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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 12th December, 2025/21 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)

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

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Twenty-fourth Anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Parliament Building

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, tomorrow, the 13th of December, 2025, is the twenty-fourth anniversary of the tragic terrorist attack on Parliament House that took place on 13th December, 2001. On that dark day, when the very symbol of our democracy, i.e., the *Bharatiya Sansad*, was targeted by forces bent on destroying the foundations of our nation, it was the fearless courage and prompt action of our valiant security personnel that foiled their sinister design. We lost several brave-hearts who stood unflinchingly between the attackers and this temple of democracy, displaying exceptional gallantry in the face of mortal danger.

Hon. Members, let us pause to remember and pay our respectful tribute to those courageous souls who sacrificed their lives on that sorrowful day. Their devotion to the duty and selfless valour continue to inspire every one of us. It is our sacred responsibility to carry forward the democratic ideals for which they laid down their lives.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in that terror attack.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, please look at the front row, no Cabinet Minister is present. Not a single Cabinet Minister! Not even one Cabinet Minister! ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is a breach of Parliament. Not even one Cabinet Minister!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will take it up.... *...(Interruptions)...* I will take it up with the Government. *...(Interruptions)...* Please. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): No; no, this is not.... *...(Interruptions)...* What do you think? *...(Interruptions)...* सर, प्रोसीज़र यह है कि यहाँ कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर को होना चाहिए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN): Respected, Chairman, Sir....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please request your Cabinet Minister to come to the House. *...(Interruptions)...* Please request the Cabinet Minister to come to the House. *...(Interruptions)...* I am requesting... *...(Interruptions)...* I am requesting him. Please take your seats. *...(Interruptions)...* I am asking them... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, Sir. You cannot exempt like this. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, the House cannot run like this. *...(Interruptions)...* No Cabinet Minister is there. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I understand the procedure. Please take your seats. *...(Interruptions)...* I have requested... *...(Interruptions)...* I have requested the Minister. *...(Interruptions)...*

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

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the practice is to adjourn the House till a Cabinet Minister is present. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): सर, यह हाउस की परंपरा है कि कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर को हाउस चलने से पहले आ जाना चाहिए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you please make a request that one of the Cabinet Ministers should come. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: You cannot run the House. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे : सर, हाउस adjourn कीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, you have to adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you have to adjourn the House till a Cabinet Minister comes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are coming. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Papers to be laid on the Table, Shri Jitin... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this is against the practice to run without a Cabinet Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do agree. Then, why are you shouting, Jairamji? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, you will not run till a Cabinet Minister comes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, in protest, we are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for ten minutes. We will meet again at 11.15 a.m.

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

The House met at fifteen minutes past eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJUJU): Sir, I was informed that the House got adjourned because no Cabinet Minister was sitting here. I would like to inform the august House that the former Lok Sabha Speaker, Shivraj V. Patilji expired this morning. So, I had to go to the Lok Sabha for adjournment because there is a precedent in the past that

when a former Lok Sabha Speaker expires, then, there is adjournment for the whole day. So, we took some time. The hon. Leader of the House also had his question in the Lok Sabha; so, he was also there. I regret that a Cabinet Minister was not here. But I admit, Sir... ..(*Interruptions*)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, वे इस सदन के भी सदस्य रहे हैं। सरकार ने लापरवाही बरती है। एक पूर्व स्पीकर, पूर्व गृहमंत्री के लिए भी संवेदना व्यक्त करनी थी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Zero Hour time will be getting reduced. Please.

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: मैं आपसे फिर कह रहा हूँ कि वे इस सदन के सदस्य रहे हैं। अगर बगल का सदन स्थगित होता है, तो यहां संवेदना तो व्यक्त कर दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, do you want to respond? ..(*Interruptions*)... No. One minute.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, hon. Member, *Tiwariji* is right. Late Shri Shivraj V. Patil was also a one term Member of Rajya Sabha. For that, there is a due process. The unfortunate demise happened just a while ago, only this morning; so, maybe, the Secretariat is taking some time. But it should be duly condoled in this august House also. Tomorrow is the Martyrs Day when the Parliament was attacked. Tomorrow, there is a holiday. That may also be later... ..(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Okay. If that is referred, then, I agree, Shri Shivraj V. Patil's condolence should also be sent.

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

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- II. **Reports and Accounts (2024-25) of various Councils, Organisation, Authority, CGPDTM, Board, Federation and Institutes and related papers**
- III. **Notifications of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
- IV. **Reports and Accounts (2024-25) of UIDAI, New Delhi, STPI, New Delhi, C-DAC, Pune; SAMEER, Mumbai; SCL, SAS Nagar, Punjab, NIELIT, New Delhi, C-MET, Pune and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jitin Prasada, I lay on the Table:—

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) Notification No. S.O. 4524(E)., dated the 3rd October, 2025, prohibiting manufacture, possession, sale and import of the electric detonator (explosive of Class 6 Division 3 or UN Class 1 Division 1) throughout the country, with certain conditions, issued under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Explosives Act, 1884.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5683/18/25]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) Notification No. G.S.R. 839(E)., dated the 13th November, 2025, publishing the Gas Cylinders (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2025, under sub-section (8) of Section 18 of the Explosives Act, 1884.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5682/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) Seventieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5667/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Sixty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5670/18/25]

- (iii) (a) Forty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the India Trade

Promotion Organisation (ITPO), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5322/18/25]

(B) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 37 and sub-section (3) of Section 39 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005:-

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZA), Cochin, Kerala for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5321/18/25]

(C) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 155 of the Patents Act, 1970:-

- (a) Annual Report of the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications (CGPDTM), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5323/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) Seventy-first Annual Report of the Tea Board India, Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25.

