have minimum 50% paddy straw as constituent of bio-mass will be included in future tenders. The tender of 20 Million for next 3 years is in process and materials is expected to be lifted from ensuing season. Additional provision in the tender document to support the lifting of material from State of Punjab has been made. The impact on cost of power generation is Rs 5 paise per unit and can be pass through to the customer.
14. Joint Secretary, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt of India, who is also heading the task force constituted for providing mechanism for use of non-basmati parali as fodder in fodder deficient areas of Rajasthan and Gujrat, informed the progress made by the task force. He informed that Gujrat (Kachch) and Rajasthan (Jaisalmer) has informed about 225000 MT and 30,000MT requirement. The issue of extra fund required for movement of fodder, first mile and last mile transportation is being workout. Options are being explored for fund to support the gap arising after consideration of state level relief fund is also being worked out. It was also informed that government machinery may not be in position to collect, process and transport in ensuing season, however, interaction with private entrepreneurs, working in this domain has shown encourage possibilities.
15. Joint Secretary, Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, informed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Installment under their scheme to support the in-situ management has been process and will be released in this week. It was informed that the availability of the machinery at Custom Hiring Centers, especially in Punjab is to be strengthened and its utilization has to be improved by having better co-ordination at field level.
16. HMEF in his concluding remarks highlighted that the preparatory work informed by the States and CAQM suggests that significant reduction in burning of parali can be achieved in the ensuing season subjected to effective implementation of the action plan. Efforts of local administration and monitoring mechanism is vital and we all as a team has to continue to work in better co-ordination to achieve success. Use of newly developed active fire monitoring platform for real time data sharing will help in close monitoring. Wider use of bio-decomposition initiative taken by States (Delhi - 4000 Acres, Punjab – more than 5 lakhs Acres, Haryana – More than 1 Lakh Acres, UP – more than 10 Lakh acres,) reflects the commitment, which is further supported by the initiative towards alternate use of parali as fuel supplement in TPPs, Raw materials for Compressed Bio-Gas Plants and other industries. This will help in recognizing Parali as

resources and provide an opportunity for extra source of income for Farmers. Relevant information discussed is annexed as **Annexure II**.

17. He emphasized that the CAQM has been constituted with the objective to have Air-Shed approach to improve the air quality of NCR regions and the support and participation from State Governments to CAQM is appreciated and will help in achieving the envisaged objectives.
18. The meeting ended with thanks to Chair.

**List of Participants:**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Participant</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Hon'ble MEF&CC
2.	Shri Manohar Lal Khattar	Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Govt. of Haryana
3.	Shri Sukhram Bisnoi	Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Govt. of Rajasthan
4.	Shri Gopal Rai	Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
5.	Shri Dara Singh Chauhan	Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Govt. of UP
6.	Shri Rameshwar Prasad Gupta	Secretary, MoEF&CC
7.	Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar	Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC
8.	Shri M.M. Kutty	The Chairman, CAQM in NCR & AA
9.	Shri Tanmay Kumar	Chairman, CPCB
10.	Shri Vivek Dewangan	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power
11.	Ms. Somita Bishwas	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
12.	Dr. O.P Chaudhary	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry
13.	Shri Prashant Gargava	Member Secretary, CPCB
14.	Shri A.K. Nautiyal	Member Secretary CAQM in NCR & AA
15.	Smt. Sreya Guha	Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Rajasthan
16.	Prof. (Dr) Adarsh Pal Vig	Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board
17.	Shri Krunesh Garg	Member Secretary, PPCB
18.	Shri Sanjeev Khirwar	Principal Secretary (Env & Forest), NCT of Delhi
19.	Dr. Vijay Singhal	CEE, Rajasthan SPCB
20.	Smt. Shailja Deval	Member Secretary, Rajasthan SPCB
21.	Shri Ashish Tiwari	Member Secretary, UPPCB
22.	Shri Sayed Musawwir Ali	Member Secretary, DPCC
23.	Shri Dilip Kumar	Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology & Environment
24.	Dr. Gurdeep Singh	CMD, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
25.	Dr. Ramesh Babu	NTPC
26.	Shri Ankur Garg	Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB)
27.	Shri Satyendra Pratrap Singh	UPPCB
28.	Shri S.K .Dutta	NLM Division.
29.	Shri Vivik Roy	CEO UPPCB (Meerut)
30.	Shri Sundeep	Director, MoEF&CC
31.	Shri R N Pankaj	Scientist 'D', MoEF&CC
32.	Shri Prasoon Tripathi	US, MoEF&CC
33.	Shri Vineet Kumar Mall	RA, MoEF&CC

### A. Comparative Active Fire Events in the State of Punjab and Haryana

- Active Fire Events (AFE) for the states of Punjab and Haryana:

State	Year (2016)	Year (2019)	Year (2020)	% increase or decrease
Punjab	80930	76590	76590	<b>44.5% Increase</b>
Haryana	12564 (2017)	6652	5000	<b>25% Decrease</b>

- Punjab:** Districts of concern in

**Sangrur,  
Ludhiana**

**Bhathinda  
Fazilka**

**Firozpur**

**Moga,**

- Harayana : District of Concerns **Karnal. Kaithal and Fatehabad**

### B. Enforcement of ban on stubble burning

State	FIR/Complaint registered	No. cases identified	Environmental Compensation (EC) collected (Rs.)
Haryana (since 2016)	464	4787 (District level consultative committee-DLCC)	86.46 Lakhs
Punjab (since 2018)	1785	40330 (EC imposed)	41.00 Lakhs

### **In situ Management of Parali**

- In field biodegradation of left over straw after harvesting is the concern as to avail the field for early sowing, farmers tend to burn this straw in field, thereby generating severe source of air pollution in the region.
- i. Optimized use of in-situ machineries available/provide to CHCs.
- ii. Use of bio-decomposition technologies.
- iii. UP has aggressively enforced the active plans and created an enabling environment for the farmers for better utilization of parali as resource:
  - a. Use as fodder in the gaushala
  - b. Common manure preparation facility
  - c. In situ bio composting in field. Successful acceptance of bio composting by the farmers, in situ bio-composting on a larger scale has been planned (1 lakh capsule).

### **Action initiated:**

1. Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has been constituted through promulgation of an Ordinance (13 of 2020) on 28.10.2020 which was enacted as an Act on 13.08.2021 to mitigate air pollution in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas passed.
2. The CAQM has taken many steps and interaction meeting with the stakeholders and have issued, in total, 8 advisories and 42 directions.
3. CAQM, in consultation with the SPCBs, has revised the comprehensive action plan of the states and submitted the progress report and communicated the details about the implementation of the action plan. The success of the action plan is purely dependent on the manner in which the plans will be implemented in the States.
4. Parali produced in Punjab will be used as Pashu-Ahaar (fodder) in Kutch, Gujarat with the help of M/o A&FW and M/o F&AHD, M/o Railways and Govt. of Punjab.
5. A Task force has been constituted under the Joint Secretary, D/o FAH&D with the members from M/o A&FW, M/o. EF&CC, M/o Railways, Commissioner (Agriculture) from the States of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat & Rajasthan, Commissioner (Animal Husbandry) Commissioner (Relief) from Gujarat and Rajasthan and Commissioner (Transport) from the State of Punjab and Haryana. Govts. of Gujarat and Rajasthan will provide the exact demand and the estimate of annual requirement of non-basmati paddy straw (fodder) and Govts. of Punjab and Haryana will provide cost estimate for bailing, collection, storage to the Task force
6. Stubble biomass will be used as supplementary fuel in Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs). NTPC has approved that it is technically feasible and implementable to co-fire bio mass pellets including that of paddy straw with coal in proportion up to 5-10 % in TPPs without any modification in the boilers. So,

the use of bio-pellets in TPPs is being promoted across the country. M/o Power has launched the National Biomass Mission for utilization of biomass with representatives from CEA, NTPC, DVC and NLC.

7. CAQM has issued direction to all TPPs in NCR to use bio-mass as supplementary fuel in their boilers. Many of the States governments have also encouraging other industries to use bio-mass based fuel to substitute coal
8. Satellite based estimation and marking of active fire event and its real time communication to the field officer have been made operational with the help of ISRO, M/O Agriculture, and respective State Government.
9. All States have taken aggressive awareness campaign to sensitize the farmers to discourage burning of stubble
10. M/o Agriculture has release fund amounting to Rs. 690.24 Cr to the States of Punjab (331.94 Cr), Haryana (193.35 Cr) and Uttar Pradesh (159.95 Cr) and IEC activities (5 Cr) to support the efforts for in-situ management of stubble by providing machineries and equipment to the farmers and Customer Hiring Center
11. Participation of private entrepreneurs is very much important to sensitize the Government's plan of Stubble Management. So, the private sector enterprises will be included for the implementation of the action plans.

### **Pusa Bio-decomposer Technology**

- Developed by Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi
- 4 Capsules of this product can be scaled up to 25 L liquid formulation which can be applied In-situ to 1.0 Hectare (2.471 acres) of rice field having 4-5 tonnes of paddy straw.
- It accelerates the conversion of crop/paddy residue into manure in 20-25 days as reported in UP, Delhi, parts of Haryana and Punjab.

#### **Plan for utilization of Pusa Bio-decomposer Technology**

**Haryana**                      Free of cost to the farmers for management of 1 lakh acre in the state

**Delhi**                          Plan to use in more than 4000 acres of area under paddy, out of the total area 14600 acres.

**UP** 10 lakhs capsules (6.1 lakh acres) free of cost by Government.

**Punjab** Government target approx. 7413 acres

**Private Enterprise (UPL, Bangalore)**

- Target more than 5 lakhs acres in Punjab & Haryana
- More than 25,000 farmers registered (details district-wise attached)
- Rs. 500 per acre cost by company but free to farmers

**Record of Discussion**  
(11-Oct-2022)

**Meeting of Hon'ble Ministers of Environment to review Air Quality Management in the NCR region under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble MEF&CC**

A virtual Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Hon'ble Ministers of Environment of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, GNCT Delhi and other officers was held on 11.10.2022 at 09.00 AM under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, the Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, also attended the meeting virtually. The meeting was called to review the air quality management in Delhi NCR in view of ensuing anticipated winter air pollution due to paddy harvesting season and Diwali festival. The List of Participants is enclosed at Annexure.

2. Additional Secretary, EF&CC welcomed Hon'ble Environment Ministers of NCR states and other dignitaries and apprised the agenda of the meeting.
3. With the permission of the Chair, Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & AA (CAQM) made a presentation on the progress made so far in major identified sectors as follows:
  - i. Agricultural Stubble Burning,
  - ii. Industrial Pollution & Pollution from DG sets,
  - iii. Vehicular Pollution & Electric mobility,
  - iv. Dust from Road and Open Areas, Greening / Plantation,
  - v. Dust from Construction and Demolition Activity,
  - vi. Biomass/MSW burning/Fires in SLF sites,
  - vii. Episodic events like bursting of fire crackers,
  - viii. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP),
  - ix. Monitoring and Enforcement.

The Commission informed that different concerned agencies have been directed for targeted short / medium/ long-term actions in various sectors. It was also informed that a decrease has been observed in the stubble burning events in Delhi NCR region in comparison to previous year with Rajasthan having zero case reported. Citing the data on paddy residue burning events, the Commission requested HMEF&CC to direct States to expedite actions for in-situ management for utilization of available machinery under CRM scheme through Custom Hiring Centres and Cooperatives and to extend area for the application of bio-decomposer.

A new revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi NCR region has been circulated by CAQM. It has now been linked to the AQI for a better understanding of the people. Now, the appropriate actions will be undertaken in advance. Continuous efforts have been made in the direction of shifting of the industries to cleaner fuels in Delhi NCR. A standard list of approved fuels has been released and solid and liquid fuels are strongly targeted

to be eliminated. Biomass as a fuel is approved and promoted. A significant number of industries have been shifted to cleaner fuels, some have been notified and some have been permanently closed down. More areas are being covered under PNG/CNG supply.

For the elimination of DG Set operation in Delhi NCR, various directions have been issued and un-interrupted power supply in Delhi NCR region is targeted and worked upon continuously. In case of bursting of firecrackers, the Orders of the Hon'ble Courts are followed and only Green Cracker are allowed. This will be strictly monitored in this Diwali season in order to totally restrict the usage of Non Green Firecrackers. Effective steps have continuously been taken by CAQM for management of Road Dust and C&D waste with positive outputs.

4. Hon'ble Environment Ministers of NCR states and NCT Delhi apprised the Chair about preparedness in their States and UT with regard to: (i) prevention and control of agricultural (paddy) stubble burning and action plan for various ex-situ and in-situ management, (ii) measures to control particulate matters and emissions from continuous sources: DG sets, vehicular, industrial, C&D activities, dust from road and open areas, greening etc.

5. Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Environment Minister of Haryana apprised about the efficient steps taken for the air pollution abatement in Haryana. It was informed that ex-situ steps for the management of Parali are being taken continuously and approx. 72,777 machines have been distributed to the farmers in last 4 years. Hon'ble CM added that under in-situ management, 23 lakh MT crop residues will be utilised through various machines and decomposers and 13 MT crop residues will be utilized under ex-situ management. An incentive of Rs. 1000/acre is being provided to the farmers for bailing and Rs. 500 per acre for transportation of bails to Gaushalas. A total of Rs. 1000/MT is being provided to the cluster identified by IOCL for 2G-Bio-ethanol plant at Panipat for supply of 2 Lakh MT residue management. Tenders have been floated for providing 20 Lakh MT briquettes/pellets for supply to NTPCs.

6. Shri Hemaram Choudhary, Hon'ble Environment Minister, Rajasthan apprised about the action taken and progress achieved for air pollution abatement in NCR districts of Rajasthan and it was ensured that CAQM's directions are strictly followed. Out of 525 industrial units, 300 have switched over to PNG, 52 units have been closed and 23 units will be closed soon. Other units are facing the issue of PNG supply in their area. The area under green cover has been substantially increased with massive plantations.

8. Shri Gopal Rai, Hon'ble Environment Minister of NCT Delhi informed that it has prepared 15-point action plan which will be launched on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2022. Hon'ble Minister updated on the various action initiated in view of ensuing winter pollution which include improvement in bio-decomposer applications, installation of anti-smog guns, PUC management, Red Light On Gaadi Off campaign, monitoring of biomass burning, shifting of industries to clean fuels, ban on firecrackers, Institution of Paryavran Mitra, deployment of electric public transport, awareness campaign etc. Hon'ble Minister suggested that there is need to constitute a Regional

Action Force under Senior Officer which needs to make surprise visits to see the implementation of action plan on the ground level.

9. Dr. Arun Kumar Saxena, Hon'ble Environment Minister, Uttar Pradesh apprised HMEF&CC of the actions taken and progress achieved for air pollution abatement in NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh. It was informed that the Government has prepared the action plan to deal with air pollution. The application of bio-decomposer has been increased and about 1470 farm equipments have been provided to Gram-Sabha. 170 farm machineries have been provided free to the Gram-Sabha. Directions have been issued to transport department to ensure that diesel are used in limited quantity. The actions have been initiated with regard to PUC management, anti-smog guns, control of pollution due to C&D activities, Road Dust management, extensive plantation etc.

10. Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Hon'ble Environment Minister, Punjab enumerated various action initiated for control of stubble burning in the State through ex-situ and in-situ management. It was informed that Punjab has less CRM machines available against the requirement. The available farm machineries are accessed to the farmers with the help of I-khet apps and other platforms.

11. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, HMoS, EF&CC appreciated the efforts made by MoEF&CC, Partner Ministries, CAQM, Government of NCT of Delhi and NCR states and concerned agencies and hoped that with the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, local administration, regulatory bodies and enforcement agencies, with aggressive awareness campaign at field and villages level, the burning of stubble in field or otherwise can be prevented and controlled to a large extent. He stated that collaborative actions by all concerned central and state agencies shall ensure that the stubble burning is minimized this season.

12. The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEF&CC) stated that several meetings have been held with CAQM, CPCB, DISCOM, NTPC and state functionaries for the management of air pollution in Delhi NCR. Also, requests were made to other Ministries to convene high level meetings to encourage participatory and coordinated approach of the States and UT of Delhi NCR. Hon'ble MEF&CC urged the State Governments to help coordinate for effective crop residue management, dust management and shifting of industries to cleaner fuels in the ensuing winter harvesting season on priority. Hon'ble Minister also addressed the issue of transition of industries to clean fuels and measures to control particulate matters and continuous emission sources. DISCOMs were directed to ensure un-interrupted power supply for emergency services and during the implementation of Graded Response Action Plan. Hon'ble MEF&CC also requested State Governments to enforce banning of non-compliant DG sets.

Hon'ble MEF&CC suggested State Governments to direct their regulatory bodies and enforcement agencies to keep strict vigil and to intensify actions for effective control of restrictive and non-compliant polluting activities.

In his concluding remarks, HMEF&CC appreciated the actions planned by the States to combat air pollution. He expressed confidence that this participatory and coordinated approach of all stakeholders, regulatory bodies and enforcement agencies, with aggressive awareness campaign will yield positive results.

The Environment Ministers of NCR, GNCTD and Punjab assured their commitment to manage air pollution and to follow all directions of CAQM and the Ministry to address the issues.

The meeting ended with the permission of the Chair.

**List of Participants (Tentative)**

1. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC
2. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC
3. Shri Manohar Lal, Chief Minister and Minister for Environment, Haryana
4. Shri Gopal Rai, Minister of Environment, NCT of Delhi
5. Shri Hemaram Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forest, Rajasthan
6. Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Punjab
7. Shri Arun Kumar Saxena, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Uttar Pradesh
8. Dr. M. M. Kutty, Chairperson, CAQM
9. Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC
10. Shri Arvind Kumar Nautiyal, Member Secretary, CAQM
11. Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, Joint Secretary, MoFAH&D
12. Shri Suman Majumdar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Power
13. Shri Ved Prakash Mishra, Director (CP), MoEF&CC
14. Principal Secretary Environment, GNCTD
15. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB
16. Shri R.N. Pankaj, Scientist 'D', MoEF&CC
17. Chairman, NDMC
18. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Gurugram
19. Member Secretary, UPPCB
20. Member Secretary, Punjab PCB
21. Member Secretary, Rajasthan SPCB
22. Joint Director Engineering, UP
23. Shri Ramesh Babu, Director (Operations), NTPC Ltd
24. Shri S.P.S. Virk, GM (Biomass), NTPC Ltd
25. Commissioner Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan
26. Shri Kunji Lal Meena, Principle Secretary (Urban Development), Govt. of Rajasthan
27. Principal Secretary Agriculture, Rajasthan
28. District Magistrate, Alwar
29. District Magistrate, Ghaziabad

30. Municipal Commissioner, Faridabad Municipal Corporation
31. Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA)
32. Rajasthan State Wide Area Network (RajSWAN)
33. Municipal Commissioner, Ghaziabad
34. Meerut Municipal Corporation
35. Noida Municipal Corporation
36. Urban Development Department, GNCTD
37. Regional Office, Noida
38. Regional Office, Meerut
39. Regional Office, Kaithal
40. Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA)
41. ADM(E) Gautambudh Nagar
42. Chief Engineer, Govt. Punjab
43. Department of Information Technology & Communication (DOITC), Alwar
44. Bhiwadi Integrated Development Authority (BIDA), Alwar
45. Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana
46. SP, Bhiwadi
47. DC, Gurugram
48. CDO Raebareli
49. CMD, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (RVPN)
50. Jalandhar Development Authority (JDA), Punjab
51. ADC Gurugram
52. CE Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Power Plant (GGSSTP), Ropar

**Record of discussion-Minister Level Inter-Ministerial Meeting on the issues of  
Management of Crop Residue Burning held on 03.08.2023**

An Inter-Ministerial Meeting in hybrid mode to discuss the issues of Management of Crop Residue Burning was held on 03.08.2023 under the Co- Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Apart from the Union ministers, the meeting was attended through VC by Shri Gurmeet Singh Khudiyar, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Punjab, Shri Jai Prakash Dalal, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Haryana, Shri.Gopal Rai, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Delhi, Secretary, DA&FW, Secretary, MoEF, DG,ICAR, Chief Secretary, Punjab, and other senior officers from DA&FW, MOEF, ICAR, Govt of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

The list of participants is at Annexure-I.

After a welcome address, Secretary, DA&FW, briefed about the meeting objectives. He stated that the burning of crop residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi has been coming down due to the timely interventions of the Government under Crop Residue Management scheme. Adequate funds have been released to the State Governments in time for providing crop residue machines and establishment of CHCs, so that farmers do not resort to burning of paddy stubble. Further the States and the ICAR institutes have been carrying out intense IEC activities to prevent paddy stubble burning. As a result, the burning events had come down by 31% in the year 2022. Similarly, advance action to further reduce paddy stubble burning in the current year needs to be initiated.

After the introductory remarks of Secretary (DA&FW), the concerned State officers presented their State's preparedness/ plans to check the paddy straw burning events in the current season.

**Government of Punjab:**

- Six districts Pathankot, SBS Nagar, SAS Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Malerkotla &Ropar, is identified for achieving "Zero percent" paddy straw burning during 2023. Other districts is targeted to reduce the Straw burning events by 50% in comparison to 2022.
- Sufficient CRM machines are being made available to the farmers and 20,000 more machines are being added during 2023. New new paddy seed varieties which matures 25-30 days earlier and have 10% of less biomass are being promoted.

- The State has fixed a target of in-situ management of 11.5 million tons of paddy straw with the available machinery in the current season.
- New machines like Surface Seeder for in-situ management of paddy straw is being experimented. Surface Seeder has been under research trial for the last 2 year at PAU and may be covered under CRM/SMAM.
- Under ex-situ management of paddy straw, the Punjab Government is working on bio mass based **Industrial Boiler Plants** of 20 t/hr capacity with total capital cost of Rs 7.5 crores.
- The State sought support of GOI for transport of 10-15 lakh tons of paddy straw to Rajasthan and Gujarat as fodder on subsidized rate to GAUSHAALLA.
- The State also posed a request for supply of 24,000 metric tons of urea in view of the paddy crop damaged in 2.5 lakh acre of farmers field due to flood and re-transplantation of paddy in that area.

**Government of Haryana :** The State informed that a multi-pronged strategy is being followed to prevent paddy stubble burning i.e.

- IEC activities, providing machines, use of pusa decomposers, cash incentives, crop diversification through cash incentives, promoting direct rice seeding and fine for burning of paddy straw. Paddy straw at subsidized rate of Rs 500/acre is also provided to the Gaushalas.
- Scope of supplying paddy straw to the Rajasthan where it is used as cattle feed in their Gaushalas and to Gujarat where it is used in packaging industries needs to be promoted.
- As per the feedback from the farmers, there is a need to improve the quality of the PUSA decomposer to reduce the period of paddy decomposition which is much higher than the period claimed by the scientist/experts.

**Government of Uttar Pradesh:** It was informed that the paddy stubble burning instances have come down in UP and in NCR as a result of implementing the CRM scheme and strict monitoring by the State authorities. Large scale use of decomposers of IARI Pusa in individual field of farmers and for decomposing paddy straw in public pits will be taken up this year. A scheme “**parali Do Khaad lo**” has been successfully implemented in 9 districts of U.P. Under this Scheme, the individual farmers gets the Cow dung manure of the amount equal to the paddy Straw supplied to the Gaushalas. This scheme will also be extended to the other Districts of UP.

**Government of NCR, Delhi:**

With the joint efforts of Center and State Governments, the Pollution level has been reduced by 30% and at the level of AQI, the nos. of bad days (Severe polluted) has been reduced from 36 days in 2018 to 6 days during 2022. Delhi Government is actively promoting the use of PUSA decomposer for the in-situ management of Paddy Straw. The spraying of decomposer is done under the supervision of the experts of their State department to ensure its maximum efficiency and effectiveness. However, there is a need to reduce the no of days taken to decompose the straw and hence it was suggested to discuss the issue with ICAR scientists to make it more effective and acceptable among the farmers.

**Remarks of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change:** Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister for Environment stated that efforts to prevent paddy stubble burning for the last five years is bearing good results. Due to the concerted efforts of agencies like Commission for Air Quality Management, burning instances in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, NCT of Delhi has come down. There is a need to encourage ex situ management of paddy straw which will provide raw materials to the user industries like Power, bio mass etc.

**Remarks of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar:** The Hon'ble Minister congratulated all the stakeholders for the seriousness that they have shown in addressing the issue of paddy stubble burning. He observed that due to the efforts of all the stakeholders, the events of paddy stubble burning is continuously coming down. However, paddy stubble burning is not just related to pollution of Delhi and its adjoining areas. It is also creating a detrimental effect on the farm land by adversely affecting the soil health and its fertility. Hence, our efforts have to be both for fighting air pollution in Delhi and for protecting the soil health, thereby protecting the ultimate interests of our farmers.

The aim in the current season is to work towards achieving zero stubble burning. The Government of India is providing sufficient funds under CRM scheme to the four States and they must ensure proper utilisation by providing machine to the farmers in a timely manner. There is a need for proper monitoring at the State level to ensure proper utilisation of the machines and the use of bio- decomposer. The focus should also shift on using paddy straw for commercial purpose by way of ex situ management. Awareness creation to prevent stubble burning through various mechanisms needs to be stepped up. Agencies like Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) needs to be used to their fullest potential.

**Actionable Points:**

To achieve Zero percent paddy straw burning during 2023 in six districts of Punjab namely; Pathankot, SBS Nagar, SAS Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Malerkotla & Ropar and to reduce the Straw burning events by 50% in comparison to 2022 in other districts. To chalk out the plan to achieve the targets.

Action: Govt. of Punjab

PAU has developed a new Machine Surface Seeder for in-situ management of paddy straw. This machine has been under research trial for the last 2 years at PAU. During 2023-24, Govt. of Punjab have planned for promoting this machine at larger scale and requested its inclusion under the CRM /SMAM Scheme of DA&FW.

Action: M&T Division

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare may facilitate Govt. of Punjab and Govt of Haryana in transporting 10-15 lakh tons of paddy straw to Rajasthan and Gujarat State for supplying straw on subsidized rate to GAUSHAALLA.

Action: M&T Division

In 25 Districts of UP, where incidences of paddy straw burning are more than other districts, villages as HOT SPOTS are being identified and the IEC campaign has been launched to educate farmers in such villages. The govt. of UP will chalk out the plan to curb the paddy straw burning events in the hot spots.

Action: Govt. of U.P.

Govt. of Delhi requested to have a Joint meeting of the Scientists and experts of the ICAR & Ministry to explore the possibility of reducing the decomposition period to 10 to 12 days to make its more effective and acceptable among the farmers.

Action: Govt. of Delhi, DG (ICAR), M&T Division

Ex-situ management of paddy straw needs to be promoted extensively.

Action: All stakeholders

**List of Participants**

Sr.No.	Name	Designation
<b>A</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	
1.	Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar	Union Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
2.	Sh. Bhupender Yadav	Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change
3.	Shri Gurmeet Singh Khudian,	Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Punjab
4.	Shri Jai Parkash Dalal,	Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Haryana
5.	Shri Surya Pratap Shahi,	Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh
6.	Shri Gopal Rai,	Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and wild life, Delhi
<b>B</b>	<b>Central Ministries /Department Officers</b>	
7.	Ms. Leena Nandan, Secretary	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
8.	Shri Manoj Ahuja,	Secretary, DA&FW
9.	Dr. Himanshu Pathak ,	Secretary (DARE) & <i>Director General (ICAR)</i>
10.	Shri MM Kutty	Chairman, CAQM
11.	Shri Rakesh Ranjan,	Additional Secretary, DA&FW
12.	Shri Tanmay Kumar	Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
13.	Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari,	DDG (Natural Resource Management), ICAR
14.	Dr. S.N. Jha,	DDG (Agricultural Engineering),ICAR
15.	Dr. Udham Singh Gautam,	DDG (Agricultural Extension),ICAR
16.	Shri Arvind Nautial,	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
17.	Ms. S Rukmani	Joint Secretary, M&T, DA&FW
18.	Dr. Prashant Gargava,	Member Secretary, CPCB
19.	Dr. K.P. Singh,	ADG ( Agril. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi
20.	Dr Rajbir Singh,	ADG (NRM)-ICAR
21.	Dr Pannalal Singh.	Pr. Scientist, IARI, Pusa

22.	Sh Ved Prakash,	Director, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
23.	Shri, C.R. Lohi,	DC (M&T), DA&FW
24.	Shri A.N. Meshram,	DC(M&T), DA&FW
25.	Shri Rajiv Thakur	Agril Engg, (M&T), DA&FW
26.	Shri P.K. Chopra,	Consultant, M&T, DA&FW
<b>C.</b>	<b>State Government Officers</b>	
27.	Shri Sanjeev Kaushal	Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana
28.	Shri Anurag Verma,	Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab
29.	Shri Devesh Chaturvedi,	Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
30.	Sh. K.A. P. Sinha	Additional Chief Secretary, Agri. and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Punjab
31.	Sh. Vineet Garg,	Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest and Wild Life, Govt. of Haryana
32.	Shri Narhari Singh Banger	Director, Agri., Govt. of Haryana
33.	Dr. Gurvinder Singh,	Director, Agri. Govt. of Punjab
34.	Sh.. Arshdeep Singh Thind	Secretary Agri, Govt. of Punjab
35.	Sh. Rahul Tiwari,	Secretary, Science and Technology, Govt. of Punjab
36.	Sh. G. S. Majithia,	Member Secretary, PPCB,, Punjab
37.	Sh.Pardeep Kumar	MS, HSPCB, Govt. of Haryana
38.	Er. Jagminder Nain	Joint Director, Agri, Engg., Govt. of Haryana
39.	Shri J.P. Chowdhary,	Joint Direct ( Agril. Engg.), Govt. of UP
1.	Shri A.K. Singh,	Dev. Secretary, Govt. of Delhi

**Record of Discussion  
(20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023)**

**Review Meeting on Air Quality Management in Delhi NCR under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble, Minister of EF&CC**

Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change chaired a meeting through video conferencing on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at 09:00 AM with Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC and Hon'ble Ministers for Environment of Delhi & NCR states i.e. Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to review Air Quality Management in Delhi NCR.

2. The list of attendees is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
3. The meeting was commenced with a welcome address by the Secretary, EF&CC followed by opening welcome remarks by the Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC.
4. Hon'ble Minister EF&CC in his address complimented NCR states for collective efforts towards the mitigation of air pollution in the Delhi NCR. It was emphasized that continuous progress is required to achieve the milestones in the journey of air pollution-free Delhi NCR and the targets should be higher than the achievements of the last two years. He also directed that suggestions made during the meeting be considered and incorporated appropriately in the winter action plan.
5. Additional Secretary (CP), MoEF&CC apprised the Hon'ble Minister regarding the agenda of the review meeting and invited the Chairperson CAQM for a brief presentation.
6. With permission of the Chair, Member Secretary, CAQM made a presentation with regard to the status and actions taken and steps needed to be taken in the major sectors affecting air quality. The major focus was given to:
  - i. Prevention and control of paddy stubble burning
  - ii. Co-firing of Biomass by TPPs
  - iii. Industrial Pollution- Status of Shifting of industries in NCR to approved fuels
  - iv. Regulations for running of DG Sets in NCR
  - v. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)
  - vi. Vehicular Pollution – Cleaner public transport services in NCR
  - vii. Abatement of air pollution from firecrackers
7. CAQM apprised in the meeting that 7442 industrial units out of 7759 in NCR have shifted to approved fuels and the remaining 317 industrial units are either self-closed or closed under the direction(s) of concerned Pollution Control Boards. PNG infrastructure/supply will be available in all the industrial areas by the end of 2023. With regard to the prevention of paddy stubble burning in the coming winter harvesting season, CAQM stated that Haryana and UP have the targets of zero burning cases and Punjab may achieve the target of at least 50% reduction in fire events in 18 districts along with zero cases in 5 districts.

8. With regard to DG Sets, these are permitted for all capacity ranges without emission control only till 31.12.2023 and for emergency purposes.

9. All bus services between NCR cities/towns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi shall be operated only through EV/CNG/BS-VI Diesel buses w.e.f. 01.11.2023

10. Hon'ble Minister for Environment Delhi mentioned that the total number of Days with "Good – Moderate" AQI have been reported more than 200 days in the current year which is a significant increase in comparison to the past two years and indicates that efforts are giving positive results.

11. Hon'ble Minister for Environment Uttar Pradesh appreciated the timely conduction of the review meeting for setting a roadmap for the winter action plan in Delhi NCR. It was informed that war rooms have been established in NOIDA, Greater NOIDA, Ghaziabad for centralized decision-making in air pollution-related matters. The incidents of stubble burning need to be controlled in all the NCR districts with incentivizing the farmers to eliminate the root cause of the problem.

12. Hon'ble Minister for Environment Punjab informed that Punjab is a major producer of agricultural crops in the country and hence parali is also generated in large quantity. It was informed that awareness regarding parali management is gradually increasing among farmers and stubble burning incidents have been reducing on year on year basis.

13. The ACS, Haryana informed that the efforts towards zero stubble burning cases are underway and the number of incidents has been reduced in comparison to the previous year. To achieve the co-firing of biomass pellets in Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) procurement has been started.

14. The ACS, Rajasthan informed that industries in the NCR region of Rajasthan have been shifted to the approved fuel and proper power supply is being ensured for minimizing usage of DG sets. Plantation in all available areas has been increased by 50% in comparison to the same in last year. Further, steps have already been taken to ensure that only BS VI compliant buses are operated in the Delhi NCR region.

15. The Chairperson CAQM emphasized that all the stakeholders and executing agencies were now well aware of the actions to be taken under the GRAP and the need of the hour is to implement action plans on the ground.

16. In his closing remarks, Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC called for a collective action against the air pollution problem in Delhi NCR as this is not contained by regional boundaries. Realization of action plans on the ground and adoption of the environment-friendly lifestyle under Mission LiFE was emphasized.

17. Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

### **List of Participants**

1. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble MoEF&CC
2. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC
3. Smt. Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEF&CC
4. Shri Gopal Rai, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, NCT of Delhi
5. Shri Arun Kumar Saxena, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Uttar Pradesh
6. Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Punjab
7. Dr. M.M. Kutty, Chairman, Commission for Air Quality Management for Delhi-NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM)
8. Shri Tanmay Kumar, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC & Chairman, CPCB
9. Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC
10. Shri Vineet Garg, Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Forests & Wildlife
11. Shri Shikhar Agarwal, Addl. Chief Secretary (Environment), Govt. of Rajasthan
12. Shri Manoj, Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Environment), Govt. of UP
13. Shri K.P. Sinha, Special Chief Secretary, (Agriculture), Govt. of Punjab
14. Shri Arvind Kumar Nautiyal, Member Secretary, CAQM
15. Shri Piyush Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power
16. Ms. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary, MoA&FW
17. Shri Anil Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, (Environment), GNCTD
18. Shri Ashwani Kumar, Principal Secretary, (Home), GNCTD
19. Shri A. Anbarasu, Principal Secretary, (PWD), GNCTD
20. Shri Rahul Tiwari, Principal Secretary, (Environment), Govt. of Punjab
21. Shri Ashish Tiwari, Principle Secretary (Environment), Govt. of UP
22. Ms. Sakshi Mittal, Addl. Commissioner MCD (Engg), GNCTD
23. Dr. Saket Kumar, MD UHBVN
24. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Director, MoEF&CC
25. Shri Bharat Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary, CPCB
26. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary, UPPCB
27. Shri Vijai N., Member Secretary, Rajasthan SPCB
28. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Member Secretary, Haryana SPCB
29. Shri Rakesh Mishra, Deputy Secretary, MoPNG
30. Shri S.K. Takhele, CGM (Env), NTPC
31. Shri Shri Sudip Nag, ED & Mission Director, NTPC
32. Shri Ramesh Babu, Director (OP), NTPC
33. Shri Joginder Singh, Joint Director (AE), Dept. of Agriculture, Haryana
34. Shri P.K. Chauhan, Superintendent Engineer, DHBVN
35. Shri Mukesh Balodhi, Scientist 'D', MoEF&CC

**Annexure — III****Steps taken by CPCB to combat air pollution in Delhi-NCR during the last 03 years**

1. CPCB during 2022 has come out with System and Procedure for Emission Compliance Testing of Retro-fit Emission Control Devices (RECD) for Diesel Power Generating Set Engines up to Gross Mechanical Power 800 kW. RECDs have been developed for DG sets of 209-799 kW capacity and installation of RECDs is in progress in Delhi-NCR. In order to control DG set emissions, CPCB is also funding retrofitment/ upgradation of DG sets in Govt. hospitals in Delhi-NCR and guidelines have been issued in this regard. Under the said guidelines, 100 % funding support is provided for RECD and dual fuel kit installation while 40% funding support is provided for procurement of new gas based Generator sets.
2. Guidelines/ mechanism for use of anti-smog guns in Construction and Demolition projects have been issued.
3. CPCB also provides one-time financial assistance to Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and ZillaParishads of the states of Punjab, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, for establishing paddy straw based briquetting plants for use of briquettes for cremation purpose only.
4. Installation of VRS system at 3256 petrol pumps in Delhi-NCR in compliance with orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble NGT.
5. Trial study of various new technologies for control of air pollution have been got conducted by CPCB out of which encouraging results were observed in case of Dust Suppressant for control of emissions at construction sites and road dust. Advisory have been issued for use of dust suppressant by road owning and construction agencies in Delhi-NCR.
6. CPCB has provided funds to Delhi-NCR Urban Local Bodies for procurement of Mechanical Road Sweepers, Anti-smog guns and also for road works and thereby tackle the issue of road dust.
7. CPCB on November 03, 2023 issued Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to Delhi-NCR SPCBs/ PCCs for strict implementation of actions prescribed under stages of GRAP invoked from time to time, in view of the deteriorated air quality situation in Delhi-NCR.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary...

**श्री संदीप कुमार पाठक :** सर, माइक काम नहीं कर रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will function. Both the hon. Minister and the Member are techno savvy. They know, sometimes situations develop. Go ahead.

**श्री संदीप कुमार पाठक :** सभापति महोदय, आप देखते हैं कि जब भी पॉल्यूशन की बात आती है, पराली जलाने की बात आती है, तो किसानों पर प्रश्न चिन्ह लगाए जाते हैं। मेरा यह मानना है कि देश में कोई भी किसान खुद से पराली नहीं जलाना चाहता है। जब वह पराली जलाता है, तो सबसे पहले नुकसान उसको स्वयं को और उसके परिवार को होता है। इस इश्यू को एड्रेस करने की जिम्मेदारी सभी सरकारों की होती है। महोदय, मेरा आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि पराली को न जलाने के लिए compensation देना बहुत जरूरी है। यही एक ऐसा तरीका है, जिससे आप रोक सकते हैं। पंजाब सरकार ने यह ऑफर दिया है कि प्रति एकड़ पराली न जलाने के लिए एक हजार रुपये पंजाब सरकार की तरफ से और यदि केन्द्र सरकार भी 1,500 रुपये उसमें एड ऑन कर दे, तो यह पर्याप्त राशि होगी और यह एक बहुत अच्छा प्रयास होगा। क्या केन्द्र सरकार ऐसा करने के लिए तैयार है और इस पर उनका क्या प्रयास है?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** सभापति जी, पराली को जलाने से रोकने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा राज्य सरकारों को विशेष अनुदान दिया गया है। इस विशेष अनुदान के अंतर्गत पराली को rotavator से लगाने के लिए मशीनें दी गईं और पराली को जलाने से रोकने के लिए अन्य कमर्शियल उपाय दिए गए। मैं यहां कहना चाहता हूं कि पराली को जलाने में जितनी गिरावट हरियाणा और बाकी राज्यों में आई है, उतनी संतोषजनक प्रगति पंजाब राज्य में नहीं आई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा दिए गए संसाधनों का, जो पूरी तरह से उपयोग करना था, अगर वह होता, तो हम पंजाब में भी उतनी ही गिरावट देखते, जितनी बाकी राज्यों में देखी है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second Supplementary, Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak.

SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK: Sir, although the first answer is not satisfactory, I would move on to my next question. सर, पराली को जलाने से रोकने के लिए अगर long term और sustainable answer खोजना है, तो crop diversification एक बहुत fundamental और critical पैरामीटर है। Crop diversification के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात एमएसपी के बारे में है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या किसानों को पर्याप्त एमएसपी मिलती है? यदि उस फसल पर एमएसपी मिलती है, तो पैड़ी, जो धान है, उसके एमएसपी में कितना डिफरेंस है? पंजाब सरकार ने केंद्र सरकार को यह ऑफर दिया है कि धान और बाकी फसलों में जो एमएसपी में डिफरेंस है, वह पंजाब सरकार की तरफ से compensate करेंगे और एमएसपी देंगे। क्या केंद्र सरकार इसके लिए तैयार है? क्या केंद्र सरकार इसी सीजन से इसको लागू करने के लिए तैयार है?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा 2018 से ही स्कीम लागू की गई है, जिसमें पंजाब, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग 2,440 करोड़ का फंड रिलीज किया गया है। उसके साथ ही साथ CPCB ने एक नई फाइनैशियल स्कीम को भी लागू किया है, जिसमें one-time financial assistance दिया गया है। इसमें paddy का pellets बनाकर उसके कॉमर्शियल उपयोग को मान्यता दी गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त भी CPCB के द्वारा अन्य फाइनैशियल असिस्टेंस भी इसके संबंध में दी गई है। इसको और आगे बढ़ाने के लिए, इसका थर्मल पावर में भी उपयोग करने के लिए pellets बनाने के लिए उपयोग किया गया है। मेरा यह मानना है कि जिस प्रकार से केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा सहायता दी गई है, उसमें पिछले दो वर्षों की तुलना में पराली को जलाने में हम काफी गिरावट देख रहे हैं। मुझे लगता है कि इन सारे प्रयासों को अगर अच्छे तरीके से लागू किया जाए, तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा। पंजाब में भी विशेष रूप से यह दुर्भाग्य का विषय रहा है कि सबसे ज्यादा पराली जलाने की घटनाएं, संगरूर में हुईं, जो स्वयं मुख्य मंत्री जी का क्षेत्र है।

**SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH:** Sir, air pollution now is a serious problem across the country, not just in and around Delhi. The law for preventing and controlling air pollution was passed in 1981. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards were set in 2009. I would like to put this question to the hon. Minister. In view of the accumulating evidence on public health of air pollution, will he consider reviewing the law passed in 1981 as well as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards that were set in 2009?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** देश में वायु का जो प्रदूषण है, उसकी समस्या को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा 19,711 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है। जो मानक तय किए गए थे, उन मानकों को डिफाइन करने के लिए देश में 131 शहरों को चिन्हित भी किया गया है। इन शहरों को चिन्हित करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा स्कीम लागू की गई। विशेष रूप से PM 2.5, PM 10 जो हवा में विषैले विकिरण फैलते हैं, उनको देखते हुए सारे प्रावधान किए गए हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि 131 शहरों में जो मानक बनाए गए थे, उसमें काफी संतोषजनक रूप से प्रगति की गई है। मैं माननीय जयराम रमेश जी को आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि इन 131 शहरों में जिन म्युनिसिपालिटीज ने अच्छा काम किया, कंट्रिब्यूशन किया, उनको भी पॉज़िटिव तरीके से अवार्ड देने का काम किया गया है, क्योंकि यह विषय हम सबके जीवन से जुड़ा हुआ विषय है। इसमें विशेष रूप से देखा गया है कि स्थानीय नगर पालिकाएं कैसे ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहभागिता करें और जिन्होंने अच्छा काम किया है, उनको विशेष compensation भी दिया गया है।

**SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:** Sir, one of the main reasons for air pollution is plastic. Of course, many serious efforts have been made. The torrential rain, which poured in Chennai in the past four days, was unprecedented. Now it has stopped. But it is receding very, very slowly only because the major reason, 25 per cent, is plastic

waste that is lying here and there. Whenever we visit hotels for a meeting, we see that they supply water only in plastic bottles. Only in some hotels it is being supplied in glass bottles. Also, we see it during festivals and in marriage functions and receptions. My request to the hon. Minister is whether he would consider giving strict guidelines that either glass bottles or recyclable bottles should be given in various places for supplying water and non-recyclable plastic bottles should be banned. It is very, very essential. Wildlife animals and many animals die only because of consuming plastic. That has to be seriously considered. Will the Minister consider this and give suggestions?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने सही सुझाव दिया है। हमने अपने देश के अंदर single-use plastic पूरी तरीके से बैन किया है। इसको लागू करने की जिम्मेदारी भी राज्य सरकारों को दी गई है। इसके साथ ही साथ जो सॉलिड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट है, उसमें कई बार जो प्लास्टिक जलता है, उसके कारण भी एयर पॉल्यूशन होता है। हमने इसकी पर्याप्त गाइडलाइन इश्यू की है और हम राज्य सरकारों तथा स्थानीय प्रशासन से भी आग्रह करते हैं कि सिंगल यूज प्लास्टिक, जो बैन किया गया है, उसकी गाइडलाइन पूरे तरीके से लागू करें। हमारी जन प्रतिनिधियों से भी अपेक्षा है कि वे इसमें जन भागीदारी को भी बढ़ाएं।

**श्री मुकुल बालकृष्ण वासनिक :** सभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बहुत विस्तार से जवाब दिया है कि सरकार वे कौन से कदम उठा रही है, जिससे वातावरण में प्रदूषण कम होगा। महोदय, दिल्ली भारत की राजधानी है, लेकिन हमने हाल ही में देखा है और हम सभी जानते हैं कि यहाँ कुछ समय के लिए कुछ कार्यालयों को बंद करना पड़ा और एक लंबे समय तक स्कूलों को भी छुट्टी देनी पड़ी, क्योंकि दिल्ली का प्रदूषण इस हद तक बढ़ गया था कि सामान्य जन दिल्ली के बाहरी वातावरण में नहीं चल सकते थे। ऐसी स्थिति में भारत सरकार ऐसे कौन से कदम उठाएगी, ताकि आने वाले समय में दिल्ली के कार्यालय और स्कूलों वातावरण में फैले प्रदूषण की वजह से बंद नहीं करने पड़ेंगे?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न किया है कि दिल्ली में वायु प्रदूषण के लिए industrial pollution, transport pollution, solid waste management और dust जिम्मेदार हैं। इन चार कारणों से पॉल्यूशन होता है। इसके साथ ही जो stubble burning है, उसके कारण भी यह cause बनता है। Transportation में जो fuel है, हमने उसको already change किया है और जो dust pollution है, उसके लिए पर्याप्त गाइडलाइन निकाली है। हमने industrial pollution के लिए भी गैस आधारित इंडस्ट्री को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एनसीआर में पूरे तरीके के प्रावधान किए हैं। केंद्र सरकार ने stubble burning के लिए जो राशि एनसीआर क्षेत्र में

आवंटित की है, मैंने अपने पूर्व के उत्तर में उसका उल्लेख किया है। महोदय, इन सारे प्रावधानों का उल्लेख उत्तर में विस्तार से दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 48

### **Support to Self-Help Groups to promote tourism**

#\*48. SHRIMATI SUMITRA BALMIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Self-Help Groups are being encouraged and supported by Government to promote tourism, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether India's tourism economy has been assessed by Government, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the expected rise in number of domestic and foreign tourists in the country in coming years and the assistance being provided by the Ministry to States to develop their tourist destinations, hotels, etc., the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) No, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has no specific scheme from where direct help is provided to Self-Help Groups to promote tourism.

(b) Yes, Sir. During Financial Year 2021-22, total Tourism share (Direct + Indirect) in GDP is Rs.415689.03 crore which is 1.77% of total GDP.

(c) As per the study 'India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery', conducted by the Ministry of Tourism, domestic tourism is likely to reach the pre-pandemic level by 2024-25. Further, on the basis of data received from Bureau of Immigration (BoI), Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) are likely to reach pre-pandemic level by 2024.

Ministry of Tourism has provided financial assistance under its schemes like Swadesh Darshan, National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual

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# Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD). State-wise details of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes from 2014-15 onwards are annexed.

### Annexure

State wise list of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Scheme.

#### The list of the projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan scheme

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State/ UT	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amt. Sanctioned
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of Long Island-Ross Smith Island- Neil Island- Havelock Island- Baratang Island-Port Blair	27.57
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Coastal Circuit 2014-15	Development of Kakinada - Hope Island - Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary - Passarlapudi - Aduru - S Yanam — Kotipally	67.83
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Coastal Circuit 2015-16	Development of Nellore - Pulikat Lake - Ubblamadugu Water Falls — Nelapattu- Kothakoduru- Mypadu - Ramateertham — Iskapalli	49.55
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit 2017-18	Development of: Shalihundam- Bavikonda- Amravati- Anupu	35.24
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	North-East Circuit 2014-15	Development of Bhalukpong- Bomdila and Tawang	49.77
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha	96.72
7.	Assam	Wildlife Circuit 2015-16	Development of Manas— Probitora— Nameri— Kaziranga— Dibru— Saikhowa	94.68

8.	Assam	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tezpur — Majuli — Sibsagar	90.98
9.	Bihar	Tirthankar Circuit 2016-17	Development of Vaishali- Arrah- Masad- Patna- Rajgir- Pawapuri- Champapuri	33.96
10.	Bihar	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj — Dharmshala- Deoghar	44.76
11.	Bihar	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18
12.	Bihar	Rural Circuit 2017-18	Development of Bhitiharwa- Chandrahia- Turkaulia	44.27
13.	Bihar	Spiritual Circuit 2017-18	Development of Mandar Hill & Ang Pradesh	44.55
14.	Chhattisgarh	Tribal Circuit 2015-16	Development of Jashpur- Kunkuri- Mainpat- Kamleshpur - Maheshpur - Kurdar - Sarodhadadar- Gangrel- Kondagaon— Nathiyanawagaon- Jagdalpur- Chitrakoot- Tirthgarh	96.10
15.	Goa	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sinqerim-Baga, Anjuna-Vagator, Morjim-Keri, Aguada Fort and Aguada Jail	97.65
16.	Goa	Coastal Circuit 2017-18	Development of Coastal Circuit II: Rua De Orum Creek - Dona Paula -Colva - Benaullim	99.35
17.	Gujarat	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Ahmedabad- Rajkot- Porbandar —Bardoli- Dandi	58.42
18.	Gujarat	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Vadnagar- Modhera	91.12

19.	Gujarat	Buddhist Circuit 2017-18	Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	26.68
20.	Haryana	Krishna Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourism Infrastructures at places related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra	77.39
21.	Himachal Pradesh	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Himalayan Circuit: Kiarighat, Shimla, Hatkoti, Manali, Kangra, Dharamshala, Bir, Palampur, Chamba	68.34
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Jammu-Srinagar- Pahalgam-Bhagwati Nagar- Anantnag-Salamabad Uri-Kargil-Leh	77.33
23.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist Facilities at Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama.	81.60
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist Facilities - Construction of Assets in lieu of those Destroyed in Floods in 2014 under PM Development Package	90.43
25.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev	91.99
26.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist facilities at Anantnag-Pulwama-Kishtwar- Pahalgam-Zaskar Padum - Daksum - Ranjit Sagar Dam	86.39
27.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist Facilities at Gulmarg-Baramulla- Kupwara- Kargil - Leh	91.84
28.	Jharkhand	Eco Circuit 2018-19	Development of Eco Tourism circuit: Dalma- Betla National park- Mirchaiya- Netarhat	30.44
29.	Kerala	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta- Gavi- Vagamon- Thekkady	64.08

30.	Kerala	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli- Pampa-Sannidhanam	47.74
31.	Kerala	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamula	78.08
32.	Kerala	Rural Circuit 2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	57.35
33.	Kerala	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram- Arruvipuram- Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania- Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42
34.	Madhya Pradesh	Wildlife Circuit 2015-16	Development of Wildlife Circuit at Panna- Mukundpur- Sanjay- Dubri- Bandhavgarh- Kanha- Mukki- Pench	92.10
35.	Madhya Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa- Mandsaur-Dhar	74.02
36.	Madhya Pradesh	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Gwalior — Orchha — Khajuraho — Chanderi — Bhimbetka — Mandu	89.82
37.	Madhya Pradesh	Eco Circuit 2017-18	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- Bheda Ghat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River	93.76
38.	Maharashtra	Coastal Circuit 2015-16	Development of Sindhudurg Coastal Circuit - Sagarshwar, Tarkarli, Vijaydurg (Beach & Creek), Mitbhav	19.06
39.	Maharashtra	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Waki- Adasa- Dhapewada- Paradsingha- Telankhandi- Girad	53.96
40.	Manipur	North- East	Development of Tourist Circuit in Manipur: Imphal- Khongjom	72.23

		Circuit 2015-16		
41.	Manipur	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Shri Govindajee Temple, Shri Bijoy Govindajee Temple — Shri Gopinath Temple — Shri Bungshibodon Temple — Shri Kaina Temple	45.34
42.	Meghalaya	North East Circuit 2016-17	Development of Umium (Lake View), U Lum Sohpetbneng-Mawdiangdiang — Orchid Lake Resort	99.13
43.	Meghalaya	North East Circuit 2018-19	Development of West Khasi Hills (Nongkhlaw- KremTiro — Khudoi & Kohmang Falls — Khri River- Mawthadraishan, Shillong), Jaintia Hills (Krang Suri Falls- Shyrmang-looksi), Garo Hills (Nokrek Reserve, Katta Beel, Siju Caves)	84.97
44.	Mizoram	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Thenzawl & South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek.	92.26
45.	Mizoram	Eco Circuit 2016-17	Development of Eco-Adventure Circuit Aizawl -Rawpuichhip — Khawhphawp — Lengpui — Chatlang- Sakawrhmutuaitlang - Muthee — Beratlawng -Tuirial Airfield — Hmuifang	66.37
46.	Nagaland	Tribal Circuit 2015-16	Development of Tribal Circuit Peren- Kohima- Wokha	97.36
47.	Nagaland	Tribal Circuit 2016-17	Development of Mokokchung- Tuensang-Mon	98.14
48.	Odisha	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara	70.82
49.	Puducherry	Coastal	Development of Dubrayapet —	58.44

		Circuit 2015-16	Arikamedu — Veerampattinam — Chunnambar - Nallavadu/Narambai - Manapet- Kalapet - Puducherry - Yanam	
50.	Puducherry	Heritage Circuit 2017-18	Development of Franco- Tamil Village, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam	49.44
51.	Puducherry	Spiritual Circuit 2017-18	Development of Puducherry — Thirukanch- Karaikal- Yanam	34.96
52.	Punjab	Heritage Circuit 2018-19	Development of Anandpur Sahib - Fatehgarh Sahib - Chamkaur Sahib - Ferozpur - Khatkar Kalan — Kalanour - Patiala	85.32
53.	Rajasthan	Desert Circuit 2015-16	Development of Sambhar Lake Town and Other Destinations	50.01
54.	Rajasthan	Krishna Circuit 2016-17	Development of Govind Dev ji temple (Jaipur), Khatu Shyam Ji (Sikar) and Nathdwara (Rajsamand)	75.80
55.	Rajasthan	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Spiritual Circuit— 'Development of Churu (Salasar Balaji)-Jaipur (Shri Samodke Balaji, Ghatke Balaji, Bandheke Balaji)- Viratnagar (Bijak, Jainnasiya, Ambika Temple)- Bharatpur (Kaman Region)- Dholpur (Muchkund) - Mehndipur Balaji- Chittorgarh (Sanwaliyaji)	87.05
56.	Rajasthan	Heritage Circuit 2017-18	Development of Heritage Circuit Development of Rajsamand (Kumbhalgarh Fort) - Jaipur (Facade Illumination in Jaipur and Nahargarh Fort) -Jhalawar (Gagron Fort) - Chittorgarh (Chittorgarh Fort) — Jaisalmer (Jaisalmer Fort) - Hanumangarh (Gogamedi) - Udaipur	70.61

			(Pratap Gaurav Kendra) - Dholpur (Bagh-I-Nilofar and Purani Chawani) - Nagaur (Meera Bai Smarak, Merta) - Tonk (Sunehri Kothi)	
57.	Sikkim	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Tourist Circuit linking Rangpo (entry) — Rorathang- Aritar- Phadamchen- Nathang-Sherathang- Tsongmo- Gangtok-Phodong- Mangan- Lachung-Yumthang- Lachen- Thangu-Gurudongmer- Mangan- Gangtok-TuminLingee- Singtam (exit)	98.05
58.	Sikkim	North East Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist Circuit Linking Singtam— Maka- Temi- BermoikTokel- Phongia- Namchi — Jorthang- Okharey- Sombaria- Daramdin- Jorethang- Melli (Exit)	95.32
59.	Tamil Nadu	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of (Chennai- Mamamallapuram — Rameshwaram — Manpadu — Kanyakumari)	73.13
60.	Telangana	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Eco Tourism Circuit in Mahaboobnagar district	91.62
61.	Telangana	Tribal Circuit 2016-17	Development of Mulugu-Laknavaram- Medavaram- Tadvai- Damaravi- Mallur- Bogatha Waterfalls	79.87
62.	Telangana	Heritage Circuit 2017-18	Development of Qutub Shahi Heritage Park- Paigah Tombs- Hayat Bakshi Mosque- Raymond's Tomb	96.90
63.	Tripura	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Agartala - Sipahijala - Melaghar - Udaipur - Amarpur- Tirthamukh- Mandirghat— Dumboor- NarikelKunja- Gandachara— Ambassa	82.85
64.	Tripura	North East Circuit 2018-19	Development of Surma Cherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati - Bhunaneshwari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chottakhola- Pilak-	44.83

			Avangchaarra	
65.	Uttar Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	87.89
66.	Uttar Pradesh	Ramayana Circuit 2016-17	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	69.45
67.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Ahar-Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh-Kausambi-Mirzapur-Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj-Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh-Kairana-Baghpat-Shahjahanpur	71.91
68.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Bijnor-Meerut-Kanpur-Kanpur Dehat-Banda-Ghazipur-Salempur-Ghosi-Balia-Ambedkar Nagar-Aligarh-Fatehpur-Deoria-Mahoba-Sonbhadra-Chandauli-Mishrikh-Bhadohi	67.51
69.	Uttar Pradesh	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda)-Maghar Dham (Sant Kabir Nagar)-Chauri Chaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)-Mahuar shaheed Sthal (Ghosi)-Shaheed Smarak (Meerut)	33.92
70.	Uttar Pradesh	Ramayana Circuit 2017-18	Development of Ayodhya	127.21
71.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Jewar-Dadri-Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja-Banda	12.03
72.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyaganj)	18.30
73.	Uttarakhand	Eco Circuit	Development of Tehri-Chamba-Sarain around Tehri Lake.	69.17

		2015-16		
74.	Uttarakhand	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Kumaon Region - Katarmal - Jogeshwar - Baijnath - Devidhura.	76.32
75.	West Bengal	Coastal Circuit 2015-16	Development of Beach Circuit: Udaipur- Digha- Shankarpur- Tajpur- Mandarmani- Fraserganj-Bakhlai- Henry Island	67.99
76.	-	Wayside Amenities 2018-19	Development of Wayside Amenities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at Varanasi- Gaya; Kushinagar-Gaya- Kushinagar in collaboration with MoRTH	15.07
<b>Total</b>				<b>5294.11</b>

**List of projects sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme**

(Rs. in Crore)

State/UT	Sl. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Approved Cost
Andhra Pradesh	1	Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination * *	2015-16	27.77
	2	Development of Srisailem Temple * *	2017-18	43.08
	3	Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam in Vishakhapatnam Temple	2022-23	54.04
Arunachal Pradesh	4	Development of Parshuram Kund, Lohit Distt.	2020-21	37.88
Assam	5	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati. * *	2015-16	29.80
Bihar	6	Development at Patna Sahib * *	2015-16	41.54
	7	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar * *	2014-15	4.27
Chhattisgarh	8	Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh	2020-21	43.33
Gujarat	9	Development of Dwarka * *	2016-17	13.08

	10	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath**	2016-17	45.36
	11	Development of Promenade at Somnath**	2018-19	47.12
	12	Development of Pilgrim Plaza with Queue management complex at Somnath Gujarat	2021-22	49.97
	13	Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Ambaji Temple, Banaskantha, Gujarat	2022-23	50.00
Haryana	14	Development of Mata Mansa and Nada Saheb Gurudwara Devi Temple in Panchkula District	2019-20	48.53
Jammu and Kashmir	15	Development at Hazratbal Shrine, Srinagar	2016-17	40.46
Jharkhand	16	Development of Baba Baidyanath Dham, Deoghar**	2018-19	39.13
Karnataka	17	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple, Mysuru	2023-24	45.71
Kerala	18	Development at Guruvayur Temple**	2016-17	45.19
Madhya Pradesh	19	Development of Amarkantak	2020-21	49.99
	20	Development of Omkareshwar**	2017-18	43.93
Maharashtra	21	Development of Trimbakeshwar, Nashik	2017-18	52.92
Meghalaya	22	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation in Meghalaya	2020-21	29.32
Mizoram	23	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism in the State of Mizoram	2022-23	44.89
Nagaland	24	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure in Nagaland	2018-19	25.26
	25	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure at Zunheboto	2022-23	18.18
Odisha	26	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham — Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit #	2014-15	50.00

Punjab	27	Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar **	2015-16	6.40
	28	Development of Chamkaur Sahib at Rupar, Punjab	2021-22	31.57
Rajasthan	29	Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer	2015-16	32.64
Sikkim	30	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom	2020-21	33.32
Tamil Nadu	31	Development of Kanchipuram **	2016-17	13.99
	32	Development of Velankanni **	2016-17	4.86
Telangana	33	Development of Jogulamba Devi Temple, Alampur	2020-21	36.73
	34	Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism Infrastructure at Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Mulugu	2022-23	62.00
	35	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam, Bhadradri Kothagudem District	2022-23	41.38
Tripura	36	Development of Tripura Sundari Temple, Udaipur	2020-21	37.80
Uttar Pradesh	37	Development of Varanasi —Phase —I **	2015-16	18.72
	38	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II) **	2014-15	10.98
	39	River Cruise Tourism in Ganga, Varanasi **	2017-18	9.02
	40	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan **	2014-15	9.36
	41	Development of Varanasi — Phase II **	2017-18	44.60
	42	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	2018-19	39.74
Uttarakhand	43	Integrated Development of Kedarnath **	2015-16	34.77
	44	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation in Badrinath Ji Dham	2018-19	56.15
	45	Augmentation of Pilgrimage Infrastructure Facilities and Gangotri and Yamunotri	2021-22	54.36

		Dham		
West Bengal	46	Development of Belur Math	2016-17	30.03
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1629.17</b>

**\*\* Projects completed      # Project Declared completed to the extent work done.**

**श्रीमती सुमित्रा बाल्मीक :** सभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या पर्यटकों की बढ़ती हुई संख्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए कौशल और उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा दिए जाने हेतु कुछ कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, ताकि युवाओं को पर्यटन के रोज़गारों से जोड़ा जा सके?

**श्री जी. किशन रेड्डी :** आदरणीय चेयरमैन सर, आज भारत में टूरिज्म के दृष्टिकोण से भारत सरकार स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से मिलकर अलग-अलग कदम उठा रही है। अभी एक क्वेश्चन में महिलाओं के लिए जो पूछा गया है, उसमें रूरल होम स्टे के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट और फायनेंशियल इंस्टिट्यूशन्स ने साथ मिलकर अलग-अलग प्रांतों में, स्पेशली बॉर्डर स्टेट्स में और अलग-अलग स्टेट्स में सैल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप्स को इन्वॉल्व करते हुए होम स्टे बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया है। मुझे इस सभा में यह बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में भारत सरकार ने हर सैल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप को मैक्सिमम, जो डिफॉल्टर रहते हैं, 20 लाख रुपये देने का निर्णय किया है। पहले यह राशि 5 लाख थी, फिर 10 लाख हुई और अभी एकदम से 20 लाख रुपये तक बढ़ा दी गई है बैंक से, ताकि हम सैल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप्स को होम स्टे बढ़ाने के लिए मोटिवेट करें। इसके साथ ही साथ हम भारत सरकार में Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism Management के द्वारा digital platform में female tour guides को भी ट्रेनिंग दे रहे हैं। हम इसमें जो फीस वसूलते हैं, उसमें प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के आदेश पर महिलाओं के लिए 50 per cent discount देते हैं। हम सभी जगहों पर हजारों महिलाओं को टूरिस्ट गाइड्स के लिए ट्रेनिंग दे रहे हैं।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं इस सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि अभी प्रधान मंत्री, मोदी जी के विज़न के अनुसार हमने हाई स्कूल से लेकर पीजी तक, सभी एजुकेशनल इंस्टिट्यूशंस में युवा टूरिज्म क्लब्स खोलने का निर्णय किया है। अभी तक भारत सरकार ने अलग-अलग इंस्टिट्यूशंस में 35 हजार युवा टूरिज्म क्लब्स खोले हैं। आपको मालूम है कि अगर समर में या किसी हॉलीडे में घर में कोई टूरिज्म के लिए जाना चाहता है, तो इसे कौन तय करता है, इसे घर में रहने वाले स्टूडेंट्स/बच्चे तय करते हैं। इसलिए भारत सरकार चाहती है कि डोमेस्टिक टूरिज्म बढ़ाने के लिए उन बच्चों के आधार पर काम किया जाए। उनके घर में, उनके परिवार में, उनके इंस्टिट्यूशंस में उनमें अवेयरनेस लाने के लिए हम युवा टूरिज्म क्लब्स खोल रहे हैं। अभी तक 35 हजार युवा टूरिज्म क्लब्स खोल कर हम टूरिज्म बढ़ाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। भारत सरकार स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के साथ लगातार संपर्क में रहती है। सभी एजुकेशनल इंस्टिट्यूशंस में एक युवा टूरिज्म क्लब जरूर होना चाहिए, इस दृष्टिकोण से हम काम कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary; Shrimati Sumitra Balmik.

**श्रीमती सुमित्रा बाल्मीक :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूँगी कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट, यानी पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उन्होंने क्या-क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

**श्री जी. किशन रेड्डी :** रेस्पेक्टेड चेयरमैन सर, भारत में नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के सत्ता सँभालने के बाद आज इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एक्टिविटी में तेजी से काम हो रहा है। टूरिज्म को बढ़ाने के लिए पहले एयरपोर्ट्स नहीं थे, पहले एयरपोर्ट्स कम थे; पहले असम के गुवाहाटी में एक ही रेलवे स्टेशन था, लेकिन अभी सभी कैपिटल्स में ट्रेन कनेक्टिविटी, एयर कनेक्टिविटी और रोड कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमने प्रयास किया है। जब तक कनेक्टिविटी नहीं रहेगी, टूरिज्म नहीं बढ़ेगा। इस दृष्टिकोण से भारत सरकार ने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में लगातार पिछले 9 साल में 5 लाख करोड़ रुपए खर्च करके इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एक्टिविटी को बढ़ाया है, क्योंकि जब तक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एक्टिविटी नहीं बढ़ेगी, तब तक टूरिज्म एक्टिविटी नहीं बढ़ेगी।

इसके साथ ही, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में जो नेशनल हाईवे है, उस पर हम अलग-अलग जगह व्यू प्वाइंट्स बना रहे हैं, क्योंकि वहाँ बहुत डिस्टेंस वाली जर्नी करनी पड़ती है। जब हम टूरिज्म पर जाते हैं, तो हमारे साथ महिलाएँ रहती हैं, बच्चे रहते हैं, लेकिन वहाँ कोई वाशरूम भी नहीं रहता है। इस दृष्टिकोण से भारत सरकार टूरिज्म डिपार्टमेंट के द्वारा अलग-अलग जगहों पर व्यू प्वाइंट्स बना रही है। अभी तक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के नाते फर्स्ट फेज में अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर, मेघालय, मिजोरम, नागालैंड और सिक्किम में अलग-अलग जगह नेशनल हाईवेज के बगल में अच्छे व्यू प्वाइंट्स बनाए जा रहे हैं। वहाँ आजकल लोग ठहर सकते हैं। वहाँ कैंटीन, रेस्टोरेंट की सुविधा होती है, साथ ही सुवेनियर सेंटर भी होता है। इसके साथ ही अच्छी फोटो निकालने के लिए, सेल्फीज़ निकालने के लिए अच्छे व्यू प्वाइंट्स बनाने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। इसके साथ ही, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से मिल कर अलग-अलग जगह जितने भी टूरिज्म डेस्टिनेशंस हैं, उनको हम फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस दे रहे हैं। 'प्रसाद स्कीम' और 'स्वदेश दर्शन स्कीम' के द्वारा पिल्ग्रिम टूरिज्म हो या नेचुरल टूरिज्म हो, इस तरह से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में अलग-अलग जगह टूरिज्म को बढ़ाना भारत सरकार की प्रमुख रिस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी है। हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में प्राथमिकता देकर टूरिज्म को बढ़ाने के लिए पूरा प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Third supplementary; Dr. Amar Patnaik.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently, the Odisha Government handed over twenty wayside amenity centres and twelve cafeterias at prominent tourist destinations to self-help groups under the Mission Shakti Programme of the State Government of our Chief Minister, hon. Shri Naveen Patnaik. I would like to know whether the Central Government would consider having a similar kind of scheme

which would not only promote tourism but would also give impetus to self-help groups in the country.

**श्री जी. किशन रेड्डी :** सभापति जी, टूरिज्म के लिए भारत सरकार का कोई डेस्टिनेशन नहीं है, सभी डेस्टिनेशंस स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के होते हैं। हम 'प्रसाद स्कीम' और 'स्वदेश दर्शन स्कीम' के द्वारा सभी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को 100 परसेंट फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस देते हैं। जैसा अभी आपने सेल्फ-हेल्प ग्रुप्स के बारे में बताया, हम उनको एन्क्रेज करने का भी प्रयास कर रहे हैं। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का जो भी प्रपोज़ल सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पास आता है, चाहे वह 'स्वदेश दर्शन स्कीम' हो या 'प्रसाद स्कीम' हो, उसमें स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के साथ मिल कर हम काम करते हैं। उसमें प्रायोरिटी भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट तय करती है। हम 100 परसेंट फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस देते हैं। उसका एक्जीक्यूशन हो, मंटेनेंस हो, टेंडर हो, वह सब काम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ही करती है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से हमारे पास जो भी प्रपोज़ल आएगा, हम उस पर जरूर विचार करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fourth supplementary, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, the Sagar Island situated in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, popularly known as Ganga Sagar is not only having a beautiful sea beach and coastal area, but is also one of the most popular places of pilgrimage in the country from time immemorial. My supplementary question to 48 (c) is: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to consider inclusion of Ganga Sagar under the Darshan or PRASHAD Scheme for the development of the place as spiritual circuit or coastal circuit?

**श्री जी. किशन रेड्डी :** आदरणीय चेयरमैन सर, आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के जिम्मेदारी सम्भालने के बाद भारत सरकार ने pilgrimage tourism, religious tourism और cultural tourism को बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास किया है। आप इसके example के रूप में वाराणसी देख सकते हैं, उज्जैन देख सकते हैं, केदारनाथ देख सकते हैं और वैसे ही साउथ में भी अलग-अलग जगहें हैं, Srisaila देख सकते हैं। सभी जगह जो अलग-अलग pilgrimage centres हैं, उन centres में PRASHAD Scheme के द्वारा tourist amenities बढ़ाने के लिए भारत सरकार लगातार पैसे खर्च कर रही है। आपने जो प्रपोज़ल दिया है, अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से इसका प्रपोज़ल आएगा, तो हम जरूर उसमें फाइनेंस देने के लिए तैयार हैं।

सर, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो domestic tourism है, अगर उसको 2021 से compare करें, तो 2022 में domestic tourism लगभग 155 परसेंट बढ़ गया है। आज domestic tourism के लगभग 173 crore visits हुए हैं। उसके साथ-साथ मैं foreign tourists के बारे में भी बताना चाहता हूँ। 2022 में foreign tourists की संख्या भी 85 लाख complete हुई है। मैं इसका example बताना चाहता हूँ। पिछले 11 महीनों में, 2023 के नवम्बर माह तक लगभग 2 करोड़ tourists ने सिर्फ जम्मू-कश्मीर में ही tour किया है। आज़ादी के बाद जम्मू-कश्मीर के इतिहास में

इतने टूरिस्ट्स वहाँ कभी नहीं आए। अब आर्टिकल 370 हटाने के बाद, मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में जम्मू-कश्मीर ने टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा दिया है। उसके कारण 2 करोड़ टूरिस्ट्स जम्मू-कश्मीर में आये हैं।

सर, भारत सरकार हर विषय पर टूरिज्म बढ़ाने के लिए प्रयास कर रही है। भारत का सबसे बड़ा ambassador दूसरा कोई नहीं, बल्कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी हैं। भारत का tourism बढ़ाने के लिए वही भारत के ambassador हैं। वे जिस भी देश में जाते हैं, विदेशों में जाते हैं, हर मीटिंग में टूरिज्म की बात करते हुए लोगों को भारत के टूरिज्म के importance से जरूर अवगत कराते हैं।

G-20 के बारे में आपको मालूम है। G-20 के लगभग 200 meetings, 56 cities में हुए। उन जगहों पर अलग-अलग देशों के ordinary delegates नहीं, बल्कि उन देशों के important officials, Ministers आए थे। All the important persons, cream of the twenty-thirty countries, उनके officers आए थे। उसमें भारत सरकार ने tourism बढ़ाने के लिए बहुत प्रयास किये। G-20 के कारण भारत सरकार के द्वारा अगर सबसे बड़ा फायदा कहीं हुआ है, तो उसमें tourism भी एक sector है। उसको बहुत फायदा हुआ है। वे लोग दुनिया भर में जाकर, हमारे ambassadors बन कर, अपने-अपने देश में भारत के टूरिज्म के बारे में, भारत के culture के बारे में बताने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। यह भारत के tourism sector की बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fifth supplementary question, Shri Sandosh Kumar P.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P.: Sir, it is a universal truth that the State of Kerala is one of the outstanding destinations of tourism in the world. But unfortunately, many areas of Kerala are still unexplored. I would like to ask the Minister, as there are huge possibilities of pilgrimage tourism as well: Will there be any initiative from the side of the Central Government to promote tourism in Kerala by investing more funds, by starting more hotels through tourism promotion and by increasing air connectivity to Kerala, especially, the northern side of Kerala including Kannur airport? Will there be any initiative to promote tourism through these channels?

**श्री जी. किशन रेड्डी :** सर, हम सरकार की तरफ से कोई नया होटल नहीं खोलेंगे। हम होटल बिज़नेस करने वाले नहीं हैं। आने वाले दिनों में, चाहे प्राइवेट सेक्टर के स्टार होटल्स हों, बजट होटल्स हों, हम सभी जगहों पर होटल्स बढ़ाने के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से बातचीत करेंगे। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट बेनिफीशियरी और लैंड दे। इसके साथ-साथ, जो इनिशिएटिव्स लेने हैं, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से बातचीत करके हर जगह, इनक्लूडिंग नॉर्थ-ईस्ट जोन में भी अलग-अलग जगह हम करेंगे। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में अच्छे होटल्स नहीं थे। अभी आठ और स्टेट्स में होटल्स खोलने का प्रयास किया गया है। केरल में भी बहुत बड़े थ्री स्टार होटल्स हों, फाइव स्टार हों। ऐसी अलग-अलग जगह नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में भी हैं। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में पिलग्रिम्स के दृष्टिकोण से और गुरुवायुर टैम्पल के दृष्टिकोण से लगभग 45 करोड़ केरल में इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए दिए हैं। केरल में

इकोटूरिज्म, स्प्रिचुअल टूरिज्म हो, कूज टूरिज्म हो, हमने बहुत जगहों पर पैसे दिए हैं। मैं आपको इसकी डिटेल्स भिजवा दूंगा। भारत सरकार के द्वारा जो पैसे दिए गए हैं, मेरे पास उसकी एक बहुत बड़ी लिस्ट है। मैं आपको वह लिस्ट पहुंचा दूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 49.

### Soil erosion in Western Ghats

\*49. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the recent IIT Bombay study about the doubled soil erosion of Western Ghats in the past two decades, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any ongoing initiative for conserving the Western Ghats, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to undertake any official assessment or comprehensive study for the Western Ghats, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (c) A study based on remote sensing data has been carried out by IIT Bombay entitled “Spatiotemporal variations in soil loss across the biodiversity hotspots of Western Ghats Region (WGR), India”, using Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) Model. This article has been published in the Indian Academy of Sciences Journal. The findings of the Model study suggest a rapid increase in soil erosion in the Western Ghats region using remote sensing data to quantify long-term soil losses across the entire WGR. This article also mentions that the outcome of USLE Model study based on remote sensing data might have some methodological shortcomings, therefore the results might have some errors and thus require physical monitoring of soil loss and soil erosion at multiple locations across WGR to validate the findings based on physical observations.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing a number of schemes for conservation of forest, wildlife and environment in different states and Union Territories, including the Western Ghats region States. These include the National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Forest Fire Prevention and Management, Project Tiger and National Mission for a Green India. Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority are also being utilized for conservation of forest and wildlife in the Western Ghats.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, constituted the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) for undertaking a comprehensive study of the Western Ghats under the chairmanship of Prof. Madhav Gadgil on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. The Panel was tasked with the responsibility to assess the current status of ecology of the Western Ghats region and to demarcate areas within the Western Ghats Region which need to be notified as Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (WG ESA). As the States including stakeholders concerned had strong objections regarding finalisation of the WGESA, the Ministry constituted a High Level Working Group (HLWG) on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2012, under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan *inter-alia* to examine the report of WGEEP in a holistic manner keeping in view the comments received from the concerned State Governments, Central Ministries, and other Stakeholders. The HLWG has recommended 37% of the Western Ghats region as ESA. Based on this report, the draft notification for WG-ESA has been published for inviting comments/suggestion of the stakeholders.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has given a comprehensive reply to my question and it is heartening to know that the Ministry is cognizant of a very disheartening fact, a finding of the IIT Mumbai that suggests that there is a rapid increase in soil erosion in the Western Ghats. This report has said that their study is based on remote sensing data and they have in the report itself incorporated it. In the reply, the Ministry has acknowledged it that this data might have some methodological shortcomings and they have expressed that the said findings need to be validated based on physical observations. I think the physical observations need to be done by the Government and, therefore, considering the fact that there have been several landslides in the States of Maharashtra and Kerala -- I don't know about the other States but it is very much bad in Maharashtra where villages have absolutely been buried under the debris and soil -- my question is

whether the Minister would consider that this needs to be taken up with right earnest and the validation of this report needs to be done.

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्या ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है, वह उनका कंसर्न है। वेस्टर्न घाट भारत की इकोलॉजी के लिए काफी इम्पोर्टेंट एरिया है। लगभग 16,000 स्क्वायर किलोमीटर में फैले हुए इस क्षेत्र में हमारे देश की 4,000 से ज्यादा प्लांट वैरायटीज़ हैं, जो कंट्री का लगभग 27 परसेंट है। इसके अलावा, ट्रीज़ और बाकी स्पीशीज भी काफी ज्यादा हैं। वेस्टर्न घाट में जो सॉइल इरोजन हो रहा है, जो उसके कारण है, निश्चित रूप से, उनमें लैंड यूज़ एक बहुत बड़ा कारण है, माइनिंग एक बड़ा कारण है। इसके साथ-साथ, जो हमारे वॉटर रिसोर्सेज़ और अन्य एक्टिविटीज़ हैं, उनके कारण लगातार भूमि का क्षरण हो रहा है। मंत्रालय द्वारा इसके लिए विभिन्न कार्यक्रम चलाए जा रहे हैं। फोरेस्टेशन से लेकर इको सेंसिटिव एरिया के प्रोटेक्शन को लेकर कार्यक्रम चला रहे हैं। हम यह जानते हैं कि पेड़ों के लगातार कटने के कारण भूमि का लगातार क्षरण होता है और वेस्टर्न घाट में उसे प्रिज़र्व करना, बचाना बहुत आवश्यक है। अभी हाल ही में कोप-28 में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में भारत ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी ग्रीन फंड इनिशिएटिव किया है। इसके अंतर्गत भारत में हमने उन क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है, जहाँ पर इस तरीके के सघन वन के इलाके हैं, जहाँ पर भूमि लगातार फ्रेगमेंटेड हो रही, खाली हो रही है या पेड़ नहीं हैं, वहाँ पर हम लोग ग्रीन इनिशिएटिव के द्वारा ज्यादा अच्छे तरीके से वृक्षारोपण करके एक जनभागीदारी को बढ़ाने का प्रयास करेंगे, क्योंकि वेस्टर्न घाट की इकोलॉजी बचाना महत्वपूर्ण है। इकोलॉजी के लिए वहाँ का जो बाकी एरिया है, विशेष रूप से, जो वाइल्ड लाइफ एरिया है, सरकार उसे बचाने के लिए पूरी तरह से संकल्पित है।

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:** Sir, the Minister has rightly said that it is a very, very important eco-sensitive zone which needs to be preserved for several reasons- bio-diversity, the hydrology, the geography, the monsoons that we get; and, therefore, it is very important that we pay attention. Therefore, rightly, the Government from time to time set up two Committees. One was in 2010 which was headed by Prof. Madhav Gadgil and later there were some problems and therefore to give a holistic view to this issue, another Committee was set up in 2012 headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan. Sir, both these Committees have made recommendations and after that, from time to time, from 2014, the Government has been coming up with only draft notification for the reservation of an eco-sensitive zone. Now, it is the fifth time that a draft notification has been taken out.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Your supplementary please.

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:** When does this see the light of the day?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, गाडगिल कमेटी और कस्तूरीरंगन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ड्राफ्ट नोटिफिकेशन को इश्यू किया गया था। इसके अंतर्गत कुल मिलाकर 6 राज्यों - गुजरात, गोवा, महाराष्ट्र, कर्णाटक, तमिलनाडु और केरल की भूमि आती है। पिछले वर्ष भी सभी राज्य सरकारों के मंत्रियों के साथ वन टू वन मैंने स्वयं जाकर बातचीत की थी। हमें बहुत सारे राज्यों के सांसदों के भी विशेष आवेदन आए थे, केरल के सांसदों के भी आए थे और उसके लिए हमने फॉर्मर डीजी, श्री संजय कुमार जी के नेतृत्व में एक और कमेटी बनाई है, ताकि ड्राफ्ट नोटिफिकेशन के बाद जिन गांवों की ग्राउंड लेवल पर समस्या है, उसको अच्छे तरीके से एड्रेस किया जा सके। मैं मानता हूं कि वह कमेटी संतोषजनक तरीके से काम कर रही है और उस कमेटी ने ग्राउंड लेवल पर जो असेसमेंट की है, उसके निर्णय की प्रतीक्षा हमें भी है।

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, does the Government plan to conduct geo-scientific mapping in respect of the Western Ghats, and afforestation and plantation programmes of Forest Department have had a limited success due to reasons like neglect of local ecosystem, lack of assessment mechanism and lack of planning. How is the Ministry going to deal with the same and prevent the soil erosion?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, जहां तक फॉरेस्ट सर्वे की बात है, भारत एक ऐसा देश है जहां पर नियमित रूप से फॉरेस्ट सर्वे होता है। अभी पिछले वर्ष ही भारत के फॉरेस्ट सर्वे की रिपोर्ट आई है और फॉरेस्ट सर्वे आफ इंडिया लगातार इसको करता है। यह सर्वे हर दो वर्ष बाद साइंटिफिक तरीके से किया जाता है और उसकी रिपोर्ट को पब्लिश किया जाता है। इसमें कुछ नया करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। भारत में हमारा एक बहुत एस्टेब्लिश्ड डिपार्टमेंट है, जो इसका नियमित रूप से संज्ञान लेकर वार्षिक सर्वे करता है और हम उसको सबके सामने प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

DR. SANTANU SEN: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the scope. Sir, as we know, the tigers are gradually going towards extinction and sometimes they are coming out of the forests because of severe deforestation at different parts of the country. Through you, my humble submission and my question to our learned Minister: Is the Government going to take any special steps to prevent this severe deforestation across the country?

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को जानकारी देना चाहूंगा कि टाइगर्स एक्सटिंक्ट नहीं हो रहे, बल्कि 50 year of Tiger Conservation programme की जो रिपोर्ट आई है, उसके अनुसार भारत में टाइगर्स की संख्या बढ़ी है और दुनिया के 70 परसेंट टाइगर्स हमारे पास हैं।

दूसरा, पिछले 9 वर्षों में हमारी सरकार ने इसके लिए काफी प्रयास किए हैं और इस समय पूरे देश में 53 टाइगर रिजर्व्स हैं और उसके साथ ही 33 एलिफेंट रिजर्व्स भी हैं। भारत

वाइल्डलाइफ के प्रति कितना जागरूक है, इसको लेकर जब 50 year of Tiger Conservation programme हुआ तो माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत ने Big Cat Alliance बनाया है। Big Cat Alliance में जो सात बड़े जानवर हैं, उनमें से पांच भारत में ही हैं। भारत ने Cheetah reintroduction करके जो प्रजाति हमारे यहां से एक्सटिंक्ट हो गई, उसको भी वापस लाने का काम किया है। हमारे फॉरेस्ट के लोग उसके लिए भी काम में लगे हुए हैं और इसलिए भारत टाइगर कंजर्वेशन के मामले में, एलिफेंट कंजर्वेशन के मामले में दुनिया में गौरव के साथ कह सकता है कि भारत ने बचाने का और संरक्षण करने का कार्य किया है।

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, plastic is polluting the soil and environment. The Government has been issuing a lot of directions to protect the soil and environment to avoid the plastic waste. But the question is that in order to inspire the people, the Government should itself follow the directions very positively. So, my question is whether the Government is ready to follow the green protocol for the Government functions, Parliamentary Committees and official functions of the Government to avoid the single use plastic.

**श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव :** महोदय, निश्चित रूप से काफी जगह पर किया जा रहा है। आजकल कॉन्फ्रेंस वगैरह में जाएंगे तो आप देखेंगे कि प्लास्टिक की बोतल लगभग गायब हो गयी है। हम सभी माननीय सदस्यगण जिन कार्यक्रमों में भाग लें, हमें वहां भी आग्रह करना चाहिए। सिंगल यूज प्लास्टिक सबसे बड़ी समस्या है, साइल इरोजन के लिए भी सबसे बड़ी समस्या है। सरकार ने पर्याप्त गाइडलाइन्स निकाली हैं, लेकिन इसके लिए जागृति करना हम सांसदों की भी जिम्मेदारी है।

### **Vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court**

\*50. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court, and the number of proposals recommended against the said vacancies;
- (b) the duration of time since the Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the said proposals;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the delay in judicial appointments as well as transfers, if so, the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the detailed reasons for non-clearance of names of judges of various High courts recommended by the Collegium of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) to (d) As on 04.12.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, the Supreme Court is functioning at full strength and there is no vacancy. As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 790 Judges are working and 324 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts.

As on 01.01.2023, 171 proposals received from High Court Collegiums were at different stages of processing. During the calendar year 2023, 121 fresh proposals were received. Out of the total 292 proposals for consideration during the current calendar year, 110 Judges have been appointed and 60 recommendations were remitted to the High Courts on the advice of the SCC. As on 04.12.2023, 122 proposals are at various stages of processing. Out of these 122 proposals, 87 proposals were sent to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for seeking advice against which the SCC has provided advice on 45 proposals which are at various stages of processing in the Government. 42 proposals are under consideration with the SCC. 35 fresh proposals received recently are being processed for seeking the advice of the SCC. Recommendations are yet to be received from High Court Collegiums in respect of the remaining 198 vacancies.

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level.

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed under Article 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal to fill up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. However, this timeline is often not adhered to by the High Courts. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Government,

however, appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by SCC.

As per the existing MoP, the proposal for transfer of High Court Judges is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior-most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The MoP further provides that the Chief Justice of India is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected, besides taking into account the views of one or more Supreme Court judges who are in a position to offer views.

The transfer of Chief Justices/Judges of High Courts are to be made in public interest i.e. for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country. No timeline has been prescribed in the MoP for transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

As a result of the collaborative process between the Executive and Judiciary, during the year 2022, 165 Judges were appointed in various High Courts and 08 transfer among High Courts were made (02 Chief Justices and 06 Judges) and during the year 2023, a total of 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts and 34 judges have been transferred among various High Courts till 04.12.2023.

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह कहा जाता है कि 'Justice delayed is justice denied' अगर न्याय देर से आता है, तो न्याय नहीं मिलने के बराबर होता है। यह भी कहा जाता है कि 'Judicial process is the biggest judicial punishment'. तारीख पर तारीख मिलती है, लोग परेशान होते हैं। यह क्यों होता है? मैं आपके जरिये माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हाई कोर्ट्स के जजेज की जो टोटल strength है, वह 1,114 है, उनमें से 324 जगह खाली हैं। मतलब यह कि हाई कोर्ट्स में अगर 29 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा जजेज की वैकेंसीज खाली हैं, तो जस्टिस डिले भी होगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) बहुत सोच-समझकर 3 जजेज के जजमेंट के बाद बना है। MoP के हिसाब से और हमारे संविधान के आर्टिकल 224 के हिसाब से independence of judiciary है, इसमें सरकार का खास रोल नहीं है। आपके यहां सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने प्रपोजल्स भेजे हुए हैं, आप उन्हें क्यों रोक कर रखते हैं? आप उन्हें क्यों दबाकर रखते हैं जबकि इतनी जगह खाली हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इसमें से हस्तक्षेप हटाना चाहती है या नहीं?

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, यह प्रश्न जजेज की सैंक्शन्ड strength और वैकेंसीज से संबंधित है। मैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जजेज की strength का जिक्र करता हूँ। वहां 34 strength है, जिसमें 34 ही भरी हुई हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... दोनों हैं, आप मुझे जवाब देने दीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*.. He is going in a right way. ...*(Interruptions)*..

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** सभापति महोदय, पहले यह strength भी 31 थी। मोदी जी की गवर्नमेंट ने इसे 34 किया और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में 34 ही भरी हुई हैं। दूसरा इन्होंने कहा कि हाईकोर्ट जजेज की 1,114 सैंक्शन strength है। मैं यूपीए की बात करूँ तो इनकी सैंक्शन strength 906 थी। हमने हाई कोर्ट्स जजेज की सैंक्शन strength बढ़ाकर 1,114 की। हमने जो वैकेंसीज भरी हैं, उनके बारे में मैं बता देता हूँ कि अभी हम स्टॉक लें...

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** सर, आपका संरक्षण चाहता हूँ। ये कृपया मेरे सवाल का जवाब दें।

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** मैं सवाल का जवाब ही दे रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*..

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** सभापति महोदय, वे हाई कोर्ट्स के जजेज के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं।

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** सर, आपका संरक्षण चाहता हूँ। 324 जगह खाली हैं, यह मेरा सवाल है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you kindly take your seat? ...*(Interruptions)*.. Would you take your seat first? ...*(Interruptions)*.. Hon. Member, when a Member asks the questions, I give full latitude. In making your enquiry, you did give a speech, raised the point, fine! I don't get into the contours whether it really fits into the frame. Hon. Minister is taking his own time, let him. Ultimately, there will be other supplementaries. Why don't you wait for that? I am so happy that you are eliciting answers from the Government. Things are going very smoothly. Why should we interrupt? Why should senior Members interrupt? Let the hon. Minister answer.

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** सर, मैं यह बता रहा था कि यूपीए में क्या था, ये सुनना नहीं चाहते हैं, इनकी यही प्रॉब्लम है। मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि अभी 1,114 में से 790 वर्किंग हैं और 234 वैकेंट हैं। मैं यही बता रहा था। उसके बाद अगर मैं आपको 1 जनवरी, 2023 का विवरण दूँ, तो हमें विभिन्न हाई कोर्ट्स Collegium से 171 प्रपोजल्स प्राप्त हुए हैं और 2023 में 121 मिले हैं। हमें प्रपोजल्स Collegium से ही मिलेंगे। अगर टोटल देखें, तो हमारे पास 292 प्रपोजल्स पेंडिंग है। उनमें से हमने 110 का appointment किया, 60 का remit किया और 122 प्रोसेस में है। सर, ये Judiciary और Executive की एक प्रक्रिया है, उस प्रक्रिया के तहत हम कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमने जजेज की sanctioned strength भी बढ़ाई है और यदि वैकेंसीज हैं, तो उनको जल्दी भी भरा है। अभी सुप्रीम कोर्ट के तीन जज के पद खाली थे, उनको हमने रिकॉर्ड

समय में भर दिया है। चूंकि शक्तिसिंह जी ने प्रश्न किया है, तो मैं इनको एक चीज़ बताना चाहता हूँ। अगर हम 2004 और 2014 से बात करें, जो ये हाई कोर्ट्स जजेज़ की बात कर रहे हैं, तो average appointment of judges was 86 और हम 100 कर रहे हैं। हम तो ज्यादा appointment कर रहे हैं। यदि आप चाहते हैं, तो मैं ईयर-वाइज़ डेटा दे सकता हूँ।

**श्री सभापति :** सेकेंड सप्लीमेंटरी श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल ।

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** सर, मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहता हूँ। मेरा सवाल कुछ और होता है और जवाब कुछ और होता है।

**श्री सभापति :** आपको पूरा संरक्षण मिलेगा।

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** मुझे पूरा विश्वास है। सर, जनरली पार्टी की सरकार होती है, अलायन्स की सरकार होती है, \*...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is expunged.

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल : \*\*** ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because, Mr. Shaktisinh, you are challenging the very basis of democracy.

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल : \*\*** ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are doing it repeatedly. I take strong objection to this. It cannot be approved. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल : \*\*** ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot go into which are the parties that are being ruled by one person or which is the Government ruled by one person. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let us go through the democratic process. ...(*Interruptions*)... Ask your supplementary. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\*\* Not recorded.

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Sir, I am deeply obliged that you have enlightened me.  
...(Interruptions)...

**श्री सभापति :** बात बहुत दूर तलक जाएगी, इसको बंद कीजिए और प्रश्न पूछिए। It is an important issue.

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** सर, आपका स्नेह है। आप भी ज्यूडिशियरी से हैं और मैं भी हूँ और जानता हूँ कि आप कोर्ट्स से जुड़े हुए हैं, तो हम लोगों के दर्द को अच्छी तरह से समझ सकते हैं।  
...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति :** आप माननीय मंत्री जी से सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल :** सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा यूपीए सरकार में कभी नहीं हुआ था। ...(व्यवधान)... kindly listen. \*इस मोदी जी सरकार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह 7 नवंबर, 2023 को कहा कि 'Pick and choose approach to Collegium's proposal is not good.' सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 20 नवंबर को कहा कि प्रपोजल आता है, उसको आप split कर देते हैं और पसंद वाले को दे देते हो।...(व्यवधान)... That is not true. Is it true or not?  
...(Interruptions)... क्या यह सही है या नहीं है?...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shaktisinh Gohil, you put it on record. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... I would expect all the hon. Members to maintain decorum. Mr. Shaktisinh Gohil, a Member of this House...  
...(Interruptions)... You place the authenticated judgment of the Supreme Court on the Table during the course of the day. Go ahead. You put the authenticated official judgement of the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: You very well know, Sir, what is Bar and Benches. Version from Bar and Benches ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no. I am so sorry. ...(Interruptions)... I am absolutely so sorry. ...(Interruptions)... This can't be allowed. ...(Interruptions)... There will be consequences emanating out of it. ...(Interruptions)... You will have to authenticate from authenticated record of the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions)... We have the highest regards for our Judiciary. ...(Interruptions)... I cannot allow Judiciary to be... ...(Interruptions)...

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Let the hon. Minister reply that this was not told by the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please ask your supplementary and comply with the directive. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Let the hon. Minister reply whether this was told by the Supreme Court or not. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the hon. Minister reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister. And, before that, let me tell hon. Members that while dealing with the Judiciary, a vital wing of our governance, we need to be extremely careful. Judiciary speaks through its judgements. During the course of hearing, reflections emanate but they do not constitute judgement. The Supreme Court has repeatedly indicated the purpose of those observations. If the hon. Member has taken an observation to be judgement of the Supreme Court, I can say, with my limited experience, he is totally wrong. A directive has been issued by me. He will comply during the course of the day. Go ahead now.

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** चेयरमैन सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया, आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया, लेकिन मैं...

**श्री सभापति :** मैं उत्तर नहीं देता हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी, उत्तर आपको देना होता है।

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** सर, आपने स्पष्ट किया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपने डायरेक्शन दे दिया है। आप इनका भी संरक्षण कर रहे हो, हमारा भी संरक्षण कर रहे हो और निष्पक्षता से काम कर रहे हो। हमें भी तो संरक्षण चाहिए। आपने अपनी बात अच्छे तरीके से कही। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि रनिंग कमेंटरी कुछ और होती है और डिस्मिशन में कुछ और होता है। अगर माननीय सदस्य के पास डिस्मिशन है, तो वे लाकर पुट-अप करें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please respond to his question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल :** इनका दूसरा क्वेश्चन एमओपी के संबंध में था। हमने एमओपी के लिए 6 जनवरी, 2023 को माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने अपना पक्ष रखा है। The matter is pending with the Chief Justice of India and the response is awaited. यह एमओपी के मामले में है।

SHRI N.R. ELANGO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a very strong perception among the stakeholders that the Government is not clearing the names of the advocates, which are cleared by the Collegiums, only on the basis of their political ideologies or views. I request the hon. Minister to clarify as to what steps have been taken by this Government to dispel such perception among the stakeholders.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I have already stated that there is a collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary और ज्यूडिशियरी की जो निष्पक्षता है, इंडिपेन्डेंसी है, यह नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में, जो सरकार चल रही है, उसकी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है। प्रोसेस में जो समय लग रहा है, वह एक अलग इश्यू है। हाई कोर्ट्स से नाम आते हैं, उसके बाद कुछ प्रोसेस होता है और उसके बाद हम उन्हें सुप्रीम कोर्ट भेजते हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट भी हमें कुछ सजेस्ट करता है और कुछ हम भी उनको सजेस्ट करते हैं। यह एक प्रोसेस है, तो प्रोसेस में जो समय लगता है वह एमओपी का पार्ट है, जिसका मैंने अभी जिक्र किया।

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Firstly, I would like to commend the hon. Minister that there are no vacancies in the hon. Supreme Court. And, also, the Ministry has given information that in this year, 292 proposals have come from High Court Collegiums and they are under process of various considerations. And, it seems that, at times, the number of proposals expected from High Court Collegiums is not as much. Of course, that is not the responsibility of the Ministry. That is up to the High Court Collegiums to take a call on, along with the Supreme Court Collegiums, in order to fill up the vacancies. My specific question to the hon. Minister would be: Though it does not come within the domain of the Ministry to expedite something between the High Court collegiums and the Supreme Court collegiums, would the Ministry consider engaging with either the process or, through the Ministry, with the High Court collegiums and the Supreme Court collegiums...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sasmit, you have run out of time. You can meet the hon. Minister in his Chamber.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Okay, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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://rajasabha.nic.in/Debates/OfficialDebatesDateWise>]*

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

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*The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

### SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

#### **\*Economic situation in the country**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we resume the Short Duration Discussion on the Economic Situation in the country. On 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, Shrimati Sulata Deo had concluded her speech while participating in the discussion. I shall now call upon the names of remaining Members whose names have been received for participation in the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will have to learn to go by the rules, particularly, for those who have been 'Leader of the Opposition' at the State level. ...*(Interruptions)*... Greater expectations from them! Now, Dr. V. Sivadasan; three minutes, please.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, some of the leaders of the ruling party are trying to make an illusion that India is growing, the economy is growing. What is the meaning of the growth of the economy? Sir, the assets and income of the corporate families, the big corporate families, are increasing. That is not the development of the economy. The asset of the ruling party is increasing. Through the electoral bond, they are getting thousands of crores of rupees.

[THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK)  
*in the Chair.*]

The increasing asset, the increasing income of the ruling party, is not the development of the economy. They are telling that they are rich. सरकारी लोग अमीर हैं, लेकिन जनता गरीब है।

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\*Further discussion continued from the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

Madam, look at the education sector. Thirteen thousand students have been dropped-out from the higher educational institutions. They are not providing the fellowship -- Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship, Maulana Azad Fellowship. Where is the fellowship? Day-by-day, they are cutting the fellowship.

Madam, if you look at the recruitment, in LIC, the recruitment is not there. Thousands of posts are lying vacant. The Development Officer posts are lying vacant. When was the last recruitment in BSNL? When did the recruitment happen? The recruitment is not there. In Railways, the recruitment is not there. Everywhere, we are seeing a ban on recruitment.

Take the case of MGNREGA. Look into the matter. Why are you not disbursing the pending amount of MGNREGA? Thousands of crores are lying pending. Madam, why are they not disbursing it? As a wage component, as a material component, the pending amounts are there. They are telling that they are rich, but they are not disbursing the amount to the poorest of the poor people. Madam, take the ASHA workers. What is the condition of ASHA workers? Look at Anganwadi workers. The Anganwadi workers are not getting the minimum wages; the ASHA workers are not getting the minimum wages. They are telling that they are rich. Then why are they not ready to provide the minimum wages to the Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers? This is the question of the people.

Respected Madam, the workers are struggling in HECL; the workers are struggling in NTC; the workers are struggling in BEML. Why are they struggling? It is because of the policies of the Government. They say that they are rich. If they are rich, if the economy is growing, why are they not giving proper wages to workers in the companies? Madam, they say that they are rich. The WHO says that there should be a minimum of one doctor for one thousand people, but what is the condition in India? The WHO says that there should be a minimum of three nurses for one thousand people, but what is the condition in India? ...(*Time-bell rings.*)... In India, the number of nurses is very less, but at the same time, thousands of nurses are going abroad. Why are they going abroad? That is because they do not get proper salaries here. That is why they are going abroad. The term *Vishwaguru* is okay, but they are not paying proper wages; they are not ready to invest money in different sectors. Please look at the condition of the people working in India. ...(*Time-bell rings.*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Please conclude.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Give me one minute more, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, your time is up.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Here, they have increased the price of LPG. If they are rich, why should they increase the price of LPG? सरकारी लोग अमीर हैं, लेकिन जनता गरीब है। हमारा भाषण गरीब लोगों के लिए है। Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Now, Shri Aditya Prasad - not present; Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah - not present; Shri Syed Nasir Hussain - not present; Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee.

DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I would speak later.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Shri Brijlal - not present; Shri Gulam Ali - not present; Shri Narhari Amin - not present. Shri S. Selvaganabathy.

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY (Puducherry): Madam, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this very important discussion on the economic situation in the country.

First, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister for achieving a historic milestone in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which has surpassed the four trillion dollars mark for the first time. I would like to praise hon. Prime Minister, Shri Modi, who showed an unprecedented zeal with his economy-reformist agenda. The GST was the reform of reforms and he did pull it off with great success. The taxpayer base has nearly doubled since its launch and collections too have risen. The GST collections in April rose 12 per cent from the year earlier to an all-time monthly high of Rs. 1.87 lakh crore. A majority of the large States have reported a 20 per cent-plus growth in GST collection over the same period last year, indicating a broad-level growth across sectors and States. Ninety million e-way bills were generated in March, 2023, 11 per cent higher than 81 million in the preceding months. He is probably the first Indian Prime Minister to leverage technology so much for his welfare programmes. His Government's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has revolutionized India's economy by facilitating digital payments even in villages. Behind the huge digital payments infrastructure that has come up in India is India Stack, a set of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to unlock the

economic potential of identity, data and payments at population scale, such as Aadhaar, UPI, Digilocker and, more recently, CoWin Vaccination platform.

The core idea behind India Stack is to lower the cost of transaction so that 1.3 billion people get access to socially and economically important services and that those services can be delivered by the private as well as public sector. It enables private innovation on the back of public infrastructure. India Stack created a set of open protocols or standards that are implemented by the institutions concerned. The UPI has helped private sector companies to rely on business models based on digital payments. IMF has said in a working paper recently noting that digitalisation has supported formalisation of India's economy and Aadhaar has helped in direct transfer of payments to beneficiaries without any leakages.

So far as the National Logistics Policy is concerned, the logistics cost in India is 13 per cent of the GDP as compared with 8 per cent in developed economies, making it difficult for Indian exports to compete globally. With massive drive to build roads, trains, railways, ports and bridges, a logistics policy is now set to revolutionise India's trade by making goods move faster across India reducing the cost of logistics to be comparable to global benchmarks by 2030.

Our country recorded a robust GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in the April-June period of 2023-24, outpacing China's 6.3 per cent. It took nearly 60 years to reach USD 2 trillion in 2014. The Government is working towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 and potential growth to USD 6.7 trillion by 2031. All this is possible only under the visionary and able leadership of our beloved Prime Minister by ongoing Government initiatives across all sectors with a focus on income-centric policies. Emphasis on agriculture is a priority and a roadmap is built to achieve USD 7 trillion economy by 2030.

The International Monetary Fund has projected India to become a USD 5 trillion economy with the third largest GDP in 2027-28. At the end of 2022-23, the Indian GDP stood at USD 3.7 trillion. In 1980-81, size of the Indian economy was USD 189 billion, which increased to USD 326 billion after a decade. In 2000-01, the size of the GDP rose to USD 476 billion.

With a rapid penetration of the internet and smart phones, digitisation is creating endless possibilities for delivering meaningful solutions that transform lives, livelihoods, business practices and governance. Digitisation has given a strong boost to entrepreneurship in the country. India's innovation in technology is not only proliferating within its boundaries but also around the world. India has a thriving IT industry that is a major contributor to the country's GDP, employment and exports. In 2022, the Indian IT industry generated \$227 billion in revenue. In 2023, India's IT

industry is estimated to register an 8.4 per cent rise in total revenue to reach to \$245 billion. It is known to everybody that all these achievements have been made possible only under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister who is being supported and followed by our hon. Finance Minister. Thank you, Madam.

**श्री शंभू शरण पटेल (बिहार):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, आपने मुझे देश की इकोनॉमिक सिचुएशन पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद।

महोदया, मैं सबसे पहले अपने देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री, आदरणीय श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने देश के करोड़ों लोगों के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, समाज के सभी वर्गों के प्रति उदारता एवं जनकल्याण की भावना तथा भारत देश को परम वैभव तक पहुंचाने की भावना को ख्याल में रखते हुए देश को आर्थिक रूप से संपन्न बनाने का कार्य किया है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के अथक प्रयास और साढ़े 9 वर्षों तक बिना रुके, बिना थके काम करते रहने और उनकी कड़ी मेहनत का नतीजा है कि आज भारत पूरे विश्व में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती हुई अर्थव्यवस्था बन गई है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में देश में चौतरफा विकास हो रहा है। भारत का कोई भी सेक्टर इस विकास से अछूता नहीं रहा है। चाहे देश के स्वास्थ्य का क्षेत्र हो, रेलवे का क्षेत्र हो, जलमार्ग से लेकर वायु मार्ग तक का क्षेत्र हो, संचार का क्षेत्र हो, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी का क्षेत्र हो, रक्षा का क्षेत्र हो, देश के ऑटोमोबाइल का क्षेत्र हो या अंतरिक्ष का क्षेत्र हो, आज देश चारों तरफ चौमुखी विकास कर रहा है। महोदया, हमारी पार्टी के नेता, श्रद्धेय पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी की सोच थी- अंत्योदय, यानी जब तक समाज के अंतिम व्यक्ति का विकास नहीं हो जाता, तब तक उस राष्ट्र का, उस देश का विकास नहीं हो पाता है। उन्हीं की राह पर चलते हुए हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी अंत्योदय का अक्षरशः पालन करते हुए देश को परम वैभव तक पहुंचाने के कार्य में लगे हुए हैं।

महोदया, पूर्ववर्ती कांग्रेस की सरकार पूरी तरह से तुष्टिकरण की राजनीति करती आई है। उन्होंने मुसलमानों को सिर्फ वोट बैंक के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया एवं देश के करीब 52 प्रतिशत पिछड़े समाज के लोगों को विकास से महरूम रखा। मैं अति पिछड़ा समाज से आता हूँ। कांग्रेस ने देश में 60 वर्षों तक शासन करने के बावजूद पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा नहीं दिया। अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के सामाजिक और आर्थिक उन्नयन के लिए 1953 में अनुच्छेद 340(i) के अंतर्गत तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी ने काका कालेलकर की अध्यक्षता में एक पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग का गठन किया था। 1955 में आयोग ने संस्तुतियों सहित अपनी रिपोर्ट भारत सरकार को दे दी, लेकिन 60 वर्षों तक कांग्रेस की सरकार रही, पर उसने पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा नहीं दिया, जिससे पिछड़े वर्ग का आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण या उसका सामाजिक विकास सही ढंग से नहीं हो पाया। जब हमारे नरेन्द्र मोदी जी देश के प्रधान मंत्री बने, तो उन्होंने देश में पहली बार पिछड़े समाज के हितों का ध्यान रखते हुए पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने का कार्य किया। इस कार्य को करने के बाद उन्होंने रिटायर्ड जस्टिस रोहिणी जी के नेतृत्व में एक आयोग का भी गठन किया, जो कि पिछड़ों का वर्गीकरण करने का कार्य करेगी।

महोदया, बिहार के लिए 'पिछड़ा' शब्द तो माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हटा दिया, इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं बिहार जैसे आकांक्षी राज्य से आता हूँ। जब बिहार में भाजपा सत्ता में थी, साझीदार थी तो बिहार में चौतरफा विकास हो रहा था। भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने पिछड़े वर्ग से आने वाले वहाँ के वर्तमान मुख्य मंत्री, नीतीश कुमार जी को बिहार का छः बार सीएम बनाया। जब मुझ जैसे एक अति पिछड़े के बेटे को भारतीय जनता पार्टी और आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने राज्य सभा में भेजने का कार्य किया, तो उन्होंने भारतीय जनता पार्टी से संबंध तोड़कर भ्रष्टाचार के आगोश में डूबी हुई राष्ट्रीय जनता दल के साथ अपनी सरकार बनाई और बिहार जैसे प्रांत को फिर से जंगल राज में भेजने का कार्य किया। अभी बिहार की आर्थिक और सामाजिक स्थिति काफी दयनीय हो चुकी है।

महोदया, भारत आज विश्व में सबसे ज्यादा तेज गति से विकास करने वाली अर्थव्यवस्था बन गई है। आज पूरा विश्व भारत को एक उभरती हुई आर्थिक शक्ति के रूप में देख रहा है। महोदय, स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में कांग्रेस सरकार के कार्यकाल में पिछले 60 वर्षों में लगभग शून्य कार्य हुआ, लेकिन वर्ष 2014 के बाद जब से नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार आयी, तब से पूरा विश्व भारत के हैल्थ मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम का लोहा मान रहा है। 100 वर्षों के बाद आयी वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना ने जहाँ पूरे विश्व की स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था की पोल खोल कर रख दी, वहीं श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के कुशल नेतृत्व की वजह से देश के करोड़ों लोगों की जान बच पायी। जहाँ विश्व के सभी विकसित देश अमेरिका, चीन, यूरोपियन कंट्रीज़, इटली, ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस, इत्यादि की स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था पूरी तरह चरमरा गयी, वहीं भारत ने न सिर्फ कोरोना वैक्सीन बनायी, बल्कि 220 करोड़ डोज़ भारतीयों को लगाए गए। ये डोज़ मुफ्त में भारतीयों को लगाए गए और वैक्सीन लगाने के बाद within a minute वैक्सीनेशन का सर्टिफिकेट भी हमारे स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने लोगों को प्रदान किया। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में हमने कोरोना काल में बहुत सारे देशों को मुफ्त में वैक्सीन और दवाइयाँ उपलब्ध करायीं।

महोदय, विपक्ष के साथियों को नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार में सिर्फ तुटियां नज़र आती हैं, लेकिन कोविड काल से लेकर अब तक भारत के 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज देने का काम किया गया है, जिससे देश का कोई भी गरीब, मज़दूर और बेसहारा भूखा न सो पाए। हमारी सरकार ने मुफ्त अनाज देने की योजना को आगे भी बढ़ाया है। 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज देने की योजना में हमारी सरकार ने न कभी कोई जाति देखी, न धर्म देखा, न कोई पंथ का बैरियर लगाया। यही वजह है कि वर्ष 2014 के बाद देश हर क्षेत्र में विकास कर रहा है। वर्ष 2014 में जहाँ हम विश्व की 10वीं बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था थे, वहीं आज हम विश्व की 5वीं बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था हैं और जब नरेन्द्र मोदी जी वर्ष 2024 में तीसरी बार प्रधान मंत्री पद की शपथ लेंगे, तब भारत विश्व की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन जाएगा। जब देश हमारा 100वां स्वतंत्रता दिवस मना रहा होगा, तब भारत आर्थिक क्षेत्र में विश्व में नम्बर वन पर पहुंच जाएगा।

महोदय, हमारे विपक्षी दल कांग्रेस के साथियों को हमारी सरकार में सिर्फ तुटियां नज़र आती हैं। हमारी सरकार की 'सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास' की जो थीम है, यह उन्हें नज़र नहीं आती है। वर्ष 2014 के पहले जहाँ देश में 74 एयरपोर्ट्स थे, आज लगभग 148 एयरपोर्ट्स बनकर तैयार हो गए हैं। वर्ष 2014 के पहले जहाँ देश में 7 एम्स थे, उनमें भी 6 एम्स हमारे श्रद्धेय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की देन थे, आज देश में लगभग 23 एम्स हो गए

हैं। बिहार सरकार की नाकामियों की वजह से दरभंगा का एम्स नहीं बन पाया है, नहीं तो वह 23वां एम्स पूर्ण हो चुका होता।

महोदय, हमारी आधुनिक सुविधाओं से युक्त वंदे भारत ट्रेन अपने आपमें एक मिसाल है। हमारे बिहार को भी वंदे भारत ट्रेन मिली है। मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से मांग करूंगा कि बिहार में और वंदे भारत ट्रेन बढ़ायी जाएं। हमारी सरकार का जो साढ़े नौ वर्षों का अचीवमेंट है, अगर उसे ठीक से बताया जाए, तो वह अपने आपमें एक डिक्शनरी बन जाएगा, लेकिन मैं उसकी एक छोटी सी बानगी बताने का काम करता हूं। आप किसानों को ले लीजिए। हमारी 'प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' का लाभ लगभग साढ़े बारह करोड़ लोगों को दिया गया है, 'प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान योजना', 'प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना', 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनाज मेला', गरीबों के लिए 'जल जीवन मिशन योजना', 'प्रधानमंत्री जनऔषधि केंद्र' अपने आपमें एक मिसाल हैं। प्रधान मंत्री जन औषधि परियोजना के माध्यम से लगभग 10 हजार जन औषधि केंद्र खोले गए हैं। 'आयुष्मान भारत योजना' पूरे विश्व में अपने आपमें एक मिसाल है, जिसके तहत आप 5 लाख रुपये तक का मुफ्त में इलाज करा सकते हैं, चाहे कोई भी गरीब वर्ग हो, उसमें न कोई जाति, धर्म और न कोई पंथ का बैरियर लगाया गया है। हमारी सरकार ने सभी गरीबों को उसका लाभ देने का कार्य किया है। मैं 'प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना' के बारे में बताना चाहूंगा। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... महोदय, क्या मेरे बोलने का समय समाप्त हो गया है?

'प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना', 'प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना', 'उज्ज्वला योजना', 'प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना', 'स्वच्छ भारत मिशन' के तहत, जो पिछड़े और दलित समाज की महिलाएं थीं, जिन्हें शाम होने का और सुबह में सूरज उगने से पहले का इंतजार करना होता था कि उन्हें शौच के लिए जाना है, उसका ख्याल रखते हुए, उनकी इज्जत और मर्यादा का ख्याल रखते हुए प्रधान मंत्री जी के द्वारा जो करोड़ों शौचालय बनाए गए, जो यह दर्शाता है कि 2024 में जब हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी पुनः तीसरी बार देश के प्रधान मंत्री बनेंगे, तो देश उन्नति करेगा और वह दिन दूर नहीं, जब भारत विश्व की सबसे बड़ी आर्थिक अर्थव्यवस्था बनेगा। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री आदित्य प्रसाद (झारखंड) :** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने आर्थिक विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, उसके लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। वर्ष 2014 की शुरुआत से देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व वाली एनडीए सरकार ने 'सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास, सबका प्रयास' के सिद्धांत पर काम किया है। वर्ष 2014 में भारत विश्व की 10वीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था के रूप में अपनी स्थिति से ऊपर उठते हुए आज पांचवी सबसे बड़ी वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के रूप में स्थापित है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में भारत दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने के मार्ग पर अग्रसर है। विश्व में हर देश आर्थिक चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है और इस विपरीत परिस्थिति में भी हमारा देश निरंतर आगे बढ़ रहा है। आज भारत मोबाइल प्रोडक्शन के क्षेत्र में दूसरे नंबर पर, ऑटोमोबाइल निर्माता के क्षेत्र में तीसरे नंबर पर और स्टॉक एक्सचेंज में चौथे नंबर पर है।

**[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) पीठासीन हुए]**

महोदय, वित्तीय वर्ष 2023 के लिए भारत की जीडीपी की वृद्धि दर 7.2 परसेंट है, जो दुनिया की प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती हुई अर्थव्यवस्था है। इतनी बड़ी कोविड महामारी के समाप्त होने के बाद भारत में सड़कें, रेलवे और हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण तेज गति से हो रहा है, यह कोई साधारण बात नहीं है। सर, जब पूरी दुनिया अपनी आर्थिक व्यवस्था से चरमराई हुई स्थिति में थी, तब पूरी दुनिया के लोग भारत को बहुत आशा भरी निगाहों से देख रहे थे, उम्मीद भरी निगाहों से देख रहे थे कि भारत की स्थिति क्या होगी, क्योंकि यह बहुत बड़ा लोकतांत्रिक देश है, इतनी बड़ी आबादी वाला देश है। देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री, जो गरीब परिवार से आते हैं, गरीबी में पले-बड़े हैं, गरीबी में जिए हैं, गरीबी को बहुत नज़दीक से देखा है, तो उनके नेतृत्व वाली कुशल सरकार में यह संभव हो पा रहा है - गरीब कल्याण योजना के माध्यम से, जब कोई गांव का व्यक्ति घर से काम करने के लिए नहीं निकलता था, चूंकि हम लोग गांव में रहते हैं- गांव के लोग अपने घरों में जो मज़दूर था, किसान था, श्रमिक था, दिनभर घर में रहता था, घर में आराम करता था, तो ऐसी परिस्थिति में देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री जी के मन यह चिंता आई कि गांव का व्यक्ति कहीं भूख से तो नहीं तड़प रहा है। उस परिस्थिति का एहसास करते हुए देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने पूरे देश के 80 करोड़ लोगों के परिवार के प्रत्येक सदस्य को पांच-पांच किलो चावल मुफ्त में देने की व्यवस्था की है। सर, दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जो बगल में बैठे हुए हैं, इन्हीं के समर्थन से झारखंड में सरकार चल रही है। गरीब के इस निवाले को वहां की सरकार छीनने का काम कर रही है। जहां पर पांच किलो राशन देना चाहिए, उस चावल को भी अपने खजाने में भरने का काम कर रही है, अपनी तिजोरियों में भरने का काम कर रही है। महोदय, इस देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री जी के माध्यम से दो अरब से अधिक कोविड वैक्सीन्स लगाई गई हैं। ये वैक्सीन्स देश में तो लगी ही, लेकिन अन्य देशों में भी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कोविड वैक्सीन के माध्यम से दुनिया के लोगों को भी सुरक्षित बचाने का काम किया है। **...(समय की घंटी)...** जिस प्रकार से मोदी सरकार के द्वारा डिजिटल इंडिया, आत्मनिर्भर भारत, स्टार्टअप्स इंडिया की शुरुआत की गई है, उससे लक्ष्य कठिन नहीं लगता है। अक्टूबर, 2023 में हमारा कुल निर्यात यदि दस वर्ष के आधार पर देखें, तो 9.43 बिलियन डॉलर से बढ़कर 62.26 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया।

वस्तुओं का निर्यात 6.21 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 33.57 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया और सेवा निर्यात 13.44 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 28.70 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया। अक्टूबर, 2023 में UPI लेन देन 11.41 बिलियन के सर्वकालिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गया है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इन लोगों के माध्यम से मैंने शौचालय के संबंध में सुना। देश के आजाद होने के बाद इस देश के गरीब परिवारों के दरवाजे पर लगभग 13 करोड़ से अधिक घरों के सामने, गरीब परिवारों के घरों के सामने शौचालय बनाने का काम किया गया है, लेकिन इन लोगों के द्वारा कहा जा रहा है कि शौचालय कबाड़खाना बन गया है, गोदाम बन गया। इस संबंध में मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि गांव की माताएं, बहनें आज सम्मान के साथ उस शौचालय को इज्जत घर के नाम से पुकारने का काम करती हैं और सम्मानपूर्वक उस शौचालय में जाकर शौच क्रिया से निवृत्त होने का काम कर रही हैं। इसी का नतीजा है कि आज गांव, गरीब, किसान और मज़दूर सभी दिल से आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को आशीर्वाद दे रहे हैं। इसी का परिणाम रहा है कि नरेन्द्र

मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में जो विगत चुनाव हुए हैं, उनमें उनको गरीबों का आशीर्वाद मिला है। पूरे देश से उनको गरीबों का आशीर्वाद मिल रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर हम बैंकिंग क्षेत्र की बात करें, तो आरबीआई के पूर्व गवर्नर डा. रघुराम राजन ने खुद स्वीकार किया है कि एनपीए संकट की उत्पत्ति यूपीए शासनकाल के दौर में हुई थी। एनपीए संकट का विष बीज कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व वाली यूपीए शासन के दौरान बड़े पैमाने पर फोन बैंकिंग के माध्यम से बोये गए थे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Please conclude.

**श्री आदित्य प्रसाद :** उस समय राजनेता और अधिकारियों के दबाव में अयोग्य एवं नकली व्यवसायों को ऋण दिए जाते थे। माननीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व वाली ईमानदार सरकार के निरंतर प्रयासों के कारण ही हमने बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में सकारात्मक बदलाव देखा है, जैसे कि बीबीबी के माध्यम से बैंक के वरिष्ठ प्रबंधन की पारदर्शी नियुक्ति किया जाना। इसके अलावा हमने बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप को पेशेवर तरीके से बदल दिया है। बैंक रिकॉर्ड लाभांश चैक सरकार को सौंप रहे हैं और उन फंडों का उपयोग गरीब कल्याण के लिए किया जा रहा है। हमने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों को कर्ज से दबे बुरे सपने से जन कल्याण के स्तम्भ के रूप में बदल दिया है। पिछले दशक में सतत सुधारों ने बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में बदलाव लाने को सक्षम बनाया है। मजबूत बैंक तुलन पत्र और बेहतर आस्ति गुणवत्ता के साथ पिछली दोहरी तुलन पत्र समस्या को दोहरा तुलन पत्र लाकर बदल दिया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Aditya Prasad ji, please conclude.

**श्री आदित्य प्रसाद :** जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ऐसी बैंकिंग प्रणाली तैयार हुई है, जो अब उधार देने के लिए ज्यादा सुविधाजनक है। दिनांक 11 अगस्त तक बैंकों की जमा राशि वर्ष दर वर्ष आधार पर 13.5 परसेंट बढ़कर 6 साल के उच्चतम स्तर 192 लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गई है।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक बात और बोलना चाहता हूं, चूंकि मैं गांव से आता हूं, गांव के किसान, जो छोटे किसान हैं - जब खेती करने का समय आता था, जब बीज लेने का समय आता था, खाद खरीदने का समय आता था, तो गांव के मध्यम और छोटे किसान पैसे के अभाव में रोते थे और मां बेटे से पूछती थी कि खेत के लिए खाद, बीज कब आएगा और कैसे खेती होगी। इससे उनकी मां और पिता जी के आंखों में आंसू आ जाते थे।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** धन्यवाद, आदित्य प्रसाद जी।

**श्री आदित्य प्रसाद :** देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने ऐसे करोड़ों किसानों के आंखों के आंसुओं को पोंछने का काम किया है। आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के प्रयास से आज किसान सम्मानपूर्वक बिना कर्ज लिए सफलतापूर्वक खेती करने का काम कर रहा है। आज किसान को

डीबीटी के माध्यम से प्रत्येक चार महीने में दो-दो हजार रुपया और साल में 6 हजार रुपया देने का काम किया गया है। यह देश की ऐतिहासिक घटना है। कांग्रेस चाहती, तो 65 सालों में किसानों के बारे में सोच सकती थी, लेकिन कभी कांग्रेस पार्टी ने गांव, गरीब, किसान, मजदूर के बारे में चिंता नहीं की, वह सिर्फ चुनाव के समय चिंता करती थी। चुनाव के बाद वह भूल जाने का काम करती थी।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** धन्यवाद, आदित्य प्रसाद जी। श्री बृज लाल।

**श्री बृज लाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे देश के विकास की स्थिति पर बोलने के लिए मौका दिया, इसके लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। महोदय, विकास तब होता है, जब देश की लीडरशिप, देश के लीडर का विज़न, देश के लीडर की देश में और बाहर स्वीकार्यता और इच्छाशक्ति जैसे कई कारक होते हैं, तब देश विकास करता है। वर्ष 2014 से मोदी जी की गवर्नमेंट आई, तब से हमें एक ऐसा लीडर मिला, जिसमें ये सभी गुण हैं और सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि देश-विदेश में उनकी स्वीकार्यता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक ऐसा महत्वपूर्ण इश्यू होता है, जिसको शायद अभी तक हमारे किसी माननीय सांसद ने कवर नहीं किया और वह होता है देश की कानून व्यवस्था। जब आपकी कानून व्यवस्था चाक चौबंद रहती है, देश की सीमाएं सुरक्षित रहती हैं तो बम ब्लास्ट्स नहीं होते हैं, जो कि यूपीए सरकार में होते रहते थे।

महोदय, एक बहुत लंबी लिस्ट है। इस देश में जो विदेशी शक्तियाँ थीं, वे भारत की प्रगति को नहीं देख पा रही थीं। मोदी गवर्नमेंट से पहले, उस समय की जो लीडरशिप थी, उस लीडरशिप में देश में ब्लास्ट्स होते थे। जयपुर ब्लास्ट, अहमदाबाद ब्लास्ट, जर्मन बेकरी ब्लास्ट, हैदराबाद ब्लास्ट, बुद्धा पार्क ब्लास्ट, गुवाहाटी ब्लास्ट जैसे बहुत से उदाहरण मौजूद हैं। 2013 में मोदी जी की हुंकार रैली में पटना ब्लास्ट्स भी हुआ था।

महोदय, हमारे स्टेट में बनारस, जो एक तीर्थ स्थल है, वहाँ ब्लास्ट हुआ था। इसके अतिरिक्त शीतला घाट ब्लास्ट, दशाश्वमेध ब्लास्ट, संकटमोचन मंदिर ब्लास्ट, कचहरी ब्लास्ट आदि इन तमाम ब्लास्ट्स से पूरा देश थर्राता था। महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान केवल दो बिंदुओं पर केंद्रित करूंगा और वे दो बिंदु ये हैं कि आतंकवादियों ने हमारे तीर्थ स्थल, हमारे पर्यटन स्थल, हमारे इकोनॉमिक केंद्रों को निशाना बनाया।

महोदय, दिल्ली देश की राजधानी है। यहाँ 29.10.2005 को सरोजिनी नगर, पहाड़गंज में धन तेरस से दो दिन पहले आतंकवादी घटनाएँ हुई थीं। महोदय, इस घटना में करीब 70 लोग मारे गए थे। इसी दिल्ली में हाई कोर्ट में ब्लास्ट हुआ था। 7.9.2011 को पंद्रह लोग मारे गए थे। उस समय हाई कोर्ट भी सुरक्षित नहीं था। यूपी में भी 2007 में कचहरी ब्लास्ट हुआ था। यह अयोध्या, लखनऊ वाराणसी कचहरी ब्लास्ट था। महोदय, दिल्ली में 13.9.2008 को बटला हाउस से एक हफ्ता पहले ब्लास्ट हुआ था और इसमें 30 लोग मारे गए थे। महोदय, जामा मस्जिद में 19.9.2010 को ब्लास्ट हुआ था। उस समय देश में कॉमनवैलथ गेम्स होने वाले थे। यूपी में 30 नवंबर को अयोध्या मामले में हाई कोर्ट का जजमेंट आना था। उस समय मैं ही प्रदेश का एडीजी लॉ एंड ऑर्डर था। हमारी स्थिति सेंसिटिव थी और उस समय उन्होंने जामा मस्जिद के पास ताईवानिज़

बस पर फायर किया, जिसमें लोग घायल हुए थे। उसके थोड़ी देर बाद, जब मीडिया और पुलिस पहुँच गई, तब उन्होंने एक कार में ब्लास्ट किया। उस समय ईश्वर की कृपा रही कि उसमें केवल आग लगी ब्लास्ट नहीं हुआ, अगर ब्लास्ट होता, तो 200-250 लोग मारे जाते। महोदय, उनका क्या मकसद था? उनका मकसद देश में दंगा फैलाना और कॉमनवैलथ गेम्स के लिए यह संदेश देना था कि भारत देश सुरक्षित नहीं है। उनका यही मकसद था और वे सभी इंडियन मुजाहिदीन के लोग थे।

महोदय, यहीं पर 19 सितम्बर, 2008 को बटला हाउस की घटना हुई थी।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** बृज लाल जी, कृपया कंक्लूड कीजिए।

**श्री बृज लाल :** सर, अभी टाइम बचा हुआ है। बटला हाउस की जो घटना हुई थी, उसमें यातिफ अमीन मारा गया था, जो नॉर्थ इंडिया का कमांडर था। देश में जितने ब्लास्ट्स हुए, उनके लिए आजमगढ़ मॉड्यूल, जो हमारे प्रदेश में स्थित है, ज्यादातर जिम्मेदार था। उसमें उसका साथी साजिद भी मारा गया था। महोदय, जब ये घटनाएं हुईं, तो हमारे बंगाल की एक चीफ मिनिस्टर हैं, समाजवादी पार्टी के एक नेता थे, वे वहाँ पर गए और कहा कि अगर यह असत्य नहीं है - जिसमें इंस्पेक्टर शर्मा मारे गए थे - तो मैं राजनीति से इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। महोदय, इसी दिल्ली में, इसी पार्लियामेंट के सामने कुछ मीटर दूर 13.12.2001 को जैश ए मोहम्मद का हमला हुआ था। इसमें हमारे सचिवालय के 9 कर्मी मारे गए थे। हम अभी 13 तारीख को उन्हें वहाँ पर श्रद्धांजलि देंगे। इनके नाम हैं - जगदीश प्रसाद यादव, मातबर सिंह नेगी, कमलेश कुमारी, नानक चंद, राम पाल, ओम प्रकाश जी, बिजेंद्र सिंह जी, घनश्याम और देश राज। महोदय, ये ब्लास्ट्स हुए हैं।

महोदय, इन्होंने दूसरा टारगेट मुंबई को बनाया था। 1993 में मुंबई को टारगेट किया गया था। दाऊद इब्राहिम ने मार्च 1993 में मुंबई में कई ब्लास्ट्स किए और उन ब्लास्ट्स में 257 लोग मारे गए थे। महोदय, मैं इसी पर कहना चाहता हूँ कि 1993 में जब ब्लास्ट्स हुए तो उस समय जो मुख्य मंत्री थे, उन्होंने क्या कहा था। उन्होंने कहा कि यह एलटीटीई का काम है, ताकि उनके वोट बैंक पर कोई असर न पड़े।

महोदय, 26/11 के बारे में हम सभी जानते हैं कि वह लशकर-ए-तैयबा का हमला था, उसमें हमारे दो आईपीएस ऑफीसर्स, मेजर उन्नीकृष्णन, 15 पुलिसकर्मी और 26 विदेशी मारे गए थे। पूरी दुनिया में हाहाकार मच गया था। महोदय, कांग्रेस पार्टी ने उसको भी झुठलाने की कोशिश की थी। कांग्रेस के एक बड़े नेता - महोदय, कांग्रेस के बड़े नेता, मैं उनका नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ..(व्यवधान)..

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** बृज लाल जी, कृपया कंक्लूड कीजिए। ..(व्यवधान)..

**श्री बृज लाल :** सर, अभी हमारे पास बहुत टाइम बचा हुआ है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Other speakers are also there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री बृज लाल :** उन्होंने अजीज बर्नी से एक किताब लिखवाई कि 26/11 आरएसएस की एक साजिश है। महोदय, हमारे तीर्थ स्थल, इकोनॉमिक केन्द्र, दिल्ली, सबको आतंकवाद का शिकार इसलिए बनाया गया, ताकि निवेश न आए। इसके लिए एडवाइजरी जारी हुई कि भारत मत जाओ, क्योंकि यह एक असुरक्षित देश है। महोदय, जब से मोदी जी आए हैं, इसके लिए जीरो टॉलरेंस हैं। कहीं ब्लास्ट नहीं हो रहा है, आतंकवादियों की हालत खराब है। आज जब इस देश में शांति और सुरक्षा है, तो निवेश आ रहा है और यही कारण है कि हम तीसरी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने जा रहे हैं।

महोदय, अब मैं अपने स्टेट की बात करता हूँ। वहाँ 2017 के पहले 10 साल विरोधियों की सरकारें रहीं। वहाँ यह हालत थी कि लूटमार और अपहरण होते थे, रोज दंगे होते थे। वहाँ हालत यह थी कि निवेश नहीं आता था। वहाँ के मुख्यमंत्री दिल्ली और मुम्बई में सम्मेलन करते थे। अभी पिछले साल योगी जी ने जो निवेश सम्मेलन किया, ...(समय की घंटी)... महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश में 36 लाख करोड़ रुपए का निवेश आया और उसका कारण है वहाँ की कानून-व्यवस्था। महोदय, इसलिए मुझे नटशेल में कहना है कि चूँकि देश की कानून-व्यवस्था का इससे संबंध है, इसलिए विदेश के लोग आकर्षित होते हैं और इसीलिए जो हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था है, वह दिन दुनी रात चौगुनी बढ़ती जा रही है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the economic situation in the country. One thing that fits this Government is - 'Do work for a teaspoonful, talk for a gallon'. In the Modi Government development model, which has been told by many people, the poor is forced to eat less while the rich makes merry. That is the situation in the last ten years of administration. In 2023, the Indian economy is facing high inflation and income inequality. High inflation is not the product of market forces alone, but the governmental interventions that prioritize one section over the other section. While the reduction, particularly, the LPG price reduction is a drop in the ocean, it does not provide any example; but lakhs of people and their families are still suffering persistently. High inflation has been a constant alongside high unemployment and tepid growth.

I will just give some figures of the UPA Government and this Government for the last ten years. The major difference between the UPA Government and this Government is the net foreign direct investment. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... It is the difference between the investments made in foreign entities in India and investments made by Indian entities in the foreign countries. During 2003-04 and 2013-14, it was 1087.46 per cent. After the percentage of change during Modi ji's Government, that is, 2013-14 to 2022-23, it is 426.2 per cent, whereas the Gross Domestic Product which

is the final goods and services produced in the year by a country was 302.3 per cent during UPA Government and now it is 142.5 per cent. You can see the difference. In real Gross Domestic Product, which is very important, the total value of the final goods and services produced within the country in a year adjusted for inflation...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Hanumanthaiahji, please conclude.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Sir, I have just started.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Your time is up. Three minutes have been given to you.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: I was told that I will be given ten minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Three minutes were given to you.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Three minutes! I would not have taken it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Kindly conclude.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Then there is no point in continuing. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Next speaker is Shri Sakaldeep Rajbhar. Please conclude, Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Sir, I want to give more points and conclude. There are two important things which I wanted to tell. The rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer is the major characteristic of this economy which is now running in the country. That is because 5 per cent Indians now own 60 per cent of the country's wealth and whereas the bottom 50 per cent of Indians own only 3 per cent of the wealth. That is a very, very important issue. The absolute number of poor in India has risen by 76 million. From 217 million in 2012-13, it is 283 million in 2019-20 in rural areas and from 53 million, risen to 63 million in urban areas. This is a very important factor that whenever we talk about rich and poor, this is the statistics. Sir, I just want to bring it to your notice, the bank loan write-off. Banks have written off loans worth Rs.14.56 lakh crore since 2014-15. In the last financial year alone, Rs.2.09 lakh crore

were written off. But, when the questions were asked in the Parliament, the answers were different. Now, I know the Finance Minister may say that the loans have been written off, and there are procedures in recovering such loans, and write-off is not the same as waive off. That is what the answer we got. But, when we look at the data, we can see devil in the details. Out of these total loans waived-off, 14 per cent have been recovered.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Please conclude.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: This is not my data or anybody's data, this is the Government's data. The Standing Committee of Finance has given this data. Rs.1.03 lakh crore were recovered from Rs.7.35 lakh crore. Then, what is the amount?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Thank you Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah. Now, Shri Sakaldeep Rajbhar.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Sir, I just put it before you...\*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Dr. L. Hanumanthaiahji, it is not going on record.

**श्री सकलदीप राजभर** (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे भारत की आर्थिक नीति पर बोलने का जो अवसर दिया है, इसके लिए मैं आपका दिल से आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

माननीय महोदय, देश आज के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में भारत आर्थिक क्षेत्र में दिन दूना रात चौगुना प्रगति के पथ पर अग्रसर है। वर्ष 2025 तक भारत 5 ट्रिलियन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर लेगा। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के कुशल नेतृत्व और बढ़ते आर्थिक स्रोत का यह परिणाम है कि आज भारत में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का जाल बिछ गया है। इसके लिए मैं इस विभाग के माननीय मंत्री श्री गडकरी जी को भी दिल से बधाई देता हूँ। रेलवे के क्षेत्र में हम प्रगति की ओर अग्रसर हैं। 2 साल के अन्दर पूरे देश में बुलेट ट्रेनें चलने लगेंगी। सभी प्रदेशों में 'एम्स' खुलते जा रहे हैं और हम स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में बहुत आगे बढ़ चुके हैं। देश में नये IIMs और इंजीनियरिंग के लिए IITs खुल रहे हैं। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उच्च शिक्षा का प्रावधान है। पूरे देश में हर घर में बिजली, हर घर में नल से जल, गैस सिलिंडर, आवास, शौचालय, पेंशन आदि सारी चीजें गरीबों को दी जा रही हैं। यह सब प्रगति आर्थिक नीति के कुशल हाथों में होने के कारण है।

आज हमारे देश का GDP growth rate दुनिया के तमाम मुल्कों से आगे है, यह 8.2 प्रतिशत पर है। कृषि के क्षेत्र में भी किसानों की आय बढ़ी है और हमारा देश अन्न के मामले में

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\* Not recorded.

आत्मनिर्भर है। पिछले दिनों, 2020-21 में, कोरोना काल में हमारे देश का आर्थिक विकास थोड़ा धीमा हुआ था, लेकिन माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के कुशल नेतृत्व में हम प्रगति कर रहे हैं। आज हमारा आर्थिक विकास दुनिया के तमाम मुल्कों से भी आगे चल रहा है। भारतीय वित्त बाजार में विदेशी संस्थाओं को अनुमति दी गई है। विदेशी व्यापार को बढ़ाया गया है। आयात-निर्यात में छूट दी गई है। इसके अलावा विस्तारीकरण नीति के तहत कृषि सुधार और श्रम सुधारों पर भी विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में हम काफी मजबूत स्थिति में हैं। विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में हम चंद्रयान से दक्षिणी ध्रुव तक पहुंच चुके हैं। इस क्षेत्र में हमारा देश पहले स्थान पर है। भारत में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वालों की संख्या 45 प्रतिशत से घटकर 22 प्रतिशत पर पहुंच गई है। **...(व्यवधान)...** जल्द ही पूरी आबादी खुशहाली की लाइन में खड़ी दिखेगी। अर्थव्यवस्था में संपूर्ण सुधार के लिए हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी कृतसंकल्प हैं और देश की जनता को माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की गारंटी पर पूर्ण विश्वास है। देश की जनता भारी बहुमत से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की पुनः ताजपोशी के लिए तैयार खड़ी है, इसलिए मैं अपनी और अपने देश की जनता की तरफ से यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री जी को कोटि-कोटि बधाई देता हूँ, जय हिन्द, जय भारत।

SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE (Goa): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important topic, 'economic situation in the country'.

I stand to appreciate and acknowledge the dynamic strides our Bharat has made in terms of the current economic outlook. I also take this opportunity to congratulate our beloved Prime Minister, Modi ji and hon. Member of this House, Shri J. P. Nadda, for gaining a decisive mandate in the Northern India.

The thumping victory in some of India's largest States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is not only an appreciative stamp on Modi ji's Guarantee of all inclusive social and massive infrastructure sector development in those States, but, it also reflects the trust the common people have placed on India's growing economic outlook, thanks to the dynamic leadership of Modi ji and the more particular efforts made by the hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman and the hon. Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal.

Sir, as we celebrate Bharat's changing face and image, I am more thrilled at what is in store for all of us concerning digitisation, exports, industrial growth and the economic outlook. Modi ji's dream to transform India into a digital economy has got good results.

As India aims at a 10 trillion dollar economy by the early next decade; this growth will be propelled by digitisation and revolutionising every segment of the economy. The digital revolution will contribute 20 per cent of GDP over the next four years and the digital economy will play a pivotal role in narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas.

Similar has been the success of Modi's ambitious StartUp India Mission. StartUps, innovations and institutional research have received a big boost in the changing Bharat. With tech StartUps taking the lead, Bharat has the third-largest StartUp ecosystem, creating close to a million jobs since 2017. The total number of tech StartUps in Bharat is estimated to grow almost three times from 68,000 in 2023 to 1,80,000 in 2030. Thanks to my party and my senior leaders in the Government, Bharat now has a thriving IT industry that is a major contributor to the country's GDP, employment and exports.

It also excites me to state that Bharat's investment inflation ratio is at its lowest, making it easy to expand and diversify the businesses and the GDP growth is above expectations.

I would like to remind the august House that Bharat's GDP growth has far exceeded the negative outlook projected by textbook economists like Raghuram Rajan sitting in the air-conditioned chambers. Bharat's economy is poised to grow at over 6 per cent in financial year 2024 ranking among the world's fastest-growing economy, much higher than China. This may be a piece of bad news for China lovers in Indian politics.

Bharat's GDP is expected to grow at 6.4 per cent to 6.8 per cent this fiscal year accelerating to 7 per cent by 2026. In contrast, China's economic growth is projected to slow to 4.6 per cent by 2026. I welcome the recent report by Global Credit Outlook-2024, 'New Risks, New Playbook' documented by S&P, the Global ratings that Bharat is set to become the third largest economy by 2030 and is expected to be the fastest growing major economy in the next three years. Currently Bharat's population has one of the best ratios between its working age population and its number of children and elderly. With all the right indicators at our right, Bharat is now becoming a gateway for setting up global manufacturing capacity, continuing to grow services and industry alongside the growth of infrastructure. Thanks to the resilient quality of the Indian industry under the leadership of global leaders like Modi for doing all that is required and all that is good for the industry and the economy. I am certain that the momentum for growth will further grow with the historical blessings in the form of popular vote for Modi and our glorious regime since 2014 and the years 2024 beyond. Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** श्री अजय प्रताप सिंह।

**श्री अजय प्रताप सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश):** सर, मेरा टाइम कितना है?

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** तीन मिनट।

**श्री अजय प्रताप सिंह:** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति के संदर्भ में चर्चा चल रही है। तीन मिनट का समय बहुत कम है। तीन मिनट के समय में विषय के साथ न्याय करना बड़ा कठिन काम है, लेकिन फिर भी मैं प्रयास करूंगा।

भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति को प्रतिबिंबित करते हुए इस सदन के हमारे अनेक साथियों ने पक्ष और विपक्ष में आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किए हैं। इस पक्ष से आंकड़े प्रस्तुत करके बताया गया कि आर्थिक स्थिति बेहतर हुई है, उस पक्ष से आंकड़े प्रस्तुत करके बताया गया कि आर्थिक स्थिति बिगड़ी है। हमारे वरिष्ठ साथी, राम गोपाल जी आज सदन में नहीं हैं, उन्होंने कहा कि इन आंकड़ों का बहुत भरोसा नहीं करना चाहिए। मैं भी उनकी राय का हूँ और इन आंकड़ों का बहुत भरोसा नहीं करता, तो फिर हम भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति का सही-सही अनुमान कैसे लगाएँ? मेरा उत्तर है कि भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति का सही-सही अनुमान लगाने के लिए और किसी से न पूछें, चलिए कलावती से पूछ लेते हैं। कलावती कौन है? कलावती वह महिला है जो उत्तर प्रदेश में रहती थी। कलावती के घर में कांग्रेस के तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष गए थे। कलावती की खाट पर बैठकर उन्होंने भोजन किया था। कलावती की झोपड़ी में वे घंटे, दो घंटे रुके थे। कलावती के माध्यम से उन्होंने भारत की गरीबी को जानने का प्रयास किया था, भारत की भूख को जानने का प्रयास किया था, गरीबों की जो आवश्यकताएँ हैं, उनको जानने का प्रयास किया था। उसके बाद, पूरे देश के गरीबों में एक आशा जागृत हुई थी कि कांग्रेस पार्टी, जो कि सत्तारूढ़ दल है, उसके राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष गरीब की झोपड़ी में पहुँच रहे हैं, गरीब को जानने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, गरीब की आवश्यकताओं को पहचानने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, निश्चित रूप से गरीबों के जीवन में परिवर्तन कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार के द्वारा आया है। लेकिन, उस झोपड़ी से उनके जाने के पश्चात् कलावती भी निराश हुई और भारत का गरीब भी निराश हुआ। कलावती के जीवन में तब रोशनी आई, भारत के गरीबों के जीवन में तब रोशनी आई, जब सन् 2014 के पश्चात् इस देश की बागडोर आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने संभाली। कलावती जी को पक्का मकान दिया तो आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने दिया। कलावती के घर में अगर उज्ज्वला गैस आई तो नरेन्द्र मोदी की सरकार के कार्यकाल में आई। कलावती की झोपड़ी में अगर बिजली आई तो नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार के कार्यकाल में आई। कलावती को अगर पानी पीने की व्यवस्था उपलब्ध हुई तो नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के जमाने में उपलब्ध हुई। यानी कि कलावती के जीवन में जो परिवर्तन आया, जिसको हम सुख कहते हैं, जिसको हम समृद्धि का आधार कहते हैं, जिसको हम प्रगति का मानक मानते हैं, अगर वह कलावती को प्राप्त हुआ है तो नरेन्द्र मोदी के कार्यकाल में प्राप्त हुआ है। इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि अगर भारत की आर्थिक समृद्धि का आकलन करना है तो कलावती से पूछ लीजिए। कलावती आज इस विषय पर सबसे उपयुक्त और सबसे सही जज है, जो भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति को प्रतिबिम्बित करती है।

इस सदन के हमारे एक साथी हैं, जिन्होंने कहा कि 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज दिया जा रहा है। एक तरफ मुफ्त अनाज दिया जा रहा है और दूसरी तरफ आप कह रहे हैं कि भारत की आर्थिक प्रगति हो रही है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक मिनट और समय लूंगा। यह जो 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज दिया जा रहा है तो यह उन लोगों पर कृपा नहीं की जा रही है।

### 3.00 P.M.

हमें याद रखना चाहिए कि भारत एक लोककल्याणकारी राज्य है और लोककल्याणकारी राज्य होने के कारण हमारी यह ज़िम्मेदारी बनती है कि सरकार के जो भी वित्तीय उत्पाद हैं, उनका समान रूप से वितरण हो और समान रूप से वितरण करने के लिए 80 करोड़ लोगों को जो मुफ्त अनाज दिया जा रहा है, तो यह उसका एक माध्यम है। हमने गरीबों को पक्का मकान दिया है, बिजली दी है, गरीबों के लिए पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था की है, गरीबों को पक्की सड़क दी है, उन्हें नेशनल हाईवे दिया है। अगर हमने गरीबों का जीवन आसान बनाने के लिए सारी सुख-सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करायी हैं, तो ये सब एक लोककल्याणकारी राज्य के कारण किया है। इसके माध्यम से भारत के जीवन में परिवर्तन आया है, भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार आया है। आज ही हम लोग चर्चा कर रहे थे कि इस दीपावली पर भारत में साढ़े चार लाख करोड़ रुपये का व्यापार हुआ है और यह आंतरिक व्यापार पहली बार दीपावली पर साढ़े चार लाख करोड़ रुपये का हुआ है, यह इसलिए हुआ, क्योंकि भारत के जीवन में समृद्धि आयी है, भारतवासियों की जेब में पैसा आया है, इसलिए वे बाज़ार जा सके, इसलिए वे अपने बच्चों की अभिलाषा पूरी कर सके, इसलिए वे दीपावली पूजन अच्छी तरह से कर सके, इसलिए वे मिठाई, पटाखे और दीये ला सके। मैंने जो कलावती के माध्यम से, दीपावली के माध्यम से, खाद्यान योजना के माध्यम से बताया है, अगर आपको यह दिखाई देता है, तो निश्चित रूप से आपको इसे स्वीकार करना पड़ेगा कि भारत की स्थिति अच्छी हुई है, बेहतर हुई है, भारत का भविष्य उज्ज्वल है और नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में भारत ठीक रास्ते पर आगे बढ़ रहा है। इतना निवेदन करते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

**ले .जनरल (डा.) डी .पी. वत्स (रिटा.) (हरियाणा) :** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, धन्यवाद। आपको देखकर तो मैं ऐसा महसूस करता हूँ कि हरियाणा की ही बात कर लूँ। महोदय, मैं यहां दो दिन से सुन रहा हूँ। अगर अपोजिशन बेंचेज की सुनें तो ऐसा लगता है कि स्थिति कुछ अलग है, लेकिन अगर इंटरनेशनल एजेंसीज, ट्रेजरी बेंचेज को सुनें और एक्चुअल देखें तो हिन्दुस्तान मोदी जी की कयादत में इतना बड़ा एक गढ़ा पार करके, यानी कोविड पार करके आगे बढ़ा है। अब दुनिया में दो जगह जंग चली हुई है, ऐसे हालात में भी भारत सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ती हुई इकोनॉमी है। यह भी एक फ़ख्र की बात है, but I will speak from a soldier's angle. भारत पहले भी सोने की चिड़िया रहा था, सोमनाथ सोने की चिड़िया था, मगर लुटेरा गजनी उसे लूटकर चला गया। उससे पहले भी हिन्दुस्तान पर हमले होते रहे, क्योंकि हमारा डिफेंस मज़बूत नहीं था और साइंटिफिक नहीं था। मैं डिफेंस की बात ज़रूर करूंगा। हिन्दुस्तान सोने की चिड़िया, जगतगुरु की तरफ जो पेश-कदमी कर रहा है, उसमें हम मोदी जी के सुरक्षित हाथों में कितने महफूज़ हैं। वर्ष 2013 में डिफेंस बजट ढाई लाख करोड़ रुपये था, आज के दिन डिफेंस बजट 6 लाख करोड़ रुपये है। इतना ही नहीं, आज हम एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर बनाते हैं, चांद के दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर चंद्रयान को भी लैंड कराते हैं, जो एक बहुत बड़ी अचीवमेंट है। हम Agni-V भी बनाते हैं, जिसकी रेंज में पूरा संसार आ जाता है और मोदी जी तो Light Combat Aircraft में बैठकर, he was looking as fit as a fighter pilot. यह भी बड़े फ़ख्र की बात है। मैं यह ज़रूर कहना चाहूंगा - वैसे तो माननीय गृह मंत्री

जी ने कल लोक सभा में बताया था कि दो बहुत बड़ी गलतियां हुईं। इतिहास के पन्नों ने कुछ ऐसे भी दौर देखे हैं, 'लम्हों ने खता की, सदियों ने सज़ा पायी'। दो गलतियों में एक तो कश्मीर पूरा नहीं छुड़वाया और यू.एन. में सीज़ फायर के लिए चले गए। इस पर काफी डिक्सेशन हुआ, मगर मैं कहता हूं कि चार गलतियां हुईं, Nehruvian legacies to this country. यानी partition of the country for the personal ambition of Jinnah and Nehru. देश का vivisection हुआ। यानी 30 लाख मारे गए, करोड़ों माइग्रेट हुए। फिर उस वक्त के तत्कालीन माननीय राष्ट्रपति राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी के रोकने के बाद भी हिन्दी-चीनी भाई-भाई एंड smitten by socialism से उन्होंने बगैर कोई बाउंड्री धारण किए तिब्बत को चीन का हिस्सा मान लिया। ऐसी स्थिति आ गई कि आज के दिन ये स्वरूप युद्ध चेंज कर गया और हिंदुस्तान जब से आज़ाद हुआ है, so-called *azadi* was, in fact, begun with *barbadi*. इसलिए हम 14 अगस्त को विभाजन विभीषिका स्मृति दिवस (पाकिस्तान डे) मनाते हैं। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... उसके बाद हिंदुस्तान पूरी तरह से युद्धरत है और युद्ध अपना स्वरूप चेंज कर गया है। ऐसे हालात में हमारी aggressive defence, यानी अब हम दुश्मन के सिर पर चढ़ कर बात करते हैं। एक दफा रक्षा मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि चीन बॉर्डर पर हम सड़कें, सुरंगें, टनल इसलिए विकसित नहीं करते हैं, क्योंकि चाइनीज़ के आने के लिए आसान रास्ता हो जाएगा। आज हमारा सिपाही उनके सिर पर ओवरलुक करता है और बड़ी superiority के साथ हम dominate करते हैं। इसी तरह से एक बहुत लंबी लिस्ट है, लेकिन आपने घंटी बजा दी। मैं सोल्जर हूं, मैं डॉक्टर हूं, तो थोड़ी-सी डॉक्टरी की बात भी कर लूं कि हम सबसे बड़े exporter of pharmaceuticals हैं, हमने 2.5 billion को वैक्सिनेशन दिया और हम वैक्सिनेशन के बहुत बड़े exporter हैं। ऐसा लगता है कि तक्षशिला, नालंदा का इतिहास लौट कर आएगा और भारत की गौरव गाथा को नरेन्द्र मोदी दोहराएगा, यह हिंदुस्तान दोहराएगा। जय हरियाणा, जय हिन्द।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** डा. अशोक बाजपेयी जी।

**डा. अशोक बाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे देश की आर्थिक स्थिति के संबंध में चर्चा करने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका हार्दिक धन्यवाद करता हूं। महोदय, देश की आज़ादी के बाद 2014 से 2023 तक का अगर यह दशक देखा जाए, तो मैं समझता हूं कि आर्थिक दृष्टि से, सामारिक दृष्टि से, हर दृष्टि से यह दशक भारतवर्ष का एक स्वर्णिम काल माना जाएगा। इन दस वर्षों में, इन साढ़े नौ वर्षों में देश ने हर क्षेत्र में प्रगति की है। अगर आप चाहे आर्थिक दृष्टि से देखें, सामरिक दृष्टि से देखें, सामाजिक दृष्टि से देखें, तो हर क्षेत्र में यह देश आगे बढ़ा है। इस बात को कोई भी झुठला नहीं सकता है। हमारे विपक्ष के बैठे मित्रों ने भले ही यहां पर तमाम आंकड़े प्रस्तुत करने का प्रयास किया हो, लेकिन उनकी अंतर आत्मा भी इस बात को समझती है कि इन दस वर्षों में जिस तेजी के साथ देश हर क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ा है, वह अकल्पनीय है। इन लोगों ने कभी इसकी कल्पना भी नहीं की होगी कि देश इतनी तेजी के साथ प्रगति कर सकता है। इन दस वर्षों में देश ने कोरोना जैसी महामारी को भी झेला है, दो-दो देशों के बीच बड़े युद्ध हो रहे हैं और उनके चलते सारी दुनिया के विकसित देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था भी घुटनों पर आ गई, लेकिन उसके बाद भी यह देश निरंतर आगे बढ़ रहा है। सामाजिक सेवाओं के क्षेत्र में भी समाज के प्रति सरकार का जो दायित्व है, उसका भी जिस तेजी के साथ निर्वहन किया

जा रहा है, इन तमाम सारी चुनौतियों के बाद भी देश आगे बढ़ रहा है। देश अपने सामाजिक दायित्व का भी निर्वहन कर रहा है, इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि यह जो दशक है, यह स्वर्णिम काल होगा और देश की आर्थिक दृष्टि से, सामरिक दृष्टि से और विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रगति की दृष्टि से ये दस वर्ष बहुत ही मूल्यवान होंगे। मान्यवर, आप देखें कि जिस तरीके से हमारे देश के यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी ने स्वावलंबन का नारा दिया, तो आज हर क्षेत्र में, यहां तक विदेशों से जो खिलौने आयात हुआ करते थे, चीन से करोड़ों रुपये के खिलौने आते थे, लेकिन आज देश में खिलौना उद्योग भी बहुत तेजी के साथ बढ़ा है। दीपावली में विदेशों से आने वाली तमाम झालर, बिजली की रोशनी या जो करोड़ों रुपये के इलैक्ट्रिक सामान आयात करते थे, अब मोदी जी के आह्वान पर देश ने स्वयं उन सारी चीजों का निर्माण करना प्रारंभ कर दिया है। जिससे हम सभी क्षेत्रों में धीरे-धीरे स्वावलंबन की ओर बढ़े हैं। मान्यवर, आप देखें कि 1 लाख करोड़ से ज्यादा रक्षा उत्पाद जिनको हम दूसरे देशों से आयात करते थे, उन रक्षा उत्पादों को हमने देश के अंदर indigenously बनाने का काम किया। आज इतना ही नहीं, हवाई जहाज से लेकर प्रचंड जैसे हेलिकॉप्टर को भी हमारा एचएएल बनाने का काम कर रहा है। आप देखें कि आज देश औद्योगिक दृष्टि से कितनी तेजी के साथ प्रगति कर रहा है। हमारे तेजस विमान का लोहा आज सारी दुनिया मान रही है। हमने तेजस विमान और प्रचंड जैसे हेलिकॉप्टर बनाकर दुनिया को यह दिखाने का काम किया है कि भारत हर क्षेत्र में सक्षम है। हमने चंद्रयान पर सफलता के साथ लैंड किया और उसके बाद आज यह सारी दुनिया के सामने है कि हमने हर क्षेत्र में अपनी प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाने का काम किया है। 80 करोड़ लोगों को निशुल्क राशन देने का काम भी किया है। यह कोई छोटा दायित्व नहीं था। कोरोना जैसी महामारी में तमाम गरीबों के रोजगार चले गए थे, जो मजदूरी करते थे, उनके रोजगार चले गए थे, लोगों के सामने खाद्यान्न का संकट था। ऐसे में हमारी सरकार ने, हमारे यशस्वी नेता माननीय मोदी जी ने कहा कि हम देश के उन गरीबों को, 80 करोड़ लोगों को निशुल्क राशन देने का काम करेंगे। जब से, 2020 से यह प्रक्रिया शुरू हुई है और वर्ष 2028 तक के लिए इसे सुनिश्चित कर दिया गया कि हम गरीबों को निशुल्क राशन उपलब्ध कराने का काम करेंगे। इससे 80 करोड़ लोग लाभान्वित होंगे।

मान्यवर, जब गरीब बीमार हो जाता था, तो उसका इलाज नहीं हो पाता था, क्योंकि उसके पास पैसा नहीं होता था। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 'आयुष्मान भारत योजना' चलाकर हर गरीब के लिए पांच लाख तक के निशुल्क इलाज की व्यवस्था कर दी है और इससे गरीबों के जीवन में भी रोशनी आई है। गंभीर बीमारी चाहे वह हृदय रोग की हो, किडनी की हो या कोई और गंभीर बीमारी हो, जिनका इलाज गरीब आदमी नहीं करा पाता था। आज सभी अस्पतालों में उनके लिए 'आयुष्मान भारत योजना' के अंतर्गत इलाज की व्यवस्था की गई है।

मान्यवर, हम स्वच्छता की बात करते थे, लेकिन जब से प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी ने स्वच्छता का नारा दिया, तब से देश में एक नई क्रांति आई है। आज अगर आप सामाजिक जीवन में भी देखें कि स्वच्छता का कितना बड़ा महत्व है और कितनी तेजी के साथ देश ने उसे अंगीकार करने का काम किया है। 12 करोड़ से ज्यादा स्वच्छ शौचालय बनाकर हमारी महिलाओं की इज्जत और उनके सम्मान को बढ़ाने का काम किया है, इज्जत घर का रूप देने का काम किया है। 'प्रधान मंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना' के माध्यम से 8 करोड़ से ज्यादा महिलाओं को निशुल्क उज्ज्वला गैस

कनेक्शन दिए गए हैं। पहले वे धुंए में खाना बनाती थीं, गीली लकड़ी से खाना बनाती थीं, ऐसा करके उन्होंने उनके जीवन में परिवर्तन लाने का काम किया है।

मान्यवर, करोड़ों की संख्या में प्रधान मंत्री आवास बनाकर, गरीब को भी पक्की छत देने का काम किया गया है। जेनेरिक दवाओं के माध्यम से दवाओं की कीमत इतने बड़े पैमाने पर कम की गई है कि जो दवाएं बाजार में 100 रुपये में मिला करती थीं, अब वे दवाएं जेनेरिक स्टोर्स में 10-15 रुपये में मिलती हैं। हजारों की संख्या में जेनेरिक स्टोर्स बनाकर गरीबों को भी अच्छी दवाएं उपलब्ध कराने का काम हमारी सरकार ने किया है।

मान्यवर, कृषि के क्षेत्र में अगर आप देखें, तो 'किसान सम्मान निधि' के माध्यम से देश के करोड़ों किसानों को निरंतर सम्मान राशि देने का काम किया गया है। इतना ही नहीं चाहे यूरिया हो, DAP हो, NPK हो, अन्य खाद हो, fertilizers हों, सभी के ऊपर एक बड़ी छूट देने का काम हमारी सरकार ने किया है और यहां तक कि 20 प्रतिशत ही उनसे लिया जाता है और 80 परसेंट सरकार सब्सिडी देती है, जिससे किसान के ऊपर कोई अतिरिक्त भार भी नहीं पड़ता है।

मान्यवर, हमारी सरकार ने पूरे देश में हर घर नल से जल पहुंचाने का काम किया और उसके बाद आज हमारे विपक्ष के लोग आर्थिक स्थिति पर चर्चा करने की बात करते हैं। आप जिधर दृष्टि डालें, उधर आपको इन साढ़े नौ वर्षों में विकास ही विकास दिखाई देगा। चाहे नेशनल हाईवेज का निर्माण हो - जहां इनके समय में 8-10 किलोमीटर नेशनल हाईवे बनता था, वहीं आज 40 किलोमीटर प्रति दिन से ज्यादा हाईवेज का निर्माण हो रहा है। अब बहुत तेजी के साथ हाईवेज का निर्माण हो रहा है। रेलवे के क्षेत्र में देखें, तो एक नई क्रांति आई है। सारे देश के रेलवे स्टेशनों का उन्नयन हो रहा है, उनका नवीनीकरण हो रहा है और नई-नई ट्रेन्स आ रही हैं। कहीं वंदे भारत ट्रेन आ रही है, कहीं रैपिड रेल आ रही है, कहीं पर बुलेट ट्रेन आ रही है और शहरों के अंदर के लिए मेट्रो ट्रेन आ रही है। क्या आपको यह क्रांति दिखाई नहीं देती है? क्या बिना आर्थिक समृद्धि के यह क्रांति आ सकती थी? आप स्वयं अपने दिल पर हाथ रखकर देखें कि इन नौ वर्षों के अंदर जितनी देश ने तरक्की की है, वह कोई सामान्य तरक्की नहीं है और यह तभी संभव थी जब हम आर्थिक दृष्टि से समृद्ध होते। आज दुनिया के जो भी हमारे पैरामीटर्स हैं, उन सबने इस बात को माना है कि भारत बहुत तेजी के साथ बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था है। आज दुनिया में भारत पांचवीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है और आने वाले पांच वर्षों में हम दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन जाएंगे। ऐसा हम सबको विश्वास है। हमारे पास ऐसा नेतृत्व है, जो आज केवल देश को ही नहीं, बल्कि सारी दुनिया को दिशा देने का काम कर रहा है। मान्यवर, यदि आप विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में देखेंगे तो पाएंगे की हमारा विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार किस तेजी के साथ बढ़ा है। इन विपरीत परिस्थितियों में भी, जब सारी दुनिया में आर्थिक मंदी छाई हुई है, उसके बाद भी हमने देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को कहीं भी डगमगाने नहीं दिया है। यह हमारे देश के कुशल नेतृत्व का ही प्रभाव है जिसके चलते हम विकास के इन तमाम कार्यों को कर सके हैं।

मान्यवर, आप स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में देखिए। यहाँ नये-नये आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान खुल रहे हैं। आज देश में एक-एक राज्य में दो-दो आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान बन रहे हैं। हर जिले में मेडिकल कॉलेज बनाए जा रहे हैं। आयुष के क्षेत्र में भी बड़ी तेजी के साथ प्रगति हो रही है। इस सरकार में स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में जन मानस को जितनी सुविधाएँ देने का काम हुआ है, वह अपने आप में भी एक उदाहरण है। मान्यवर, आप देखेंगे कि इतने मेडिकल कॉलेज कभी नहीं बने थे। जब तक मेडिकल

कॉलेज नहीं होंगे, हमारे पास डॉक्टर नहीं होंगे, तो कैसे काम चलेगा? हमें 140 करोड़ की आबादी के स्वास्थ्य के लिए योग्य चिकित्सक चाहिए होंगे और उन योग्य चिकित्सकों को बनाने के लिए मोदी सरकार में यह लक्ष्य रखा गया है कि हर जिले में एक मेडिकल कॉलेज होगा, हमारे बच्चे वहाँ से पढ़कर निकलेंगे और लोगों के स्वास्थ्य की चिंता करने का काम करेंगे। ...(समय की घंटी)...

महोदय, इतना ही नहीं, शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आप यह भी देखिए कि आज नए-नए विश्वविद्यालयों, महाविद्यालयों का निर्माण हो रहा है। सरकार ने नई शिक्षा नीति लाकर देश को एक नई दिशा देने का काम किया है।

महोदय, मातृभाषा को लेकर भी सरकार ने जो प्राथमिकता दर्शाने का काम किया है, वह प्रशंसनीय है। भारतीय भाषाओं में शिक्षा हो, हमारी सरकार ने आज़ादी के बाद पहली बार इसको प्राथमिकता देने का काम किया है।

मान्यवर, इतना ही नहीं, यदि आज आप एयरपोर्ट्स देखेंगे, तो पाएंगे कि 70 से ज्यादा नए एयरपोर्ट्स बनकर तैयार हुए हैं। 'उड़ान योजना' के अंतर्गत सामान्य जन भी हवाई यात्रा करने में सक्षम हो सका है। यह देश की आर्थिक समृद्धि के बिना संभव नहीं हो सकता था। मान्यवर, आप दुनिया में देखेंगे कि किसी भी देश की संप्रभुता को अक्षुण्ण रखने के लिए सामरिक मजबूती बहुत आवश्यक है। जैसा कि अभी जनरल वत्स जी कर रहे थे, हमने सामरिक दृष्टि से भी देश को समृद्ध बनाने का काम किया गया है। हमारी सेना के आयुध भंडारों में कोई कमी न हो, हमारी सेना हर तरह से सक्षम हो, ताकि हम हर चुनौती का मुकाबला कर सके, इसके लिए आज हमारे आयुध भंडार उन तमाम उपकरणों से भरे पड़े हैं, जिससे हम दुनिया की बड़ी से बड़ी ताकत का मुकाबला कर सकें। मैंने कहा कि आज़ादी के ये साढ़े नौ वर्ष माननीय मोदी जी के स्वर्णिम काल के रूप में देखे जाएंगे। इन सालों में देश ने हर क्षेत्र में प्रगति की है और जिस तरह से देश आर्थिक दृष्टि से समृद्ध हुआ है, वह किसी से छिपा नहीं है। सारी दुनिया इस बात को जानती है कि हमारे विपक्ष के मित्र केवल अपनी झेंप मिटाने के लिए अनर्गल आंकड़े इकट्ठा करने और पेश करने का काम कर रहे हैं। मान्यवर, इसका सबसे बड़ा पैमाना देश की 140 करोड़ जनता है, क्योंकि जब भी जनादेश देना होता है, वह हमारी सरकार के पक्ष में आता है, क्योंकि जनता को विश्वास है कि माननीय मोदी जी के हाथों में देश सुरक्षित है, देश तेजी के साथ प्रगति कर रहा है। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण है कि अभी जो तीन राज्यों के चुनाव हुए हैं, उनमें भारतीय जनता पार्टी अखंड जीती है। यह माननीय मोदी जी और इस सरकार के प्रति जनता का विश्वास ही है जो हमारे प्रयासों से संतुष्ट है, क्योंकि हमारी सरकार 'सबका साथ-सबका विकास-सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास' के नारे के साथ आगे बढ़ रही है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** श्री रामचंद्र जांगड़ा, आप अपना भाषण आरंभ कीजिए।

**श्री रामचंद्र जांगड़ा (हरियाणा) :** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति पर बोलने का अवसर दिया है। इस विषय पर परसों से चर्चा हो रही है। भारत वास्तव में सोने की चिड़िया था और आज भी सोने की चिड़िया बनने के रास्ते पर अग्रसर है। इस देश में बाबर से पहले जितने भी हमलावर आए, वे भारत से लाखों मन सोना,

चांदी, हीरे, जवाहरात आदि लूटकर ले गए, लेकिन यह देश फिर भी सोने की चिड़िया बना रहा। अंग्रेजों ने न केवल देश की संपत्ति को लूटा, बल्कि देश की संपत्ति के साधनों को भी लूटा। अगर उसकी वास्तविक तस्वीर देखनी है, तो कोई भी भाई प्रेमचंद का साहित्य पढ़ सकता है, जिससे उसे भारत की असली स्थिति का अंदाजा लग जाएगा कि अंग्रेजों ने भारत को किस स्थिति में लाकर खड़ा कर दिया था। लेकिन सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि आजादी के बाद भारत की स्थिति क्या होनी चाहिए थी; हमारे देश के शहीदों ने - सरदार भगत सिंह ने, सुखदेव सिंह ने, शहीद अशफ़ाक़उल्ला ने, शहीद चंद्रशेखर ने, शहीद राम प्रसाद बिस्मिल ने, खुदीराम बोस ने - किसलिए गोलियाँ खाई थीं, किसलिए फाँसी का फंदा चूमा था; किस भारत की कल्पना की थी; किस भारत की तस्वीर सामने रख कर वीर सावरकर ने सेल्यूलर जेल के अंदर यातनाएँ सही थीं और किस भारत की कल्पना करते हुए सुभाष चंद्र बोस ने अपने हजारों आजाद हिंद सैनिकों के साथ प्राणों की आहुति दी थी? वह भारत कौन सा भारत होना चाहिए था, उसकी आर्थिक स्थिति क्या होनी चाहिए थी, हमारे सामने सवाल यह है ?

अभी जनरल वत्स जी युद्ध की चर्चा कर रहे थे। चीन वॉर के समय हमारे सैनिकों के पास क्या था! एक थ्री नॉट थ्री की राइफल और 50 कारतूस। इसके सिवाय उनके पास कोई एम्प्युनिशन नहीं था। रेजांगला के अंदर हमारे सैनिकों ने मेजर शैतान सिंह के नेतृत्व में जो शहादत दी, उन सैनिकों की डेड बॉडी को देख कर किसी का भी हृदय काँप सकता था कि किस स्थिति में उन्होंने वह युद्ध लड़ा था। क्या था उनके पास! न जूते थे, न कपड़े थे, न हथियार थे, कुछ नहीं था। आज भारत के पास राफेल है, आज भारत के पास तेजस विमान है, आज भारत के पास प्रचंड हेलीकॉप्टर है, आज भारत ने रक्षा उपकरणों का न केवल आयात बंद कर दिया है, बल्कि निर्यात शुरू कर दिया है। आज भारत लाखों करोड़, हजारों करोड़ का रक्षा उत्पादन करके विदेशों को निर्यात कर रहा है। आज भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति यह है!

अब सवाल यह पैदा होता है, मेरे विपक्ष के साथी कई बार चर्चा कर रहे थे कि हम 2014 के बाद की ही बात क्यों करते हैं, 2014 से पहले की बात क्यों नहीं करते। भारतीय जनता पार्टी के हमारे नेता इतने कंजूस और इतने छोटे दिल के नहीं हैं। श्रद्धेय वाजपेयी जी ने कहा था कि टूटे मन से कोई खड़ा नहीं होता और छोटे मन से कोई बड़ा नहीं होता है। श्रद्धेय प्रधान मंत्री जी कई बार नरसिम्हा राव जी की आर्थिक नीतियों की प्रशंसा कर चुके हैं, अपने शब्दों में कर चुके हैं, कोई कंजूसी नहीं बरती है। लेकिन मैं बात करता हूँ 1998 में वाजपेयी जी के आने से पहले की। मैं किसानों की बात करता हूँ। भारत के किसान को 10 हजार रुपए का कोऑपरेटिव लोन 24 परसेंट ब्याज के ऊपर मिलता था और अगर 500 रुपए की किसी किसान की किस्त टूट जाती, तो उसको तहसील के हवालात में बंद कर दिया जाता था। गुंडों के लिए, अपराधियों के लिए बंदी प्रत्यक्षीकरण कानून था। उनको 24 घंटे में बताना पड़ता था कि आपको किस अपराध में यहाँ पर बंद किया गया है, लेकिन किसान के लिए कोई कानून नहीं था। जब तक वह 500 रुपए की किस्त न भर दे, तब तक किसान को महीनों तक तहसील के हवालात में जिल्लत की जिंदगी जीते हुए रहना पड़ता था। इस अपमान से किसान का पीछा किसने छुड़वाया वाजपेयी जी की सरकार आई, श्रद्धेय राजनाथ सिंह जी कृषि मंत्री थे। किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड बना कर जो 24 परसेंट ब्याज का रेट था, उसको 7 परसेंट के ऊपर लेकर आए और किसान को तहसील के हवालात की जिल्लत की जिंदगी से मुक्ति दिलवा दी। यह किसने किया? ये याद करने की चीजें हैं। आज मोदी

जी की नीतियों की वजह से किसान को जीरो परसेंट के ऊपर लोन मिल रहा है। किसान को अगर किसी पड़ोसी की लड़की को 10 रुपए का कन्यादान देना पड़ता था, तो वह महाजन की बही में अँगूठा लगा कर आता था, वह किसान आज अगर 15 लाख रुपए का ट्रैक्टर लेने के लिए एजेंसी में जाता है, तो वह कहता है कि नगद लूँगा, बताइए डिस्काउंट कितना देना है। आज किसान की आर्थिक स्थिति यह है!

आप कल्पना करिए कि इस समय देश के अंदर हमारे घरों की स्थिति क्या है। जनरल साहब हरियाणा की चर्चा कर रहे थे, इन्होंने पूरी बात नहीं बताई। हरियाणा सरकार एक ओलंपिक मेडल विजेता को 6 करोड़ रुपए ईनाम में देती है। वह 6 करोड़ रुपए गोल्ड मेडलिस्ट को, 4.5 करोड़ रुपए सिल्वर मेडलिस्ट को और 2.5 करोड़ रुपए ब्रॉन्ज मेडलिस्ट को देती है। अगर कोई खिलाड़ी कोई मेडल नहीं जीत पाता, केवल ओलंपिक में पार्टिसिपेशन कर लेता है, तो उसको भी सरकार 25 लाख रुपए ईनाम देती है। कहाँ पर है यह! कांग्रेस के लोग मुझे बताएँ कि किस खिलाड़ी को कहाँ कब ईनाम दिया गया था।

मान्यवर, आप हरियाणा से हैं, मैं एक हरियाणवी हूँ, आप मेरे ऊपर इतनी मेहरबानी तो कर देंगे कि मैं थोड़ी सी और चर्चा तो करूँ। अभी युद्ध की चर्चा हो रही थी। सैनिकों को सम्मान किसने दिया? कारगिल वॉर से पहले इस देश के सैनिक अगर अपनी शहादत देते थे, तो उसके घर में क्या आता था? एक उसकी टोपी और एक उसकी बेल्ट। या तार आ जाता था कि आपका बेटा वहाँ पर शहीद हो गया है। वे तो उसकी डेड बॉडी का भी मुँह नहीं देख पाते थे। सम्मान के साथ सैनिकों की डेड बॉडीज़ को वहाँ पर लाया गया और तोपों की सलामी, बंदूकों की सलामी के साथ गाँव के शमशान घाट में उनका दाह संस्कार किया गया। इसके साथ ही सैनिक विधवाओं को पेट्रोल पम्प, गैस की एजेंसी - क्या कभी यह कांग्रेस को याद आया कि हमारे देश की सैनिक विधवाएँ, जिन्होंने देश के लिए अपना सब कुछ न्यौछावर कर दिया और इतनी विकट परिस्थितियों में विदेशियों से लड़ाई लड़ते हुए अपने प्राणों की आहुति दे दी, उसके बाद उनका गुजारा कैसे होगा? यह बात और किसी को याद क्यों नहीं आई? यह वाजपेयी जी के समय के बाद भाजपा शासन में ही याद क्यों आई?

अभी मैं आंकड़ों की बात नहीं करता हूँ, लेकिन कुछ बातें ऐसी हैं। आज हमारे हॉस्पिटल्स की व्यवस्था देखिए, हमारे कॉलेजेज़ की व्यवस्था देखिए, हमारे युनिवर्सिटीज़ की व्यवस्था देखिए, हमारे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में सड़कों की व्यवस्था देखिए, वन्दे भारत ट्रेन की व्यवस्था देखिए, हवाई अड्डों की व्यवस्था देखिए। हमारे देश में जितने भी दासता के चिह्न थे, इस राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र में, 1977 से पहले - यह हार्डिंग लेन है, यह जॉर्ज पंचम रोड है, यह जॉर्ज षष्ठम रोड है, यह विक्टोरिया रोड है, यह वेलिंगटन हॉस्पिटल है, यह इरविन हॉस्पिटल है। **...(समय की घंटी)...** ये दास्ता के चिह्न क्यों नहीं मिटाये गये? जब-जब कांग्रेस गयी, तब-तब दासता के चिह्न इस देश से गये हैं और जब कांग्रेस आती है, तो दासता और दासता के चिह्न भी वापस लौट कर आ जाते हैं। देश के ये हालात हमेशा रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश की आर्थिक स्थिति के ऊपर चर्चा करते हुए अगर कोई आंकड़ों की भी बात करे, तो मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि भारत एक मात्र ऐसा देश है, जो 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त भोजन देने के बाद भी पहली बार भारत ने 75,000 करोड़ से ऊपर के खाद्यान्न-उत्पाद विदेशों को निर्यात किये हैं।

आज किसान की आर्थिक स्थिति यह है, हमारे देश के सैनिकों की स्थिति यह है। हमारे देश के व्यापारी की स्थिति यह है कि उसके घर पर आकर कोई भी इंस्पेक्टर राज के लिए उसको तंग करने वाला नहीं है। अभी कल चर्चा हो रही थी। माननीया वित्त मंत्री जी बैंकों का सारा का सारा विश्लेषण दे रही थीं। वे एनपीए कहाँ पर गए? विजय माल्या, मेहुल चौकसी - इनको किन लोगों ने लोन दिया था? ये देश के जितने भी भगोड़े हमारा धन लूट कर ले गए, ये किनके राज में लेकर गए थे? यह विश्लेषण की बात है। इसीलिए मैं आर्थिक स्थिति की चर्चा करते हुए कहता हूँ कि अगर कभी कोई भी बात आयी, तो माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की नीतियों से भारत निश्चित रूप से विश्व की तीसरी आर्थिक शक्ति बनेगा, इसको कोई रोक नहीं सकता है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कार्तिकेय शर्मा) :** धन्यवाद। डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी जी।

**डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ, जो आपने मुझे आर्थिक स्थिति के ऊपर चर्चा में अवसर प्रदान किया है।

महोदय, मैं अपनी बात इससे शुरू करना चाहता हूँ कि अमेरिकी डॉलर के साथ अन्तरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार करने का युग इस वर्तमान अर्थव्यवस्था के कारण ही गया है। आज भारत 22 देशों के साथ और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात जैसे देश के साथ रुपये में आयात और निर्यात कर रहा है। अमेरिका के बैंक दिवालिया हुए, भारत का कोई भी बैंक दिवालिया नहीं हुआ, यह हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था के मजबूत होने का सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण है। अगर मैं डॉलर और रुपये के प्रेम की बात कहूँ, तो पिछली सरकारों के कार्यकाल में मैंने लैला और मजनू की एक कहावत सुनी थी। जब मजनू की पीठ पर बेंत पड़ती थी, तो लैला की पीठ पर उभरती थी। एक कहावत कही जाती थी कि जब डॉलर गिरता था, तो रुपया भी गिरता था। यह सब उस सरकार के कार्यकाल में था। आज डॉलर से रुपये का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है और डॉलर के मुकाबले रुपया बिल्कुल कहीं नहीं गिर रहा है, क्योंकि आज भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था मजबूत है। आज भारत ने व्यापार करने के लिए 18 देशों को अपने बैंक में वोस्ट्रो खाता खोलने की अनुमति दी है। रुपये से व्यापार करना ही हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति की मजबूती का एक बहुत बड़ा उदाहरण है।

मैं कुछ और तुलनात्मक बिन्दु कहना चाहता हूँ। सकल घरेलू उत्पाद यूपीए सरकार के समय 113.55 लाख करोड़ रुपये का था, मोदी सरकार के कार्यकाल में 272.04 लाख करोड़ रुपये पर पहुँच गया है। जीडीपी रैंक में यूपीए सरकार के समय भारत विश्व की 10वीं अर्थव्यवस्था थी, आज मोदी जी की सरकार के कार्यकाल में 5वीं अर्थव्यवस्था है और तीसरी अर्थव्यवस्था पर जाने का संकल्प मोदी जी की सरकार ने किया है। राष्ट्रीय प्रति व्यक्ति आय पहले 72,805 थी। 2022-23 में यह 98,374 पर पहुँच गयी है। भारत में प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश 2014-15 में 45.15 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर था और आज 2021-22 के बाद 83.6 बिलियन अमेरिकन डॉलर भारत में प्रत्यक्ष निवेश है। यूपीए सरकार में व्यापार करने की सुगमता 192वें स्थान पर थी और आज व्यापार करने की सुगमता में हिन्दुस्तान 63वें स्थान पर है।

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

अगर हम पूंजीगत व्यय-परिव्यय की चर्चा करें, तो 2013 में यूपीए की सरकार में पूंजीगत व्यय 1.88 लाख करोड़ था और 2023-24 में, मोदी सरकार में पूंजीगत व्यय बढ़कर 10.01 लाख करोड़ है, जो यूपीए सरकार से पाँच गुणा अधिक है। अगर मैं सेंसेक्स और शेयर बाजार की स्थिति की चर्चा करूँ, तो 26 मई, 2014 को सेंसेक्स 24,716.88 पर था, निफ्टी 7,250 के आंकड़े पर था। दिसंबर, 2023 में सेंसेक्स ने 69,000 का आंकड़ा छू लिया और अब निफ्टी ने 20,000 के आंकड़े को छुआ है। यूपीए सरकार में विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 304.2 बिलियन डॉलर था और मोदी सरकार में 609 बिलियन डॉलर है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट और दे दीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within 30 seconds.

**डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी :** सर, मेरे तीन प्वाइंट रह गए हैं। अगर मैं डिजिटल लेन-देन की बात करूँ, तो 2013-14 में 127 करोड़ रुपये का डिजिटल लेन-देन था और मोदी सरकार में 12,735 करोड़ रुपये का डिजिटल लेन-देन है। कुल बैंक के खातों में 2014 में वित्तीय समावेशन 17.5 करोड़ था, मोदी सरकार में यह बढ़कर 300.1 करोड़ हो गया है। 2015 में देश में मात्र 10 यूनिकॉर्न थे, अब नौ वर्षों में 111 यूनिकॉर्न्स हो गए हैं। अनुसूचित कमर्शियल बैंकों द्वारा वित्त वितरण 2013 तक 55 लाख करोड़ रुपये था, अब 141.9 लाख करोड़ रुपये है। यह है मोदी सरकार की वर्तमान मजबूत अर्थव्यवस्था का उदाहरण, धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Naresh Bansal. Nareshji, it is your maiden speech.

SHRI NARESH BANSAL (Uttarakhand): Yes, Sir

सभापति जी, मेरा तीन वर्ष का कार्यकाल इस सदन के सदस्य के रूप में पूरा हुआ और आज मुझे मेडन स्पीच देने का मौका मिला है। मैं आपका आभारी हूँ। इसमें किसी का कोई कसूर नहीं है। डेढ़ साल तो कोरोना में गया और एक साल विपक्ष के मित्रों ने सदन नहीं चलने दिया, इसलिए मेरे जैसे नए सदस्य बोल नहीं पाए।

आज आर्थिक स्थिति पर देश की चर्चा हो रही है और आज सशस्त्र सेना दिवस भी है। मैं चर्चा में भाग लेते हुए, अपने भाषण का प्रारंभ सेना को वंदन करते हुए, अभिनंदन करते हुए करना चाहता हूँ। चूँकि आर्थिक स्थिति पर चर्चा है, तो मैं सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि 70 वर्षों में देश जिन घोटालों के कारण गर्त में गया, उनमें सबसे पहला घोटाला सेना का था। मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि स्वतंत्रता के बाद पहले ही कार्यकाल में इस देश में जीप घोटाला हुआ था, जिसमें रक्षा मंत्री जी को इस्तीफा देना पड़ा था। उसके बाद अनेक घोटाले हुए। कहीं पर मूंदड़ा घोटाला हुआ। हमने वहाँ तक का भी दौर देखा है, जब नागरवाला कांड हुआ और टेलीफोन पर 60 लाख रुपये स्टेट बैंक से दे दिए गए। यह किस ने लिया, किस के खाते से दिया, यह आज तक भी पता नहीं है। इसके बाद... ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर मैंने गलत कहा है, तो मैं वापस ले लूँगा, पर जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है, कृष्ण मेनन जी ने इस्तीफा दिया था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, leave it to my discretion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Jairam Rameshji, first, you are speaking while sitting. Number two, I have not given you permission to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARESH BANSAL: Sir, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jairam Rameshji, I do not appreciate it. You are interrupting a person who is making his maiden speech.

**श्री नरेश बंसल :** अनेक घोटाले हुए और 2009 से लेकर 2014 तक 60 महीनों में 10 लाख करोड़ के 73 घोटाले हुए। अगर गिनाने लगेंगे तो बहुत गिन जाएंगे। इन 10 वर्षों में जो कुछ हुआ है, उसमें चारों तरफ का विकास दिखाई देता है। कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज दे रहे हैं। हां, दे रहे हैं, क्योंकि हम गरीब की स्थिति बदलना चाहते हैं, मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में उसको सशक्त बनाना चाहते हैं। मोदी जी ने कहा भी है कि मेरी गरीबों की सरकार है, महिलाओं का सशक्तिकरण करने वाली सरकार है, किसानों की सरकार है। आपकी सरकारों में भी आप यह कर सकते थे, लेकिन आपने नहीं किया। जो अनाज उस गरीब का हक है, उसे हम उस तक पहुंचा रहे हैं। आपने वह गरीब तक तो नहीं पहुंचाया, उसको सड़ाकर शराब के व्यापारियों को मुफ्त में देने का काम किया। हमारे जमाने में वह नहीं होता। अभी जांगड़ा जी ने भी बताया कि हमने गरीबों को, 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज देकर भी 75 हजार करोड़ का अनाज निर्यात किया है। हां, मैं इतना बताना चाहता हूं कि हमारे जमाने में जहां रोड कनेक्टिविटी, रेल कनेक्टिविटी, एयर कनेक्टिविटी, ये सब बढ़ी हैं, वहीं 38 किलोमीटर प्रतिदिन के हिसाब से नेशनल हाईवे बन रहे हैं। आज सब तरफ की दूरी कम हुई है, आने-जाने के साधन बढ़े हैं, पेट्रोल के कंजम्पशन में कमी आई है और डीजल के कंजम्पशन में भी कमी आई है। हां, इतना जरूर हुआ है कि हमारे यहां वह चमत्कारी अर्थशास्त्र नहीं आया, जिसमें 3 करोड़ रुपये की गोभी बालकनी में पैदा होती है। वह नहीं हुआ, 10 साल में कोई घोटाला भी नहीं हुआ और आलू से सोना बनाने वाली मशीन भी नहीं आई।

मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि किस प्रकार से गरीबों के लिए नीतियां बनीं। मैं उस गरीब आदमी से प्रारंभ करना चाहता हूं, जो रोज कमाता है और रोज खाता है। उसको यह पता नहीं होता कि अगर उसके साथ कोई घटना हो जाए, दुर्घटना हो जाए तो वह क्या करे? वह गरीब आदमी जो रोज कमाता है और रोज खाता है, वह सुबह जब अपने घर से निकलता है, तो उसे यह पता नहीं होता कि वह शाम को घर लौटेगा या नहीं। आपने उस आदमी के बारे में कभी नहीं सोचा। उस आदमी के बारे में पहली बार गरीब मां के बेटे नरेन्द्र मोदी ने सोचा और उसको दो लाख रुपये का बीमा सुरक्षा चक्र 12 रुपये में देने का काम किया। आपके ध्यान में वह गरीब आदमी कभी नहीं आया। वह सुबह जाए और शाम को न लौटे तो उसका परिवार चौराहे पर आ जाता था, उसकी जवान बेटी की शादी रुक जाती थी, उसके बेटे की पढ़ाई रुक जाती थी। इस दो लाख रुपये के सुरक्षा चक्र से उसकी बेटी की शादी भी होगी, उसके बेटे की पढ़ाई भी होगी, यह काम नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने किया।

इतना ही नहीं, मैंने अपने छात्र जीवन में बड़ा नारा सुना - 'गरीबी हटाओ।' 'गरीबी हटाओ' के नाम पर बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ, लेकिन गरीबी नहीं हटी। गरीब हटते चले गए, गरीबी नहीं हटी। उन गरीबों के लिए अगर किसी ने सोचा, तो प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने सोचा। जो जीवन में कभी घर नहीं बना सकते थे, ऐसे चार करोड़ लोगों को छत देने का काम प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में हुआ है। वे गरीब, जिनके लिए आपने बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया, वे आपके शासनकाल में कभी बैंक के अंदर प्रवेश नहीं कर सके। मैंने 24 साल बैंक में नौकरी की है। मैंने देखा है कि जिस समय गरीब बैंक में खाता खुलवाने आता था तो मैनेजर कहता था कि तुम्हारी शिनाख्त कौन करेगा? Who will introduce you? उस बेचारे का वेश ही उसकी शिनाख्त थी। वही मैनेजर, जिसने उसे बाहर निकाला, उसने मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में कैम्प लगा-लगा करके जन-धन के खाते खोले। उसने ही कहा- "ताऊ आओ खाता खोलो, ताई आओ खाता खोलो।" उन्होंने कहा कि हम गरीब हैं, हमारे पास पैसे नहीं हैं। तब उसने कहा, मोदी जी ने कहा है कि बिना पैसे के खाता खोलो। उसने कैम्प लगा-लगा करके जन-धन के खाते खोले और ऐसे 50 करोड़ लोगों को हम आर्थिक जगत में लेकर आए, जो आपके शासन में कभी आए नहीं थे। उन्होंने भी कहा, हम भी एटीएम वाले हैं। उनके खाते खुले और जन-धन के खातों के साथ-साथ उनको एक लाख रुपये का सुरक्षा बीमा भी मिला। इतना ही नहीं, उस गरीब आदमी को और सशक्त करने के लिए, उसको सुरक्षा चक्र देने के लिए 330 रुपये में 'अटल पेंशन योजना' माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने प्रारम्भ की। दो लाख रुपये का सुरक्षा चक्र और गरीब आदमी को मिला,  $330 \times 12 = 3960$ , साल में 365 दिन होते हैं, यानी एक रुपये रोज़ से भी कम में चार लाख रुपये का सुरक्षा चक्र उस गरीब आदमी को मिला, जिसकी बेटी की शादी रुक जाती थी, जिसके बेटे की पढ़ाई रुक जाती थी, उसको लाभ पहुंचाने का काम गरीब मां के बेटे नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने किया, मैं उनका अभिनंदन करना चाहता हूँ।

इतना ही नहीं, मैं उत्तराखंड से आता हूँ, वह एक पहाड़ी प्रदेश है। मैं वहां पर संगठन मंत्री के रूप में गांव-गांव घूमा हूँ, जब मैं गांवों के अंदर किसी परिवार में भोजन करने के लिए जाता था, तब मैं देखता था कि पूरी रसोई काली दिखाई दे रही है। वहां हमारी मां-बहन का जीवन बड़ा कठिन होता है, जो प्रातः काल चार बजे शुरू होता है और रात के 12 बजे तक चलता है। वे प्रातःकाल लकड़ी लेने के लिए जाती हैं, घास लेने के लिए जाती हैं और आकर लकड़ी पर खाना बनाती हैं, लकड़ी पर खाना बनाने से सारी रसोई काली पड़ जाती है, लेकिन बरसात में जब वह लकड़ी नहीं जलती, तब फूंक मारते-मारते उनकी आंख, नाक और कान बराबर हो जाते हैं। मेरा गरीब परिवार में जन्म हुआ है। मैंने देखा है कि जब मेरी माता जी खाना बनाती थीं, खासकर बरसात के दिनों में जब लकड़ियां नहीं जलती थीं, तब उनकी हालत खराब हो जाती थी। मेरी माताएं, बहनें समय से पहले बूढ़ी लगती थीं, उनकी आंखें खराब हो जाती थीं, वे अस्थमा की मरीज़ हो जाती थीं, 'उज्ज्वला योजना' के माध्यम से साढ़े नौ करोड़ कनेक्शन देकर उनको इस समस्या से निजात दिलाने का काम गरीब मां के बेटे प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने किया है। मेरे उत्तराखंड के मुख्य मंत्री जी ने 'उज्ज्वला योजना' के तहत गैस कनेक्शन मिलने वाले बीपीएल परिवारों को साल भर में तीन सिलेंडर मुफ्त में रिफिल करने का काम किया है।

मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि वह गरीब, जिसके बारे में कभी सोचा नहीं गया। आज सारी आर्थिक नीतियों में गरीब शामिल है। अभी हमारे एक सांसद कह रहे थे कि सरकार रिच है, बीजेपी रिच है और लोग गरीब हैं, मैंने भी अर्थशास्त्र में पढ़ा था, 'India is a rich country inhabited by poor'

people'. लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा क्यों है? वे जिस दल के सदस्य हैं, उनके सहयोग से जो सरकारें चलती थीं, कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी की नीतियों पर जो सरकारें चलती थीं, उन सरकारों की नीतियों के कारण यह देश गरीब बना रहा। इस देश के अंदर बहुत क्षमता है, बहुत ताकत है, लेकिन कांग्रेस ने 70 साल में उसको कभी पहचानने का काम नहीं किया। नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने उस ताकत को पहचाना है, उन्होंने कहा भी है कि चार ही जातियाँ हैं, उनमें गरीब, किसान, महिला और युवा हैं। अब हर वर्ग के लिए काम हो रहा है। जहाँ आप लोग देश को जातियों में बांटने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, जातीय जनगणना की बातें कर रहे हैं, वहीं जिनका विकास होना चाहिए, वे जातियाँ गिनाई गयी हैं। उन जातियों के उद्धार के लिए, युवाओं के लिए अवसर प्रदान किए गए। 'फिट इंडिया', 'खेलो इंडिया', 'खेलोगा इंडिया, खिलेगा इंडिया', आज हम देख रहे हैं कि खेल के क्षेत्र में भी भारत डंके गाढ़ रहा है, भारत का डंका बज रहा है। हर खेल में पदकों की तालिकाओं का कतार लगी है, चाहे वह रेसलिंग हो, चाहे वह जेवलिन थ्रो हो, चाहे वह बैडमिंटन हो, कोई भी खेल हो, हर खेल में पदकों की तालिका बढ़ती जा रही है, क्योंकि उसको प्रोत्साहन दिया है। युवकों को अवसर प्रदान किए हैं। युवकों को अग्निवीर के माध्यम से देश की सेवा का अवसर प्रदान किया है। आप आलोचना कितनी भी कर सकते हैं, लेकिन देश के लिए और युवकों के लिए ये क्रांतिकारी योजनाएँ हैं। हमारा युवा और खेल मंत्रालय इसमें अपनी भूमिका निभा रहा है। ऐसे ही हमारी माताओं-बहनों का सशक्तिकरण करने का काम हुआ है। आप देख सकते हैं कि किस प्रकार से माताओं-बहनों को आज़ादी के बाद भी 70 साल से रोज़ प्रातःकाल, सूर्य उदय से पहले, सांयकाल, सूर्यास्त के बाद नित्यकर्म के लिए जाना पड़ता था। जंगलों में जाना पड़ता था, वे अनेक दुर्घटनाओं का शिकार होती थीं, प्रतिदिन आत्मग्लानि से ग्रसित होती थीं। ऐसी महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के लिए 14 करोड़ इज़्जत घर बना कर उनके सम्मान की रक्षा की गई है। इतना ही नहीं, देश की आर्थिक स्थिति भी बदली है। हमारे प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी कह रहे थे कि आपने शौचालय तो बनाए हैं, लेकिन उनमें पानी नहीं है, उनमें लोग भूसा भर रहे हैं। मैं उनका बड़ा सम्मान करता हूँ। मैं रामगोपाल जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार ने 14 crore शौचालय बनाए हैं। 70 साल के बाद 12.5 crore घरों को नल से स्वच्छ जल देने का काम हमारी सरकार ने किया है। आज वे टोंटी भी उखाड़ कर ले जाएँ, लेकिन उनको वह पानी नज़र नहीं आएगा। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से देश की आर्थिक स्थिति बदली है, हम सेना के क्षेत्र में सशक्त हुए हैं, आज विदेशों में हमारा मान-सम्मान बढ़ा है, हमारा passport value added हुआ है। यहाँ महंगाई और बेरोज़गारी की बड़ी चर्चा हुई है। मैं महंगाई के लिए दो-चार चीज़ों का तुलनात्मक विवरण आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। वर्ष 2004 में जब अटल जी की सरकार गई और UPA की सरकार आई, तो आटा 8 रुपये किलो था। वर्ष 2014 में जब आपने सरकार छोड़ी, तो आटा 24 रुपये किलो था, यानी तीन गुना वृद्धि हुई। आज वही दस साल हो गए और हमारी सरकार में आटा 30 रुपये किलो मिलता है, यानी एक-चौथाई वृद्धि हुई और आपके दस साल में तीन गुना वृद्धि हुई। आप इससे अंदाजा लगाइए कि महंगाई बढ़ी है या घटी है। यह मैं आप पर छोड़ता हूँ। अटल जी की सरकार में coconut oil 26 रुपये लीटर था, 2014 में 78 रुपये था, यानी तीन गुना और आज 88 रुपये है। यानी दस साल में केवल दस रुपये बढ़े हैं। आपके समय में 26 रुपये से बढ़कर 78 रुपये हुआ। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि महंगाई आपके कार्यकाल में थी या अब है। इसी प्रकार petrol की बड़ी चर्चा होती है। हमारी सरकार ने

पेट्रोल पर दो बार excise duty घटाई है और diesel पर भी 15-20 रुपये घटाई है। हमारी सरकारों ने भी, जो प्रदेश की सरकारें हैं, उन्होंने भी उस पर VAT घटाया और आपकी किसी सरकार ने नहीं घटाया। आप असत्य वादे बहुत करते हैं। हम हिमाचल में petrol के दाम घटाकर आए और आपकी सरकार आते ही तीन दिन के बाद पेट्रोल पर तीन रुपये litre बढ़ गए। यह आपका काम है। 2004 में petrol 33.70 litre था, आपने छोड़ा, तो 72.26 रुपये था, दोगुने से भी ज्यादा था। आज 96.70 रुपये है। दस साल में केवल 24 रुपये बढ़े हैं, वह भी आपके कारण बढ़े हैं, क्योंकि आपने जो jugglery की थी कि petrol के दाम ज्यादा न बढ़ें। इसके लिए आपने petrol companies को सबसिडी के voucher दिए थे, उसका भुगतान ब्याज सहित नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने किया है, इसलिए फिर भी हमारी वृद्धि आपसे बहुत कम है। आप इसकी तुलना कर लीजिए। इसी प्रकार से मेरे पास और भी आंकड़ें हैं। मैं आंकड़ों में ज्यादा नहीं जाऊंगा। मैं थोड़ी-सी बात बेरोजगारी के बारे में भी करना चाहता हूं। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि बेरोजगारी हमारे समय में घटी है। 2020-21 में unemployment 4.2 per cent था, यह 2021-22 में 4.1 per cent हुआ और 2022-23 में 3.2 per cent हुआ, जो कि निरंतर घटता जा रहा है। इस प्रकार से रोजगार की बात करें, तो नौ क्षेत्र हैं, उनमें भी 2.30 करोड़ से बढ़कर 3.18 करोड़ रोजगार मिले हैं। EPFO के नए आंकड़ें हैं। EPFO में उनके नाम आते हैं, जिनको रोजगार मिला है, जिनका PF कट रहा है, उन आंकड़ों को झुठलाया नहीं जा सकता। EPFO के आंकड़ों के अनुसार 2020-21 में 77,08,375 लोगों को रोजगार मिला। 2021-22 में 1,22,34,625 लोगों को रोजगार मिला और 2022-23 में September तक 1,38,51,659 लोगों को रोजगार मिला। आप कहते हैं कि दो करोड़ प्रति वर्ष के रोजगार कहां गए, यह आप आंकड़ों में देखें। आज सवा लाख start-ups रजिस्टर्ड हो चुके हैं, जिनमें लाखों लोगों को रोजगार मिल रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

**श्री नरेश बंसल :** सभापति जी, मैं कन्क्लूड कर रहा हूं। आपके जमाने में साढ़े चार सौ स्टार्ट-अप्स होते थे और आज सवा लाख हैं। नौजवानों को समय मिल रहा है, तो वे काम करके दिखा रहे हैं। हमने उनको अवसर दिया है। चाहे आप पेटेंट की दुनिया में देखें, नए इनोवेशन्स की दुनिया में देखें, आपके जमाने में दो मोबाइल फैक्टरीज़ हुआ करती थीं और आज सौ से ऊपर मोबाइल फैक्टरीज़ हैं। आज हम मोबाइल का निर्यात कर रहे हैं।

पहले रक्षा के क्षेत्र में हम हर चीज़ आयात करते थे और आज हम रक्षा के क्षेत्र में बीस हजार करोड़ का निर्यात कर रहे हैं। गरीब आदमी जो दवाइयों के कारण अपना इलाज़ नहीं करा पाता था, तो अभी मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में दस हजार जन औषधि केंद्रों का उद्घाटन हुआ है और आगे हम जन औषधि केंद्रों की संख्या को 25 हजार तक लेकर जाएंगे, जहां गरीबों को 50 परसेंट से लेकर 90 परसेंट तक सस्ती दवाइयां मिलेंगी। मैं अपनी बात एक उदाहरण देकर समाप्त करूंगा।

सभापति महोदय, मैं किसी को देखने के लिए एम्स, ऋषिकेश में गया था। पांच लाख रुपये की कैशलैस योजना क्या है, आप उसका प्रभाव देखिए। मेरा जानने वाला एक व्यक्ति दौड़ता हुआ आया और मेरी कौली भरकर रोने लगा। मैंने अनिकेत से पूछा कि क्या हुआ? उसने कहा कि भाई साहब, मुझे आज पता लगा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी की पांच लाख वाली कैशलैस योजना बहुत

अद्धत है। मेरे पिताजी को परसों हार्ट अटैक हुआ, रविवार का दिन था, घर में पैसे भी नहीं थे और केवल 37 रुपये में उनका स्टंट पड़ गया। यह है प्रधान मंत्री जी की जीवन बचाने वाली योजना।

हम आर्थिक क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। हमने 25 वर्ष का संकल्प लिया है। मैं शिवादासन जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि वे जो रिच बनने की बात कह रहे थे, तो हम हर आदमी की रिच बनाएंगे। हम 25 वर्षों का संकल्प लेकर चले हैं कि भारत को विकसित राष्ट्र बनाएंगे और जब भारत विश्व का विकसित राष्ट्र बनेगा, तो हर आदमी रिच होगा, आप चिंता न करें।

सभापति जी, आपने मुझे अपनी बात रखने का अवसर दिया, इसलिए मैं आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M. Shanmugam. You have three minutes.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. For economic development, higher GDP and boosting economy, labour is one important factor and without the cooperation of skilled workers, manpower, employees, they cannot achieve the result.

Labour is not a commodity. Labour is the wealth of the world. To solve the problem of labour, the tripartism mechanism is very, very important. Our country has a very good tripartism mechanism, that is, the Indian Labour Conference, the highest body in the labour sector. From 1940 onwards, every year, the conference was held. The Prime Minister used to attend the conference, but after the BJP Government has come to power, it was in 2015 that the last conference was held by this Government which the Prime Minister also attended. Subsequently, we have demanded so many times to convene this Labour Conference to settle the issues of the working class. All the recognized Central trade unions in India are fighting for the poor working class. We placed twelve demands and asked the Government to discuss those items. But so far, the Government has not come forward to discuss those things. The Union Government passed the Labour Codes hurriedly during the Covid pandemic time. But their implementation is not happening because the rules are yet to be notified. Sir, you know that Labour is in the Concurrent List Subject. Even though you have passed the Codes in this august House, the respective States should also pass the rules. Most of the States, except three States, have not passed the rules. It is very difficult to implement the four Codes. So, I would urge upon the Government not to stand on prestige and to repeal these Codes and a fresh legislation can be brought after due consultations with our trade unions.

Sir, the Employees Provident Fund Act, it is a very good social security of the working class. In this Act, there was no pension provision prior to 1971. After that, the family pension was introduced. Subsequently, in 1995, the pension scheme for

EPF subscribers was brought and the same pension scheme... *...(Time-bell rings)*... Sir, I will take only one minute. In the pension scheme, we were once demanding thousand rupees as minimum pension. At the time of UPA Government, they had given. Subsequently, now, we are demanding nine thousand rupees as minimum pension. So far, they have not given.

Another thing is that there are some public sector and private sector companies. They are giving 30 per cent of terminal benefit to the workers. That is 12 per cent PF, 4.5 per cent gratuity, 4.5 per cent retiree medical benefit and the rest of the amount will go towards pension, over and above the EPF pension. But after closing of this PSU, after closing of these private sectors, where will the workers go requesting for payment of this amount? For that, the Government should bring a scheme thereby taking over such benefit schemes, and the continuity should be guaranteed.

Now, another point is regarding ESI. It is a very good scheme. Under ESI scheme, those people whose salaries are already exceeding Rs.21,000/-, they will come out of this one. Nowadays, getting Rs.21,000 rupees salary is a very easy thing. We are demanding the Government that up to Rs. 21,000 salary level should be made compulsory and after that, it is optional. Another thing is there should be exemption in ESI. In ESI, there is a provision in the Act. The minimum salary of the workers per day, if it is less than Rs.175, there is no necessity for employee contribution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: Workers have not to pay their contributions. So, these are the main benefits we are demanding for unorganised labour, but they are not giving. Another is MSME; the MSME depends upon the PSU and the Government sector. The Government sector and the PSU...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: I will take only one minute, Sir. They are not giving orders to the MSME units. Our Finance Minister is very liberal to give loan to the MSME. What is the benefit? The PSU and the Government sectors are not procuring their products. Another thing is, the Government is reluctant to recruit C and D Group posts. They are very particular about the A and B Group posts. *...(Time-bell rings)*... For that also, we request the Government to come forward, to recruit for the vacant posts of C & D.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: And the bonus ceilings, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken nearly double the time.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: In 2007 only, the bonus ceiling was raised. In the last ten years, there was no raise in the bonus ceiling. And we request to raise the bonus ceiling. The BSNL is a very good telecom service sector, a very large sector. They are not giving the wage revision so far. So we request the Government to look into these things. Many things are there. But, you are not permitting to speak on that. It has become a fashion for the Government Departments to engage more and more employees on contract basis, competing with the private sector. There is an effective law on contract, for abolition and regulation of contract. If the work is not of permanent nature, then they can engage contract workers but they should be given the benefits at par with the permanent employees. But the Government is not enforcing the provisions, which lead to exploitation and inhuman conditions for the contract labour. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Shanmugamji. Now, hon. Finance Minister to reply.

**4.00 P.M.**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Sir. The discussion was started as a Short Duration Discussion on the Indian Economy, but because of the interest shown by the hon. Members, the discussion has lasted for three and-a-half days and sixty hon. Members have spoken during this debate. I am indeed grateful for the various issues that have been discussed. Certainly, some concerns and questions have been raised and I will try to address them. So, as I begin talking about the Short Duration Discussion held in this House, I am tempted to start the reply from a mention which was held outside the House first. Interestingly, it had come from a Member of this House and it is about the economy. Shri Jairam Ramesh had mentioned that and I think, in all probability, there will be a discussion to the extent of saying, 'we have been asking for these debates in the previous sessions, but the Government has not been willing'. We have never been hesitant in

talking about economy. In fact, every time, there has been a request to discuss about specific issues related to economy or the larger ones, we have always come in. I thought I would just draw his attention that other than the usual budget discussions, Budget Speech discussion, separate from the Finance Bills, we have always yielded. There was a discussion held on the economic situation in the country in November, 2019. Similarly, we had an elaborate discussion on the prices of essential items on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022. So, we never hesitated to have a discussion on the economy. I thought I would just put that record straight.

Sir, I would like to begin by speaking about how the Indian economy fairs in comparison to what is happening all over the world. Hon. Members are aware that our growth in the second quarter has been very high. It is the highest in the world and we continuously maintain that momentum of being the fastest-growing economy. During the same quarter, July to September, 2023, the third and the fourth largest economies of the world contracted. Germany contracted by 0.4 per cent and Japan contracted by 2.1 per cent. The other emerging economies which are largely credited to be the engine of growth for the world as a whole, such as Vietnam which grew by 5.33 per cent, Malaysia grew by 3.3 per cent and Thailand just by 1.5 per cent. So, when you compare all these developments around the world and for India to have reached 7.6 per cent in the second quarter is a very significant number that we cannot afford to miss. Sir, in just last eight years, India has become the fifth-largest economy from being the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the year 2014. So, just in these last eight years, we have become the fifth largest economy in size.

The activities are going on all across the country. It is not as if one sector is doing that and it is at the back of it. Given the fact that the service sector in its software services and the newly coming global capacity centres and so on gives us the feeling, and also because of the contribution of service sector to the GDP is very high, it is touching almost 60 per cent; there is a temptation to think that this growth is at the back of only one sector whereas it is not. All sectors are growing and growing significantly for us to notice it. Sir, because of the 'Make in India' programme and also because of the hon. Prime Minister's Production Linked Incentive Schemes, the manufacturing sector is also contributing significantly to the economy now. The manufacturing sector has registered the highest growth of 13.9 per cent in quarter two of this year. Now, if that is one other point that we would like to notice, there is this emphasis that I would like to place on the Purchasing Managers' Index, manufacturing number itself is 13.9 per cent growing, but the Purchasing Managers' Index in November 2023 was 56, which is in the expansionary territory. Now PMI has been in the expansionary territory for more than 29 consecutive months. So, the

sustained growth of manufacturing is very indicated by that. Now, again, a comparison for the manufacturing sector is, comparatively, if you are looking at the major economies, including that of the United States of America, Australia, Euro Zone, Brazil China and South Korea, they have seen a contractionary manufacturing PMI. Let us not miss this point because all developed countries are all showing in the PMI, the Purchasing Managers' Index, a contractionary terrain number. So, just to highlight what I am trying to say is that I mentioned the 29 consecutive months, we have seen the PMI in India in the expansionary territory whereas in those countries, USA inclusive, they are in the contractionary trend. Now I will just read the October and November, 2023 numbers. For USA, it is just 50 in October, 49.4 in November, 2023; similarly for Canada 48.6, 47.7; Australia 48.2, 47.7; South Korea 49.8, November 2023 is 50. So on, everyone, in fact, the Euro Zone collectively 43.1, 44.3. So on, China is 50.7 and 49.5. When I am bringing China, I am consciously bringing in knowing that it is a larger economy, we are not matching up to them on many scores, but the index today, this is how it is; they are all in the contractionary territory whereas we are moving forward. So, overall, this is about manufacturing. Now what about exports, Sir? Overall exports in October, 2023 rose by 9.43 per cent year on year to US dollars 62.26 billion. So, exports are also showing very clearly a sign to say that in spite of the consumption and also the demand coming down in the Western economies, our export is showing a growth. WTO halved the world's merchandise trade numbers. They have that; it is going to come down in 2023 and they have said it will be down to 08 per cent. India's merchandise export in the same time has increased by 6.21 per cent to 33.57 billion dollars in October. So, WTO tells you that everywhere it is going to come down, come down to the level of 0.8 per cent whereas Indian merchandise export is going up and it has gone up to 6.21 per cent. Last year, Sir, India was the world's second largest mobile phone manufacturer. We have exported 10 billion dollars worth of mobile phones in 2022-23. Now passenger vehicles, -- very important; it is not the luxury item, it is a passenger vehicle, middle class buys them -- the export of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles from India to many countries has increased. PV exports, therefore, increased by 15 per cent to 6.62 lakh units in the year 2022-23 compared to 5.77 lakh units in 2021-22. Sir, as per the BCG Report, Made in India products are now seen increasingly; they are visible in the American supermarkets. Is that an indicator? Maybe not, maybe yes, but we can just gauge what is happening. In the American supermarkets, Made-in-India products are now being increasingly seen on the shelves. While import of goods into the US from China has declined by 10 per cent from 2018 to 2022, they rose by 44 per cent from India during 2018 to 2022. There is a decline of 10 per cent in

Chinese goods; whereas, merchandise goods export from India has gone up by 44 per cent to the US. All this is an indication of the fact that the net direct tax collection is also going up. Till November 9<sup>th</sup>, Rs. 10.60 lakh crores has been the collection — year-on-year increase of 21.82 per cent. Sir, GST collections have now almost, on a monthly average, stabilized at Rs. 1.6 lakh crores. Last month alone, it grew by 15 per cent.

Sir, e-Way Bills is a clear indicator of economy being in a positive territory. E-Way Bills generation has hit another record and that is the highest record till now. In October, 2023, it crossed 10 crore for the first time since its introduction and surpassed the previous high of 9.34 crores in August, 2023. So, 10 crore e-Way Bills were generated in October.

Sir, CAPEX is a very important thing, because, we, from the Government, for the last 3-4 years, have been increasing the public expenditure on capital asset creation. States' CAPEX also grew in this period. I recognize that. It grew by 74.3 per cent year-on-year the first quarter ending FY24. It is largely because 50-year interest-free loans are being given to the States by the Centre. We have made a provision of Rs. 1.3 lakh crores for a 50-year interest-free special loan in the Budget 2023-24. So, this is also making States spend a lot more in their capital account so that capital expenditure, infrastructure building gets a priority. Sir, all this has been recognized even by some of the global media which, normally, don't write much in appreciation of what is happening in India. But, I am sure, the hon. Members would have read the Wall Street Journal, S&P ratings, Bloomberg, etc., all of whom speaking very well about the Indian economy.

I refer to the reform measures undertaken by the hon. Prime Minister, taking his name. I would like to say this. This is a quote and I would like to quote this. It says, 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to outrun China and transform India's economic model into one driven by manufacturing rather than consumption or creating a tailwind for infrastructure and heavy industry companies.' So, this observation is coming from media houses, particularly those which observe the Indian economy, at this time, surely gives us the feeling that the development is all across the board. There can always be some points to which I will come. Some hon. Members raising an issue that some are actually not reaching some parts of the ground, I will come to that and address them. But, the point on which all of us can take immense pride is something which I list out very quickly. I am not going to take much of your time. Where have we reached the topmost position in the world? Where are we in the second position? And, where are we in the third position? I will just list out those items and we will know and all of us feel extremely proud of,

because this is an achievement the people of India are contributing towards this country. Sir, India is the world's largest producer of milk; largest producer of pulses; largest producer of jute; largest producer of sugar and the largest number of real-time digital payments happened in India. India is also the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetable, fruits, cotton, aquaculture (inclusive of seaweeds, marine products and so on). So, India is the second largest in these items. Again, India is the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones and also the second largest producer of crude steel. In 2022, India alone registered an increase in production, while Japan, China, Russia, and US, all witnessed a drop. They are the major producers. They see a drop in production, and we not only see, but have reached the second largest producer status. We are the second largest coal producer and also the second largest aluminium producer. Also, India is the most sought after manufacturing destination globally. This is because of a research that comes from Cushman & Wakefield.

Where are we at the third position? India has reached the third position on being the biggest producer of fish and fish-related products. Eight per cent of global production happens here. Ours is the third-largest StartUp ecosystem. Our automobile market is third-largest; pharmaceutical industry is the third-largest; power production is the third-largest. And, when I say, we are the third-largest power production, I am just taking my mind picture back to that one day when the grid collapsed in the western part of the country and we were running short of technology to handle it. And, we also had a shortfall elsewhere in the country. But, now, no more of that. Today, India is the third-largest producer of power. Especially when we are talking of climate and green action and so on, India ranks third in forest gain area. India has added 2.66 lakh hectares of forest area every year, between 2010 to 2020. I am including 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 also. It is not as it is often alleged by that side of the House that the world began in 2014. No, the world began in 2010 also. And, I am recognizing it.

Globally, India stands fourth in renewable energy installed capacity. This is a very attractive number. It is also to see where our initiatives are giving us tangible results. We are the fourth-largest in wind power capacity and also the fourth-largest in solar power capacity. And, this is something which is recognized as a big achievement of India by the Renewables 2022 Global Status Report of REN21.

Sir, all this is not happening only in the metropolitan cities. Several things have changed in the rural India, as a result of which our economy is getting the best from the rural area and also from the metropolitan cities. Purely concentrating on rural India, I want to highlight the numbers between 2014 and 2023 just to show that our

economy, in many ways, is pulsating in rural areas. There should not be any apprehension that everything is happening in urban areas.

In 2014, the foodgrain production was 265 MMT. Now, in 2023, it is 323.55 million metric tonnes. The foodgrain production has had a leap of an increase. Now I come to pulses procurement from farmers. In 2014, it was 1.52 lakh metric tonnes. Today, it is 82.21 lakh metric tonnes, a fifty-four fold increase! Coming to milk production, it was 146.39 million tonnes in 2014. In 2023, it is 221.06 million tonnes. Similarly, ethanol procurement from farmers, which is going to directly benefit the farmers, just as others also, was 38 crore litres in 2014. Now, it is 434 crore litres in 2023. Fund allocation for rural houses in 2014 was Rs. 66,046 crores. In 2023, it is Rs. 2.02 lakh crores. There is a three times increase in the funds that have been allocated by us for rural houses. Average Annual Person Days generated under MNREGA, — that is something of interest for so many hon. Members -- it was 208 crore days in 2014, and it is 248 crore days now in 2023. *Gram Sadak Yojana*, completed road length, - in 2014, it was 3.81 lakh kilometers, and now it is 6.21 lakh kilometers. So, 2.40 lakh kilometers have been added on to the total which existed earlier.

Agricultural Budget — in 2013-14, it was Rs. 21,933/- crores and now, it is Rs. 1,25,036 crores — a 5.7-fold increase. MSP payment for wheat -- again, this and the MSP payment for paddy are going directly to the farmers. In 2006-14, it was Rs.2.39 lakh crores whereas what has gone for wheat now, between 2014 and 2022, is Rs.4.52 lakh crores. The MSP payment for paddy is even more striking. From 2006-14, Rs.3.09 lakh crores were given to the farmers for MSP. Between 2014 and 2022, Rs. 10.06 lakh crores have gone to the paddy farmers for MSP. So, these are indicative that it is not one sector, it is not just the urban areas, the economy in all sides, urban, rural everywhere, is seeing support from the Government in terms of agricultural activities and also other activities; otherwise, they would not have reached to these kinds of milestones. It is not just the numbers, it is also the way in which some schemes get executed. I want, for the sake of hon. Members, to do a comparison between the schemes which existed earlier and the schemes that we are implementing, and to show how the execution of the schemes are making a difference to the common man's life.

Sir, Jan Dhan Yojana is something which we speak very often for financial inclusion. There was a scheme called Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account, which was launched in 2005. In nearly 10 years of that scheme, after being launched in 2005, in 2014, 10 years afterwards, there were 24.3 crores accounts which were opened under the Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account Scheme. That account,

which was opened for these poor people, had no facility for a debit card, had no overdraft facility and also no insurance coverage. Suppose, the person who opens this account dies after opening the account, there is an insurance payment, but none of these provisions existed in that scheme, whereas under NDA, now, under the Jan Dhan Yojana, which was launched in 2014 and in 10 years — I am comparing that set of 10 years and 10 years here -- in December, 2023, 51 crore Jan Dhan Accounts have been opened up. Compare the 24.3 crores, which had no other highlights, whereas, here, it is with the highlights. What are the highlights here? KYC has been made easy. Debit cards and UPI payments have been made, and Rs.10,000/- overdraft facility without collateral is provided for that account and accident insurance cover is also provided. So, I just want to show that the recipient or the beneficiary who lives in a village, who needs financial inclusion, requires not just opening of an account but also coverage and also working capital to further his business -- this scheme and that scheme, I just want to highlight. In a way, I am going to make these *naam ke vaaste* schemes, which existed earlier, find life now and, actually, reach the right kind of target in the beneficiary's name. So, the BSBD Accounts were *naam ke vaaste*. Pension — again, *naam ke vaaste*; launch it, forget it! *Swavalamban* Scheme was launched in 2010. In five years, they had 29.42 lakh accounts opened. That is, in 2014, they ended up with only 29.42 lakh accounts. Now, *Swavalamban* Scheme is what is *Atal Pension Yojana*. It was launched in 2015. It is eight years only; and in eight years — I am comparing that with this — 5.95 crore subscribers have come into this Scheme. It is 20 times more than *Swavalamban*, again a *naam ke vaaste* Programme! It was brought in and then left where it is. But if you invoke something here, they will say, "Oh, we have launched it. You don't credit us.' We will credit, but this is the performance.

Sir, there are *Jan Aushadhi Kendras*. *Jan Aushadhi* Scheme again was launched in 2008, and, in 2014, they had only 80 stores. That scheme got continued. By December, 2023, 10,000 stores have been opened under *Jan Aushadhi*. Where is that and where is this? And not only 10,000, now we have said that 'we will take these *Jan Aushadhi Kendras* further to 25,000.' In the *Jan Aushadhi Kendras*, the common people get medicines. I go and visit *Jan Aushadhi Kendras* and talk to the people who are buying medicines there, check up with them whether the claims that in many cases, the prices are less by 66 per cent, 72 per cent, 89 per cent, etc., are true or not, and people tell you what they are buying. Sir, 1,800 medicines are available, even more than that. But I am rounding it off; 1,800 medicines are available for the common citizens for blood pressure, fever, seasonal illnesses, sugar, everything, and 200 plus equipments are also available there. So, I want to say again, another *naam*

*ke vaaste* scheme, Jan *Aushadhi* Scheme, has become meaningful for the common citizens, and this is how far it reaches.

Another *naam ke vaaste* scheme, *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana*, was launched in 2008. It ran for five years till 2014. How many BPL families were provided any kind of insurance cover? It was 3.85 crores. And what was that cover? Thirty thousand per annum was the cover given. *Ayushman Bharat* was launched in 2018, and by December, 2023, 27.89 crore individuals have been provided Health Insurance Cover, and that is 5 lakh an annum per family, again a *naam ke vaaste*!

Another *naam ke vaaste* scheme, a Housing Scheme, *Indira Awas Yojana* was launched in 1985. From 1985 to 2014, twenty-nine years it ran, and 3.25 crore rural houses built. Under *PM Awas Yojana*, which was launched in 2016 — comparable — in eight years, both gramian and urban put together, we have 3.6 crores of houses built. Twenty-nine years, 3.25 crore; eight years, 3.6 crore households! *naam ke vaaste*!

Now, for sanitation again, *naam ke vaaste*, one scheme, *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan*, was launched in 2009. Five years till 2014, 38.7 per cent rural sanitation coverage was provided. I remember Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav spoke about it. I can't see him now. I respect him a lot and most of the time he intervenes to ask about what is happening on the ground, is there any difference, etc. So, I do take cognizance of his concern. He spoke about it. I want to use this one data. There is also more, which I will use to answer his concern. *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* was launched in 2014. Now as per 2022 data, 95.4 per cent of surveyed houses have access to toilets; 95.4 per cent.

Sir, for tap water connections, again a Scheme was launched in 2019. There is no particular Scheme with which I can exactly compare it with; 3.23 crore households, that is, 16.82 of the total households had tap water connection in 2019. But, since the Jal Jeevan Mission took force in December, 2023, 13.75 crore households have been connected with water. We started with 16.82 per cent of the total households; now, it is 71 per cent of the total households which have got covered.

Sir, talking about the LPG gas cylinder -- another *naam ke waaste* -- LPG connections were provided under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana. There were 5.82 lakh beneficiaries as of 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014. Even that is not exactly comparable, because there the deposit for getting the cylinder was provided by the oil marketing companies. So, it may not be exactly comparable, because here the cylinder is free, connection is free and then, no deposit is taken. Under the Ujjwala Scheme that came into force, 99.8 households have been covered by 2021 itself.

Currently, we have about 9.8 crore beneficiaries. The total number of domestic LPG connections in 2014, inclusive of Ujjwala, was 14.5 crore; now it is 31.4 crore connections.

Sir, I want to quickly run through the schemes which didn't have an earlier equivalent, to state how section after section of those who are deserving of Government policies' support have been targeted through specific schemes and, as a result, groundswell was seen. I just want to highlight that. Very many times people ask, 'what happened to farmers', 'have you paid them', 'you said you would double their income', and so on. Such questions get answered in this set of answers. Let me very quickly highlight them. Under the PM Kisan Yojana, 11 crore beneficiaries get Rs. 6,000 per annum as income support. Under the PM Mudra Scheme where people get collateral-free loans to run their small businesses, there were 44 crore beneficiaries and Mudra loans worth Rs. 25 lakh crore have been disbursed. Of those, 68 per cent are women. Under PM SVANidhi, there are 73 lakh beneficiaries. Again, 44 per cent of them are women and, approximately, 75 per cent belong to non-General caste groups. Under the PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, there were 18.58 crore beneficiaries who got a life insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakhs at a premium of Rs. 1.19 per day, that is Rs. 436 per year. Talking about the PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, 41.16 crore beneficiaries have received it. There is a total permanent disability cover of Rs. 2 lakh and partial disability cover of one lakh rupees, which many beneficiaries have already received. Under Stand-up India, there have been 2.08 lakh beneficiaries and loans worth Rs. 22,000 crore have been disbursed. So, from the Government side, we are continuously looking at helping the people.

Sir, I now come to issues raised by Members of Parliament during the discussion. There was a lot of concern about malnutrition. Hon. Member, Shri Derek O'Brien, former Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram, Dr. Amee Yajnik, all spoke about malnutrition. I just wish to highlight that nutrition and sanitation are closely linked to each other. To mention very quickly, 11 crore toilets have been built under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Jan Aushadhi Suvidha sanitary pads at one rupee per pad are being distributed. Millets as 'Shree Anna' has been promoted. Enrolment of girls in secondary education has increased from 75 per cent to 79 per cent between 2014 and 2021. Institutional deliveries have also shown an improvement from 87 per cent in 2014-15 to 94 per cent in 2021. The percentage of first trimester antenatal care registration has shown improvement from 61 per cent to 73.94 per cent between 2014 and 2021. There are also multi-dimensional poverty-related indicators which I will very quickly refer to. Hon. Member, Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi has gone into great details about it. So, I don't want to take your time on points which have already been

covered. But I just want to highlight the National Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index Report of 2022 published by NITI Aayog. It shows a remarkable decline in the prevalence of multi-dimensional poverty. The National MPI has halved from 0.117 in 2015-16 to 0.066 in 2019-21. So, 13.5 crore Indians have escaped multi-dimensional poverty between 2015-16 to 2019-21. The Aspirational Districts Programme -- I will refer to it once more later -- launched by the hon. Prime Minister in 2018 is a testament to our Government's commitment to the people who are in the far-flung areas. People who are really in remote areas have benefited because of the focus that we have given to the Aspirational Districts Programme. Just look at health nutrition, a point on which many hon. Members were concerned. The percentage of pregnant mothers registered in antenatal care in 2018 was 68 per cent. I am talking about the Aspirational Districts. In 2023, it went up to 89 per cent, which is an improvement of 21 per cent. Institutional deliveries, which were 69 per cent, have gone up to 90 per cent. There is a 21 per cent improvement. There is a seven-fold increase in Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and a five-fold increase in Suraksha Bima Yojana. My appeal on nutrition and nutrition-related issues, as health is with both the Centre and States, is that it is something on which all of us will have to work together. Party-driven politics may not help the situation; it can only aggravate it. Just as in women issues, particularly law and order related to women issues, I keep saying that we should not politicise it because once you do 'your number versus my number' the person who is suffering remains wherever she is or he is, particularly in nutrition-related matters. So, I was tempted to bring in this aspect. In a State like Kerala, nutrition and education are all very well taken care of. ...*(Interruptions)*... Wait a minute. I didn't complete. I knew you will come back. You may not be very pleased with what I am going to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... When we don't need to politicise, we can always exchange about the good work done here and the good work done there and so on with an understanding that all of us will have to work together for taking it further for better days. But if you are so concerned about nutrition under Modi ji and that is why it's bad, I would like to say that not very long back in 2018 there was this very sensational case from Kerala of a tribal young man, Madhu, begging for food and was killed. So, politicising does not help. I don't want to say more on it. I have the proof. It is not a fictional or it is not a story that I am creating here. But that is truth here. Yes, I am also coming up with data and that is why, I want to say that let us not politicise issues of women, nutrition and education. It is a subject where both, the Centre and the State, have responsibility. If Modi ji has not given money, you ask me, but Modi ji has not stopped you from giving nutrition to your own tribal people. Madhu would not have died if that literate and very respected State, God's

own country, which I love a lot, which I respect a lot, had taken care of him. ...*(Interruptions)*... That's okay. That's why I am saying that there is no point in politicising. ...*(Interruptions)*... All right; all of you had your turn to speak. Let me reply now.

Sir, the hon. Member is not here. The normal rule earlier used to be not replying to those who are not here. I am not sure whether I should do it, whether I should stick to that, but it is a very important point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Finance Minister, some of the Members have sought my leave that on account of a commitment, they will not be here. So, the response needs to be imparted because the hon. Members, in all fairness, have sought my leave that they would not be able to be present here and, therefore, I am sure, that is required.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Sir. I just want to highlight that the hon. Member, Shri Derek O'Brien, had mentioned that elections are won and lost; you win, we win; you lose, we lose; let's compare equals. He said, "Our growth, your growth", and I want to talk about the comparison that elections are won, elections are lost and also the point that we have not won against them, which was underlined. Yes, of course, we have not won against them, but the point is very grave here, which I want to highlight. You may win an election and we may win an election. But, what follows soon after is a law and order issue, and that is where, you are certainly not equal to us. You win an election. Being incumbents, sitting in power, you win an election and after that, lawlessness, mayhem, clashes, sexual assaults, brazen murders have happened in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, these are not my words. The Calcutta High Court has said, and I am quoting, "In 60 per cent of the cases, FIRs were not registered." This is Calcutta High Court's observation. So, what is the comparison - 'I win, you win'? ...*(Interruptions)*... We don't win means my cadres, ordinary citizens are at risk. They get raped. They get murdered. Their houses get burnt. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, don't compare. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Finance Minister, you have to lay the High Court's judgment on the Table. You will authenticate the High Court's judgment.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Of course, I will do, Sir. The incidents are such worrisome incidents. So, this very House, which periodically talks women's welfare,

women's law and order related issues, and that is where I start telling that if we start politicising women's issues, malnutrition and about children, there is no end. I can point a finger; they can point a finger. There is no end to it. But, look at the gravity. On 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, a 60-year old woman was gang-raped in Khejuri in front of her six-year old grandson while the daughter-in-law was beaten up. So, 'you win, I win'! ...*(Interruptions)*... It was in May, 2021. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't mind. Sir, I am happy to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can happily sit down. I am responding to her. I will sit down, but if the issues have been raised by Members, I am duty bound to give an answer. ...*(Interruptions)*... I quite welcome her telling anything to me, "Oh! This is not economy; this is not the discussion; this is not on jobs." I will talk about it because a comparison came from their end. I will respond to it. Sir, on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, Arup Das, a BJP karyakarta, a resident of Natra village in Indas was found hanging from a tree. Who did it? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Calcutta High Court again comes to my rescue. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you the statement authenticated. I am quoting here. "Out of 268 FIRs... ...*(Interruptions)*... I heard all Members speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have already directed the hon. Finance Minister that the references she has made about the High Court observations in judicial orders, she will authenticate and not only authenticate reporting of those judgements but put on the Table of the House the judgement also. Please go ahead.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Sir. I am quoting again. On 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, the High Court of Calcutta observed, "Out of 268 FIRs claimed to be registered by the police suo-moto, copies of only 219 could be found. It is evident that 62 FIRs were registered up to May 5, 2021 whereas 157 FIRs were registered from May 06, 2021 onwards. Some of these were registered immediately after the offence was committed whereas in many of these, FIRs were registered belatedly." ...*(Interruptions)*...

Now, let me make a last point on this. On 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, the MoS, Shri Muraleedharan, and his convoy was attacked. Not even a Central Minister is spared. So, 'you win, I win' does not work. It does not work at all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I will respond to some of the observations made by hon. former Finance Minister, and, if you allow me, if you indulge me, a light hearted banter if I may use. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Chair has already ordered me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already ordered. There is already a direction and I will look into it after I go through it. Madam, you were saying something in light-hearted manner.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, if you will indulge me...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do that. We need it.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A light-hearted comment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am very serious! Sir, it was a bit surprising and it was also uncharacteristic to see the former Finance Minister, who is very senior, highly educated, was in the prestigious Harvard University even in 1968 when I was in primary school. He whole-heartedly concurred -- a sort of piggyback rode -- with the arguments provided by Derek O'Brien. He took his name more than three, four times. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please hang on. I have sought the permission of the House. Hon. Member is here. With due respect, I am giving this observation. There is no other way in which a light-hearted observation can be accommodated. I started thinking, was it an attempt to placate the All India Trinamool Congress to come and attend the "... Alliance" because there seems to be hot and cold. What is it? I did not understand because much before you could come to talking about the economy, that happened, and I said, "Oh my God! Now this is all between the All India Trinamool Congress and Congress. The dotted alliance needs them. And there seems to be hot and cold... ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Please take your seats. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I had the occasion to make a reference to Derek O'Brien's name on three occasions, and we had a very quick comment from Jairam Ramesh. You said something like 'cooking something'. Am I right, Jairam? ..*(Interruptions)*.. When I took name of Derek O'Brien three times on a particular day -- the record shows it -- you made a comment. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Similar kind of a comment was made. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, no comparison with you. ..*(Interruptions)*.. But, Sir, I just want to say ..*(Interruptions)*.. I sought his permission for a banter,

right? ..(*Interruptions*).. Thank you, thank you. Sir, the former Finance Minister made a very linear comparison as to how the GDP has grown from 1991-92, Rs. 25 lakh crores, then Rs. 50 lakh crores, then Rs. 100 lakh crores and so on, and then wondered if I will say that by the end of 2023-24, India will have Rs. 200 lakh crores as the GDP. If I understood, if I heard him right, he said, going by the trend of doubling every ten years, it might. I am confident that the question is asked with a certain sense of confidence that the Indian economy and the people are contributing for its growth. But I would only refer to one editorial which appeared today in a paper. I am not saying my view, but if you permit me, and I will also do authentication, there is an editorial in the Economic Times today which says -- a four trillion dollar-plus we go -- ‘GDP is expected to catch up in the coming fiscal’, and goes on to elaborate. There is just one line that I will read for the benefit of the House, and I quote, “As India’s GDP rises, would the market cap rise in tandem? Though there is no direct correlation, there could be significant wealth effects that provide tailwinds to the economy. Retail investors own 10 per cent of the equity, about 400 billion dollars, and their share has been rising. That should help consumption which accounts for close to 60 per cent of the GDP.” So, linking that to the growth of the GDP itself, this write-up, which is an editorial in a paper, which is a pink paper which observes the Indian economy, we get a picture and a probable answer to the former Finance Minister. ..(*Interruptions*)..

Then, the Worker Population Ratio was also another issue which the former Finance Minister raised. I just want to highlight that incorrect it was for him to suggest that the Worker Population Ratio has not improved. Obviously, he has done some kind of, if you permit me, a whimsical calculation there which serves him well, and the interpretation is not right. As per the PLFS, that is, the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the WPR, the Worker Population Ratio, that is, the share of the employed in the total population, has increased to 56 per cent in 2022-23 from 46.8 per cent in 2017-18. And I underline the fact that this is post Covid that it has gone up to 56 per cent. So, there is an increase in the Worker Population Ratio, and this is Government’s data. Sir, Youth Unemployment rate, that is, the age between 15 to 29, has declined to 10 per cent in 2022-23 from 17.8 per cent in 2017-18. The unemployment rate has also declined while youth LFPR has expanded from 38 per cent to 44.5 per cent over the same period. So unemployment rate is coming down. You have the data to see that employment rate is also going up. In fact, WPR in 2005 was 42 per cent which fell to 38.6 per cent in 2011-12. So the fall happened then. Despite Covid, which is once in a century pandemic, we have revived employment rate and the data show that very clearly. We have various schemes like MUDRA, SVANidhi and so on which are

promoting self-employment particularly to the lower sections of our society. More than Rs.25,00,000 crore have been disbursed to over 44 crore MUDRA accounts. Sixty-eight per cent of them are women. They do their own business and probably employ one or two more people there. Some 73,00,000 street vendors have availed themselves of cheap credit under the PM SVANidhi Programme and, even in that, 44 per cent beneficiaries are women. I think the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of the Indian youth, who go in for small self-employment, cannot be ignored at convenience and cannot be raised saying that the poor are without jobs at some other time. There should be some kind of alignment. This was raised by many Members. Other than the former Finance Minister, Kanimozhi *ji*, Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, Shri Sujeet Kumar and Shri Jose K. Mani, all of them had raised this issue.

Sir, the attempt to bring more employment, self-employment among women is also shown by the programme that has been recently launched. I saw it with my own eyes when I went to the rural areas, particularly with the *Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra*. I saw the excitement among women. Namo Drone Didi Programme has an amazing reception that I saw where Women Self Help Groups are being picked up, based on their interest, to be given 15 days of training to operate drone. In the 15 days, five days will be on the field where they will go and test for themselves how to operate it, so that they can use it for spraying fertilizers, monitoring crop health and so on. They are going to be given drones as well through the SHGs. Women are now going to be handling technology-driven drones in the villages to help agricultural activity. What can be more empowering for the women in the rural areas? The Government's idea is to provide 15,000 drones to Self Help Groups. And for this, we have an outlay of Rs.1,261 crore. This Scheme is hundred per cent funded by the Central Government for a period between 2024-25 and 2025-26. In two years, this scheme will reach all the women in rural areas, so that they are trained technologically in handling this drone.

Sir, concern has been expressed about inflation and inflation management. Rajeev Shukla *ji*, Ashok Kumar Mittal *ji*, Derek O'Brien *ji*, and others raised the issue. Average inflation during 2014-15 up to 2023-24 has only been around 5.5 per cent. Since 2014 retail inflation breached the number and reached the highest point of 7.79 per cent in April 2022. I concede that. But by contrast -- because that is important to remind ourselves -- between 2004 and 2014, the average inflation was 8.1 per cent. I just want this number to be in the back of our minds. And between 2009 and 2014, the average inflation was 10.4 per cent.

5.00 P.M.

Double digit inflation! So, I just want that to be highlighted. I know the Consumer Affairs Minister, the Food Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, the Leader of the House, has been on and off releasing pulses, on and off releasing onions from the godown, from the buffer stock. Procurement and distribution of tomatoes and onions are happening as and when there is a need. Imposition of stock limits has been on pulses and wheat. Our trade policy also sees changes so that our buffer is kept safely for ourselves. Import restrictions and quotas have been introduced on specific commodities. More than that, you would recall that the hon. Prime Minister, before *Raksha Bandhan*, had brought down the price of cylinders by Rs.200. This impacted 9.8 crore *Ujjwala* beneficiaries and who now get Rs.300 subsidy and the cylinder costs Rs.603 only for them. Similarly, it has been mentioned by several people, the PM *Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana* provides 81.35 crore beneficiaries food grains for free for the next five years. Contrast this with those States which, when we reduced the duty on petrol and diesel, did not reduce. Some of those States were lost by those ruling dispensation because it kept the price very high, and I would just recall that Punjab, Rajasthan were all such States who refused to budge. On the contrary, Punjab even raised the price; so also, Himachal Pradesh. So, these are States which are going against the well-being of the poor but question us saying: "Oh! you are not taking care of the poor. Why won't you want to reduce the price? We have done it three times. Now, it has come down to Rs.603 per cylinder." ...*(Interruptions)*... That's right. That is why people rejected them, petrol and diesel being the highest price. Sir, you come from Rajasthan. In that State, the price has remained very high. Inflation as a result has been high. No wonder the people have rejected them. There were concerns expressed about savings in the economy. Quite a few Members have spoken about it. Household savings are also going towards asset creation. I want to bring that dimension in because it is important for us to recognize that when households do have some money in their hand, they also want to invest in assets such as having their own house. Then, households added net financial assets of Rs.22.8 lakh crore in the Financial Year 2021, nearly Rs.17.0 lakh crores in 2022 and Rs.13.8 lakh crores in 2023. This can't, of course, be seen in isolation. This is an incremental purchase of an asset for themselves. They are making smarter choices, not just putting it in post office accounts. People are also now investing in the retail market. Retail market consists of small investors who are coming for small shares. They are doing it on their own and not going through mutual funds. Overall household savings, which includes financial and physical savings, grew at 9.2 per cent CAGR between 2013-14 and 2021-22, that is, eight years. It has grown in that kind of a

number. The nominal GDP has grown at CAGR 9.65 during the same period. Hence the households' savings have remained constant. It has not come down but the fact that it is going also through the stock markets, with unique demats account opened, are also reaching record numbers.

I just want to highlight that the assets under management of the Indian mutual fund industries, for those who are going through the mutual funds, has grown five times in ten years from Rs.8.34 lakh crores in October, 2013 to Rs.46.71 lakh crores in October, 2023. The total demat accounts in India have crossed thirteen crores, the highest ever touched in India. It has increased by almost six times since 2014 when it was only 2.18 crores. It has tripled since the onset of Covid-19 which is a remarkable point to be observed.

Sir, there was also a lot of concern about the US dollar strengthening against Indian rupee. I just want to highlight the recent article which has come up. 'The clearest sign that things are going well; a stable currency', was the title of that article. It says, "Rupee has lost less than one per cent of its value against the US dollar this year." And this is an article which was published in the Wall Street Journal, a leading US newspaper on 28<sup>th</sup> November. It is not something which is old; it is on 28<sup>th</sup> November. The title of that article was interesting, it said, "Virtually everything has gone right for India" and in that it says, and I quote, "Rupee has lost less than one per cent of its value against the US dollar this year compared with the decline of more than 3 per cent for the Chinese Yuan, a roughly 9 per cent fall in the South African Rand and the eleven per cent slide in the Japanese Yen. Indian economy is benefitting from reforms put in place by the Government of Prime Minister Modi." This is the Wall Street Journal telling about the Indian rupee *versus* the US dollar and I would like to recall that when once several months ago, I spoke about the India rupee standing up to the dollar and the dollar's value going up but the rupee not losing value, there was complete mockery at me saying, "How can this be? That goes up and you don't come down." Please do read and then you would know why the Indian rupee stands stable against ever increasing dollar and that cannot happen unless the Indian economy and its fundamentals are strong. It is not a fiction, it is not a fiction of my imagination. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I will come up to something more on which Dr. John Brittas, hon. Member, would have more interest, that is, about Kerala. I will come to that. So reserve some energy for that. The next question was from Dr.

Santanu Sen. I am not sure he is here. Oh, he is here, sorry! It was as to why the Central Government sends teams to enquire, why wouldn't we release the funds in time and also the thought that we were against the poor by not releasing the funds. I just want to put some facts on record. A Central team was sent for an inquiry on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019 to 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, three-four days. They visited about six *Gram Panchayats*. I am just giving you this as one of the examples. This team visited six *Gram Panchayats* in four Blocks in Purba Bardhaman and seven *Gram Panchayats* in three Blocks of Hooghly District and a total recovery of Rs.484.27 lakh was reported. The State Government, after that, sends an Action Taken Report because that was sought from the State and the Action Taken Report says that the State Government had deposited the recoverable amount from the State treasury. However, recovery has not been made in toto from each and every defaulter, which is not acceptable. It's a double whammy if you ask me. Money has gone away from the Treasury, God knows to where! And when that is questioned even by the CAG or by the enquiry teams, quickly that money is made good by putting it from the Treasury into the account where it has to go. You are using the tax-payers' money to make good the leakage which has happened. And when the leakage is spotted, that money is not getting recovered, that money is being made good by another set of public taxpayers' money. How good is this? Who was taking above the poor people's money? And when this is questioned, we are accused of not helping the poor. Sir, the Action Taken Report further says the action taken, such as FIR, disciplinary action against officials, dismissals, etc., are against very low-ranking *panchayat*-level officers. And no case against the district level or senior officers has been made. Then, the other kind of thing which got noticed was existing work is getting shown as work done under MGNREGA. That work is already done and it is there. You're re-putting it under the MGNREGA account. Is it wrong to highlight it? This was double accounting. When you question us, saying, "you have not released money, you are sending teams", the teams are finding all this out. So, existing work gets fraudulently shown as work done under MGNREGA. And, even worse, a State which had a long tenure of Communists and who questioned everything done here, should be questioning something which is happening in West Bengal. Private tea estate gets road done under MGNREGA. Private property gets worked under MGNREGA; Communists couldn't even raise it! And when we raise as to how you can use MGNREGA money for doing a private laying of the road in a tea estate which is owned by a large tea estate owner, I ask people who talk to us saying you only benefit one or two big companies, what is this? What is this, Sir? So, I want very clearly, correction to be done in favour of the poor, correction to be done in the name of using public money

responsibly. And that is where we have been asking questions. And that is where answers which come, don't give you complete answer. So, I am sorry. The teams have come. 2019 is the year, when they went. Five years are going to get over. Now, you keep asking us without correcting course. Is it wrong in this House to raise questions about public money? It is our business, all our business, to make sure the money goes to the right people. And that is why hon. Prime Minister says "adopt technology, use DBT, put it into the account of the common man". Doing that in the first few years, DBT gave us Rs. 2,00,000 crore advantage. In that, pilferage was stopped. Adopt such methods rather than continuously pointing to us saying, "No, you're not giving money". That is going in there in West Bengal. They go to the street to say Modi is not giving money for the poor. Who was not giving money for the poor? Leaked money is getting filled by taxpayers' money. Is that serving the poor? Again, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and also Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, Independent Member from Assam, have all been talking about private final consumption expenditure. In the GDP, I would like to say it stands at 58.5 per cent in 2023, the highest since 2006-07. The share of the gross fixed capital formation in GDP stood at 34 per cent in 2022-23, again, highest since 2013-14. Sir, per capita income was also a matter on which questions were raised. I just want to say in rupee terms, I'll also give in dollar terms. In rupee terms, the per capita GDP at constant price was 78,348/- in Indian rupees in 2013-14. It has increased to Rs.1,15,746/- in 2022-23.

Sir, there has been substantial increase in per capita constant price. If any Member is interested in knowing about the US dollar rate; per capital income was 1,438 US dollars in 2013-14. It has increased to 2,389 US Dollars in 2022-23. So, it is a 5.8 per cent increase. India's rank in the per capita income was 147<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries in 2013-14 which has moved up to 141<sup>st</sup> rank. Sir, from 147<sup>th</sup> rank we have moved up to 141<sup>st</sup> rank. Sir, before I go to talk about Kerala, I just want to highlight the fact that particularly and recently also, we have heard the hon. Prime Minister saying, "I am not worried, I am not going to be swayed by caste differences, backwardness or religion or any. For me, there are only four such castes which I will serve now. I have been serving them; I will serve them further and, if I do that, people will get covered across all castes and religions." So, if you were to touch the poor and serve the poor, serve the poor of all communities, poor of all castes, poor of all religions and all the poor will get covered. The poor, the farmer, the women and the youth, these four have been continuously under priority of this Government. This was also taken up from the point of view of 112 Aspirational Districts. In other words, they were Aspirational for us because they are the Districts which even in a developed State could be the pocket which is not so well developed. But, instead of calling them

backward, we call them Aspirational. On such aspirational Districts, Sir, I just want to say because quite a few Members have said that in the ground level, it is not translating. They said that all the schemes that you are announcing are not reaching the common people. I want to take this as an example to tell all the Members here that of the 112 Aspirational Districts, 26 are spread across four States and accounts for 81 Assembly seats in the recently held elections of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana. Sir, 26 Districts out of 112 where complete focus of the Government has been there to make sure that these Districts also come up to the level of the rest of the developed State. I am glad to say that the emphasis of the hon. Prime Minister was there on the poor, on the women, on the farmers and on the youth and he is supporting them to the last level. Sir, now the Aspirational Districts have moved over to Aspirational blocks. We are taking it further down to mention that saturation of all schemes will be taken up. The common people have recognised this, women have recognised this; that is why they are enthusiastic about the drones and about the SAG groups getting help. So, the enthusiasm is not just there, but it has translated into votes also. I want to just place it before the hon. Members that the result shows that over two-thirds of the seats in these 26 Aspirational Districts across four States, two-thirds in these 26 Aspirational Districts which are spread across four States have gone to the BJP. This again is not just my analysis, my data or Election Commission's data. All of us base it on Election Commission's data; it is 'The Indian Express' which has written this piece... (*Interruptions*)... So, we had focus on women, focus on poor, focus on youth, focus on farmers and the people understand that this is a Government and this is a leadership under Prime Minister Modi which delivers to the ground and that is why they trust us, that is why they trust the PM, and that is the *bharosa* with which we are bringing in these kind of ground level differences in the quality of life.

Sir, the last point which I have been seeking your indulgence is to say that quite a few hon. Members spoke about Kerala and Tamil Nadu, unfair treatment on account of 'perceived inequality' and so on. I just want to highlight just five points; I would not go into details. The points are: "We give so much but we don't get"; it doesn't add up! States receive 100 per cent of the State GST collected in that State. Nobody touches it. Approximately, 50 per cent of the IGST, which is collected for the transaction between States, 50 per cent goes to the States, and 41 per cent of the Central Government share of the GST, CGST, is also devolved to the States based on the Finance Commission's recommendations. So, tax devolution which is suggested by the Finance Commission tells very clearly that the 100 per cent of what you collect in GST is with you, 50 per cent of the IGST goes to you; 41 per cent of the Central

GST also goes to the States. This is one. Second, industrialized States like Tamil Nadu have very many companies which are registered there but which have pan India operations and they have concurrent tax payments. For example, Sir, Tamil Nadu is one of the leading automobile manufacturing States. We all know that. Manufacturers make profit because these automobiles are sold across India. So, you pay the tax, we pay tax, all of us pay the tax. Similarly, plantations from Kerala make profit selling their products to all over India. This explains why location of direct tax collection may not be on the fair and equitable principle because the money comes from everywhere, but, the taxes are paid in the State in which they are registered. So, if automobile companies are registered in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu and they pay the tax from there, it is not just that Tamil Nadu's tax money in it, all of our tax money is in it. So, when we say as each State, 'I have contributed this much, what have you given back', I want to say the taxes are from all Indians. Your company is registered there and you pay your tax. So, let us think about it. Third, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, there is a proverb in Tamil, I just half heard John Brittas and tempted to say it, if you don't mind; Mr. Brittas would understand Tamil. It says, \*"If we jump over the mat, you will continue jumping over the cot." It means, 'I raise an issue and if you address that, I will jump to the next'. The proverb is like this: \*"I am sitting in a mat. While I am addressing the issue, you will jump over the cot, that is, you will jump to another issue." It means, 'I raised an issue and if you address that, I will jump to the next.' ...*(Interruptions)*.. So, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*.. I will still answer your cess and your surcharge. This is answered 'n' number of times in this House, but 'n' number of times it will always be raised like the other day, with your permission, I took a banter on hon. Member, Ameer Yajnik, on waiver, written off. A permanent debate! It has been explained until the cows come home, but we will still explain it. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I am quite... ...*(Interruptions)*.. Don't worry, write off and written off are dramatically different, that is all. So, that has been explained several times, Sir. But, I don't mind, with your permission, I will do it any number of times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, I think men agree more than women agree among themselves. ...*(Interruptions)*.. It is a reflection. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Have you ever agreed with me? ...*(Interruptions)*..

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\* English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Third is physical infrastructure, such as roads, rails, ports, airports, etc. They are built by the Centre. And, expenditure on internal and external security is completely the Centre's domain. So, we have to make comparisons taking these points into consideration.

I come to my last two points. I am just giving this as an example. Tax devolution made to Kerala and also to Tamil Nadu during the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and the Fifteenth Finance Commissions. Sir, Kerala, when there was 32 per cent devolution, under the Thirteenth Finance Commission, got Rs. 33,368 crores. When I am saying Thirteenth Finance Commission, its period was 2010-11 to 2014-15. Then, Fourteenth Finance Commission submitted its Report and its recommendations were accepted. Just as soon as Prime Minister Modi took charge in 2014, the 2014 Report came into effect from 2015-16 and the period was up to 2019-20. By that time, on the basis of the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, 42 per cent will have to be devolved to the States. So, 32 per cent became 42 per cent under tax devolution. Under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, it became 41 per cent because J&K became UT. So, under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, it is 41 per cent. The term of Fifteenth Finance Commission is running now from 2020-21 to 2025-26. So, I am reading numbers for those three Finance Commission terms. Sir, Kerala got Rs. 33,368 crores for a five year period of Thirteenth Finance Commission; Rs. 80,188 crores for a five year period of Fourteenth Finance Commission; and Rs. 1.11 lakh crores for a five year period of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. It is during the current period. Tamil Nadu during the same time, got Rs. 70,825 crores during the Thirteenth Finance Commission time; Rs. 1.29 lakh crores during the Fourteenth Finance Commission which ended in 2020-21; and, during the Fifteenth Finance Commission, it got Rs. 2.36 lakh crores! Just see the amount. Whereas, we have been told that money is not getting devolved! You are getting money.

Last and fifth point is this. The credibility of this Government is to financially empower the States. It can also be gauged from the fact that nobody touched an issue which was pending since 1996-97 till 2014-15! That money was actually belongs to the States. Nobody touched it. It was lying as pending amount. Tax dues amounting to Rs. 81,645 crores was lying there. It was Prime Minister Modi who, in 2015, talked to the — this happened in 2021 — Ministry and officials. All of us worked together with the States — there was some money which States owe to the Centre — and this money of Rs. 81,645 crores was owed by the Centre to the States. Sir, this money was then released. Reconciled amounts were adjusted. The net amount which went to the States was Rs. 43,168 crores, after adjusting what they owe to the Centre. So, an issue pending from 1996-97 gets sorted out in 2021 in favour of the States, because Prime Minister Modi was also Chief Minister once and he knew what

the States undergo if money does not reach them in time. That is why, since 2020 — I am standing here myself as evidence — at least, five times, I have asked the Ministry to release funds in advance. So, where they were supposed to get one installment, two installments were paid in advance and not waiting for due time, so that States don't suffer. So, a Chief Minister becoming a Prime Minister has actually kept in favour of all the States and has never discriminated against any State. In fact, he repeatedly says that until and unless all States grow equally, India cannot grow. So, somebody who believes in that is never going to discriminate against any State.

Sir, I have largely covered all the issues. I would not go on talking about internet connectivity and issues like that, which many Members raised. But, I suppose, the concerned Ministers would also have their time to speak about them.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is already 5.30 PM. We have allocated three hours for a combined discussion on the Bills mentioned at serial Nos. 8(a) and 8(b); and, two hours for item 8(c) in the List of Business.

If you all agree, we may now take up Special Mentions, instead of the Bills. These Bills will be taken up at a later date.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

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### SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Special Mentions. Shri K.R.N. Rajesh Kumar -not present. Next is Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa.

#### **Demand for empowering Tea garden educated youths through skill development schemes**

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the lush landscapes of our tea gardens of Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, a unique challenge presents itself — educated youths with no land and no income. No land no income — this problem is seen especially in Assam, Tripura, and

West Bengal. Recognizing the potential of this demographic and understanding the need for inclusive growth, special skill development schemes have to be designed to empower these individuals and catalyze positive change in their lives. Tea garden educated youths often face limited opportunities due to the absence of tangible assets.

To address this, skill development initiatives must be strategically crafted to offer a diverse range of training programs, equipping them with practical skills that extend beyond traditional agricultural practices. These schemes must focus on vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and technology adoption.

Vocational training must enable the youths to acquire skills in demand, opening avenues for gainful employment. Entrepreneurship development programs have to nurture their ability to create and manage small enterprises, fostering a spirit of self-reliance. Moreover, integrating technology into these initiatives will ensure the youths are well-versed in modern practices, enhancing their competitiveness in the contemporary job market.

Digital literacy, e-commerce training, and exposure to emerging technologies will equip them to navigate the evolving economic landscape.

By providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in diverse fields, these initiatives will pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the unique demography, fostering sustainable development in the tea garden communities.

I urge upon the Government, through you, to take necessary steps in the matter and, in the larger public interest, provide skill development scheme to the educated and semi-educated youths of the concerned States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Ms. Indu Bala Goswami (Himachal Pradesh), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal).

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA) *in the Chair.*]

### **Demand to protect railway printing presses**

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Railway Board had decided to close down its five printing presses by March, 2023. These include the

printing presses of Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern, and South-Central Railways. But, the decision was not implemented due to the strong objection raised by the workers and trade unions. The Railway Board has released an order, dated 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, referring its previous orders on this subject and reiterated the decision to close down the presses. To meet up the uninterrupted supply of revenue earning items such as UTS, PRS, ATVM tickets, RTC for MLA/MLC/APC, various types of passes, safety forms related with train movement, signalling, medical forms related with treatment and personnel forms related with staff matter, the existence of the Railway Press is required. In practical experience it is observed that the suppliers are not performing their duties in a proper way. The quality of materials is also not up to the mark. They are failing to supply the materials in right time, right quantity and right quality. Due to paucity of materials, train movement can suffer badly. So outsourcing in Railway Presses is required to be avoided in the interest of rail users and rail movement. In this scenario, I hereby urge the Government to instruct the Railway Board to withdraw its decision and facilitate smooth operation of all the Railway Printing Presses in India. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Elamaram Kareem: Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Binoy Viswam (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

#### **Demand to implement PM-KUSUM scheme in Odisha**

**श्री मुजीबुल्ला खान (ओडिशा) :** महोदय, नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय ने किसानों को सस्ती और सुलभ बिजली प्रदान करने के लिए 2019 में तीन घटकों के तहत विभाजित पीएम-कुसुम (प्रधानमंत्री किसान ऊर्जा सुरक्षा एवं उत्थान महाअभियान) लॉन्च किया है। घटक-ए में 10,000 मेगावाट सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्रों की स्थापना शामिल है, घटक-बी के तहत 20 लाख स्टैंडअलोन सौर पंपों की स्थापना का लक्ष्य है और घटक-सी में 15 लाख व्यक्तिगत ग्रिड से जुड़े कृषि पंपों का सौरीकरण शामिल है। यह योजना माँग आधारित है, जिसमें राज्य सरकारों द्वारा भेजी गई माँगों के आधार पर धनराशि स्वीकृत और जारी की जाती है। ओडिशा सरकार ने घटक-बी के तहत 10,741 स्टैंडअलोन सौर पंपों की स्थापना और घटक-सी के तहत 50,000 व्यक्तिगत ग्रिड से जुड़े कृषि पंपों के सौरीकरण की माँग की थी। हालाँकि सितंबर 2023 तक केवल 5,741 सौर पंप्स स्वीकृत किए गए हैं, जिनमें से 1,294 घटक-बी के तहत स्थापित किए गए हैं। इसके

अलावा, कंपोनेंट-सी के तहत 50,000 कृषि पंपों में से ज़ीरो की मंजूरी दी गई है। पीएम-कुसुम योजना के तहत माँगों को मंजूरी देने में देरी ओडिशा के किसानों को बिजली उत्पादन तक समावेशी पहुँच से वंचित कर रही है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से पीएम-कुसुम योजना के घटक-बी और घटक-सी के तहत ओडिशा राज्य सरकार द्वारा उठाई गई माँगों को मंजूरी देने में देरी के कारणों की समय पर समीक्षा की माँग करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Shri Muzibulla Khan: Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu)

### **Demand of voting rights for people living in Cantonment Boards**

**डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, छावनी परिषदों (कैंटोनमेंट बोर्ड्स) में बी.आई. लाइन - ब्रिटिश इंफैंट्री, बी.सी. लाइन - ब्रिटिश कैवलरी और आर.ए. लाइन - रॉयल आर्टिलरी, इस तरह के नाम अभी भी चल रहे हैं, जिनको सेना के शहीदों के नाम पर परिवर्तित करना चाहिए।

महोदय, देश भर के छावनी परिषदों में सामान्य: बी 4-लैंड्स होती हैं, जिनमें झुग्गी-झोपड़ी के ज्यादातर लोग निवास करते हैं। उनको लोक सभा तथा विधान सभा के चुनावों में मतदान का अधिकार होता है, लेकिन वे छावनी परिषद के चुनाव में मतदान नहीं कर सकते, जिसका कारण बी 4-लैंड पर उनका अवैध बसा होना बताया जाता है। भारत के संविधान के अंतर्गत विभिन्न निर्वाचनों में उनको मतदान का अधिकार है, परंतु यहाँ पर ऐसी विसंगति है, जिस पर विचार होना चाहिए।

इसी प्रकार छावनी परिषद के क्षेत्र में सेना के जवान रहते हैं और उनके वोट लोक सभा, विधान सभा और छावनी परिषद के चुनावों में पड़ते हैं, लेकिन उनके व्यक्तिगत और यूनिट ट्रांसफर्स होते रहते हैं। उसके लिए आने वाली यूनिट या जवान का वोट बढ़ाने की विशेष आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि वे लोग रोज यूनिट और बैरक से कचहरी या तहसील नहीं जा सकते और पटवारी भी उनके यहाँ नहीं आ सकता। इसलिए इस पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए। जब एक ही मकान में रहते हुए उन्हें लोक सभा और विधान सभा के चुनावों के लिए मताधिकार है, तो छावनी परिषद के चुनाव में उनको मताधिकार देने पर विचार करने के लिए मैं सरकार से आग्रह करता हूँ।

सर, इसमें मेरा एक और सुझाव है.....\*

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\* Not recorded.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Special Mention is only as per the approved text.

**डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी :** ठीक है सर, धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee: Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

Dr. Sasmit Patra.

### **Need to resolve issues of farmers in Odisha**

**डा. सस्मित पात्रा (ओडिशा) :** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपना स्पेशल मेंशन अपनी मातृ भाषा उड़िया में पढ़ रहा हूँ और उसकी लिपि दी गई है। \*Sir, there are three pressing issues that need to be resolved relating to the farmers of Odisha. Firstly, the non-payments and delayed payments of *Fasal Bima* (Crop insurance) to the farmers of Odisha. Many farmers especially, in western, coastal and southern Odisha are suffering due to that. The second issue is the need for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Paddy at Rs. 2,930 per quintal as it was unanimously resolved in the Odisha Vidhan Sabha on March 25th, 2017 by all MLAs present in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. The third issue is the need to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission report for the development and welfare of the farmers, especially, in Odisha. In order to resolve these three issues, firstly, the Government of India needs to ensure timely payments of *Fasal Bima* to the farmers, failing which they have to undergo a lot of suffering. Secondly, MSP of paddy at Rs. 2,930 per quintal needs to be fixed by the Government of India which will enable farmers to have their right price for their produce. And, thirdly, the Government of India needs to implement all the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission Report, including providing MSP at 1.5 times of the C2 value for the farmers, at least. The Government of Odisha has written to the Government of India several times in this regard, and I am hopeful that the Government of India would resolve these issues of the farmers of Odisha. Thank you.

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\* English translation of the original speech delivered in Odiya.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra: Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu).

### **Demand for Development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha**

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to a matter of an urgent public importance relating to the development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha. The temple holds immense cultural, religious, and historical significance and is a popular pilgrimage site for both local and foreign tourists. Despite its potential, the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills have not received the necessary attention for comprehensive development and promotion as a tourist attraction. This oversight limits the region's tourism potential and deprives local communities of the socio-economic benefits that a thriving tourism industry can bring. I, therefore, request the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism that the Harishankar Temple and its surrounding area be declared an India International Tourist Centre. Moreover, sufficient funds and resources must be allocated for infrastructure development, improving railway connectivity, accessibility and overall facilities in and around the temple and hills. Conservation and preservation measures are also needed to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area. By declaring the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills as an India International Tourist Centre, their full potential can be unlocked, contributing to the growth of the tourism sector in Odisha. This move would not only boost the local economy but also showcase India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage to the world.

I urge the Government, through you, Sir, to take necessary steps to develop the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Niranjan Bisi: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

### **Concern over non-communicable diseases - action on marketing of unhealthy foods**

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY (Puducherry): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that currently, non-communicable diseases are on the rise. The unrestricted marketing of unhealthy foods, which are high in fat, sugar and salt, leads to a rise in non-communicable diseases. Most of them also contain ajinomotto, a salt called Mono Sodium Glutamate (MSG). It is a well-known cancer-causing agent.

Sir, evidence shows that most companies advertising food products attract children with highly catchy advertisements to influence their food preferences, but they have harmful contents. Roadside eateries are the major contaminants. They use all sorts of colouring agents and ajinomotto indiscriminately in various recipes. Over-indulgence in high calorie food coupled with indoor leisure activities such as watching television, surfing the Net and playing computer games, all contribute to childhood obesity. Regionally, overweight and obesity in children under five years of age has increased from 5.8 per cent to 8.1 per cent between 1990 and 2012, which is above the global average of 6.7 per cent. It has recently been projected as 10 per cent in India. Overweight and obesity in adolescents, between 13 and 15 years of age, are highly prevalent. Incidentally, we are now celebrating the year of millets. The impetus given to the campaign by the hon. Prime Minister has taken the message to every nook and corner of our country.

Sir, through you, I would request the Government to consider this matter very seriously and initiate immediate action to curb the unopposed marketing of unhealthy foods in the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri S. Selvaganabathy: Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

### **Demand for waiver of 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Kendu Leaves**

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): In June, 2023, the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, wrote to the Union Finance Minister, reiterating the State's demand for the exemption of 18 per cent GST on Kendu leaves. The reason is the

adverse effect it had on the livelihood of lakhs of tribals traditionally engaged in plucking Kendu leaves. Kendu leaf, known as the green gold of Odisha, is a minor forest produce that essentially acts as the financial backbone for the leaf pluckers (90 per cent belonging to tribal communities), binders and seasonal workers. The 28 per cent GST levied on *bidi* (finished products made from Kendu leaves) creates a double taxation burden on the pluckers and workers, as the traders who get the tenders, in turn, pay them less for the leaves due to high taxes. This, in spirit, goes against the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the PESA Act, 1996, as it impacts the livelihood and social welfare of the already marginalized tribals.

Being the third largest State producing Kendu leaves in India, Kendu leaf is an important non-wood forest product for Odisha. To protect the interests of workers, Odisha Government announced a special package in 2020, which included Rs. 1,000 for each plucker and Rs. 1,500 for each seasonal worker and binder. They were also covered under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana health scheme. Odisha also became the first State to provide bonuses to Kendu leave pluckers.

Given its importance for Odisha and its people, Sir, through you, I urge the Government to withdraw the GST on the collection of Kendu leaves.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. Amar Patnaik: Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Benga) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

**Demand to withdraw increased toll charges at all Toll Gates and close all the toll gates which are collecting tolls for more than ten years in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is unfortunate that toll charges at toll gates are being hiked on a regular basis. It affects badly the transportation of raw materials across the State and will lead to escalation in prices of essential commodities, particularly food items. In addition to the price set by the oil companies for petrol and diesel, the Union Government collects Rs.5 and Rs.2 per litre on sale of petrol and diesel as infrastructure development fee. In 2021-22 alone, 3,08,49,000 MT of petrol and 7,66,59,000 MT of diesel have been sold all over the country and Rs.2,70,000 crore was collected as infrastructure development fund. Even after collecting Rs.20

lakh crores of road infrastructure development fees in the past 10 years, the high toll charge is unjustifiable.

The law says that only 40 per cent of the fee should be collected after the deadline for road construction. But full toll charges are being collected at many toll gates which are more than 10 years old. The toll hike for commercial vehicles like bus, lorry, goods vehicle, call taxi, tourist vehicles, etc., is borne by the people only. The steep increase of toll collected will automatically increase the retail price and ultimately passed on to the public. This is the root cause for the escalation of prices beyond the reach of the common people.

Therefore, I urge the Government to withdraw increased toll charges at all toll gates and close all the toll gates which are collecting tolls for more than 10 years in Tamil Nadu.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA):** The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri R. Girirajan: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

### **Demand to develop Uttarakhand as Sports Hub**

**श्री नरेश बंसल (उत्तराखंड) :** महोदय, देवभूमी उत्तराखंड सीमांत क्षेत्र होने के साथ ही इसमें हिमालय, चारधाम, जीवनदायिनी नदियां व वन हैं। उत्तराखंड के निवासी बहुप्रतिभा के धनी हैं व उत्तराखंड ने संस्कृति, साहित्य, ज्ञान, विज्ञान, वीरता और खेल में पूरे देश को बहुत सारे रत्न दिए हैं। यहां से लगभग हर घर से एक जन भारतीय सेना में शामिल होकर देश के लिए सर्वोच्च बलिदान दे रहे हैं व अन्य सरकारी, गैर सरकारी पदों पर सेवाएं दे रहे हैं। आदरणीय प्रधान सेवक नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का उत्तराखंड प्रेम जग जाहिर है और मोदी सरकार में उत्तराखंड का सर्वांगीण विकास हो रहा है। वर्तमान में खेल की दिशा में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सम्मान बढ़ाया है, किन्तु यहां राष्ट्रीय व अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की खेल सुविधाओं का अभाव है, जबकि उत्तराखंड के खिलाड़ियों ने हर तरह की राष्ट्रीय-अंतरराष्ट्रीय खेल प्रतियोगिताओं में प्रतिभाग लेकर पदक जीते हैं एवं राज्य का नाम स्थापित किया है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि उत्तराखंड को खेलों का हब बनाया जाए, क्योंकि यहां साहसिक क्रीड़ा, जिसने बछेंद्री पाल जैसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की महिला पर्वतारोही को दिया है।

इसके अतिरिक्त उत्तराखंड के लोगों का हिम क्रीड़ा, जल क्रीड़ा, कुश्ती, बॉक्सिंग, बास्केटबॉल, क्रिकेट व निशानेबाजी में योगदान रहा है। तमाम ऐसे दर्जनों लोग हैं, जिन्होंने राष्ट्र

ही नहीं अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी हमारे देश का सम्मान बढ़ाया है। मेरा आपसे विनम्र निवेदन है कि सरकार उत्तराखंड को एक विशेष स्पोर्ट्स हब के रूप में विकसित करे, ताकि यहां के खिलाड़ी अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर देश का सम्मान बढ़ाएं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Naresh Bansal: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

### **Need to explore sustainable alternatives to stubble burning**

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, it is the same story every winter. The capital and adjoining regions are engulfed in smog, setting fresh records of extreme Air Quality Index (AQI) levels due to stubble burning in northern States. While some efforts are being made to lower AQI levels through temporary sprinklers, imposing robust vehicular movement guidelines and issuing numerous health advisories, long-term sustainable alternatives to a major source of pollution remain unexplored. There are various eco-friendly crop residue alternatives that the Government can explore to mitigate climate hazards posed by stubble burning. Biomass briquettes, compressed blocks made from residual straw and paddy, provide an environmentally-conscious substitute for coal. When used in thermal power plants, these briquettes can significantly reduce the carbon footprint. Leftover paddy can be used innovatively by transforming it into various products such as paper, cattle fodder, animal bedding, agri-fiber boards and packaging materials. These practices promote sustainability and create monetary benefits from leftover paddy instead of incessant burning. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute has introduced a bio-enzyme that, when sprayed on paddy residue, facilitates decomposition and transforms it into nutrient-rich manure within a couple of weeks.

Other viable alternatives, such as Happy Seeder, bio-ethanol production and providing better subsidies to other crops should also be explored by the Agricultural Department. Educational promotion of green farm practices among farmers and highlighting associated benefits should accompany these initiatives. I urge the Government to start implementing sustainable alternatives to stubble burning before the next winter sets in.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Binoy Viswam (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde (Bihar), Dr. V. Sivdasan (Kerala), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

Now, Shrimati Mahua Maji - not present. Dr. Amee Yajnik.

### **Demand for bringing innovative policies in Plastic Waste Management**

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, plastic over-consumption and mismanagement of plastic waste is a growing menace, causing landfills to overflow, choking rivers and threatening marine ecosystems. This has a negative impact on our environment and valuable resources are harmed.

Efforts to manage plastic waste have been implemented at the national, State and local levels, including ban on single-use plastic items. The Government of India notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016; the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018; the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021; and the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging through the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

Plastic waste management remains a significant challenge due to lack of infrastructure, low waste collection rates, inadequate funding and lack of recognition to the informal recycling sector. Plastic waste generated is currently utilised for road construction, waste-to-energy plants, waste-to-oil plants and in cement plants for co-processing. However, local waste management infrastructure has not kept pace, resulting in large quantities of mismanaged waste.

In this context, I urge the Government to bring policies whereby innovative economic instruments such as incentive mechanisms are created and investments are identified across major economic sectors that could reduce plastic waste. The Government should come out with solutions whereby producers and importers of plastic goods take the responsibility for the disposal of plastic waste. A major rush would be market-based tools such as tax exemptions, subsidies, or grants/loans that can be applied to support businesses to incentivize the prevention, minimization and recycling of plastic waste.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Dr. Amee Yajnik: Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Binoy Viswam (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde (Bihar), Dr. V. Sivdasan (Kerala), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

### **Need to review and revise EPF Pension fixation formula**

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, after the introduction of Family Pension dating back to 1972, the EPF-95 was introduced in 1995 and, at that time, the ceiling limit of pensionable salary was Rs. 5,000 for 7 years, increased to Rs. 6,500 for 13 years. From 2014 onwards, the pensionable salary was increased to Rs.15,000.

The method of pension calculation prior to 1995 was determined on the basis of years of service and accordingly, lump sum amount was paid. From 1996 onwards, the calculation was on the basis of Rs.5,000 for the first 7 years, Rs.6,500 for the next 13 years, and from 2014 onwards, on the basis of Rs.15,000, and the ceiling limit divided by 70.

### **6.00 P.M.**

However, on the analysis of the Government formula, it is worked out at Rs. 3,636 whereas if the amount is worked at the EPF rate of interest, it comes to Rs. 5,901 per month. Similarly, if the Government decided for getting option from the employee for full pension, the employee has to pay more contribution and, consequently, the formula for pension followed by EPF at present should be changed. When the Government is asking for joint option forms from employees and the employers for revising the pension, it is high time that the pension calculation formula is also to be reviewed and revised.

Hence, I demand from the hon. Labour Minister that the EPF pension fixation formula should be revised and re-worked in consultation with the trade unions at the earliest. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri M. Shanmugam: Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Binoy Viswam (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala).

The remaining Special Mentions will be carried forward. The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

*The House then adjourned at one minute past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023*