- (b) Seventy-first Annual Accounts of the Tea Board India, Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25, and the Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5319/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM), Ballabgarh, Haryana, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5320/18/25]

- (iii) (a) Eighty-fifth Annual Report of the Coffee Board, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for the year 2024-25.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Coffee Board, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for the year 2024-25, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5675/18/25]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, Kerala, for the year 2024-25.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, Kerala, for the year 2024-25, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5676/18/25]
- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Productivity Council (NPC), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5676A/18/25]
- (vi) (a) Sixtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5669/18/25]
- (vii) (a) Sixty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI), Thane, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5671/18/25]
- (viii) (a) Sixty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5671A/18/25]

III. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016: -

- (1) HQ-13073/1/2020-AUTH.II Part (1)/Comp. No. 12972(E)., dated the 20th August, 2025, publishing the Aadhaar (Payment of Fees for Performance of Authentication) Amendment Regulations, 2025.
- (2) HQ-16021/2/2021-EU-II-HQ (E-6538)., dated the 22nd August, 2025, publishing the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Second Amendment Regulations, 2025.
- (3) HQ-16016/1/2023-EU-I-HQ(E)., dated the 22nd August, 2025, publishing the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) First Amendment Regulations, 2025.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3), see No. L.T. 5399/18/25]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Notification No. HQ-16021/2/2021-EU-II-HQ (E-6538)., dated the 25th November, 2025, publishing the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Third Amendment Regulations, 2025, under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5781/18/25]

IV. (A) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 26 and sub-section (3) of Section 27 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016: -

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5780/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5779/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
 [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5777/18/25]
- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
 [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5778/18/25]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), SAS Nagar, Punjab, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Laboratory.
 [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5776/18/25]
- (v) (a) Thirtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5397/18/25]
- (vi) (a) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
 [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5398/18/25]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

II. Reports and Accounts (2021-22 and 2024-25) of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram; NSCL, New Delhi; KCDC Limited, Mangaluru, Karnataka and related papers

III. Reports and Accounts (2024-25) of PPVFRA, New Delhi; Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala; NCCD, Gurugram, Haryana and related papers

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामनाथ ठाकुर): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare), issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914: -

- (1) S.O. 4641(E)., dated the 13th October, 2025, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Tenth Amendment) Order, 2025.
- (2) S.O. 5047(E)., dated the 6th November, 2025, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Eleventh Amendment) Order, 2025.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2), see No. L.T. 5329/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) Fifty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, for the year 2021-22, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5322/18/25]
- (ii) (a) Sixty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSCL), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5700/18/25]
- (iii) (a) Forty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation (KCDC) Limited, Mangaluru, Karnataka, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5333/18/25]

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

- (a) Annual Report of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5698/18/25]

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

- (a) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala, for the year 2024-25.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Coconut Developmental Board, Kochi, Kerala, for the year 2024-25, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Brief Note on Review of developmental activities and achievements of the Coconut Development Board during the year, 2024-25.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5331/18/25]

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

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD), Gurugram, Haryana, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5334/18/25]

Report and Accounts (2024-25) of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, Maharashtra

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. L. MURUGAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5791/18/25]

- I. **Reports and Accounts (2024-25) of ARAI, Pune; R&C, Mumbai; BBJ, Kolkata; NEPA Limited, Burhanpur (MP); AYCL, Kolkata; BHEL and EPIL, New Delhi; REIL, Jaipur; B and R, Kolkata; IL, Jaipur and related papers**
- II. **Reports and Accounts (2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24) of NAB, New Delhi and FCRI, Palakkad, Kerala and related papers**
- III. **MoU between Gol and BHEL for the year 2025-26**
- IV. **Reports and Accounts (2024-25) of BSLC, Bhubaneswar; the MOIL Limited, Nagpur; the NMDC Steel Limited, Bastar, Chhattisgarh; the MECON Limited, Ranchi, EIL, Bhubaneswar, the KIOCL Limited, Bengaluru; the MSTC Limited, Kolkata; the NMDC, Hyderabad; SAIL, New Delhi and related papers**
- V. **MoUs between Gol and SAIL; MSTC Limited; MOIL Limited; MECON Limited; NMDC Limited for the year 2025-26**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI BHUPATHI RAJU SRINIVASA VARMA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

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

- (i) (a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5741/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Richardson &

Cruddas (1972) Limited (R&C), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5727/18/25]

- (iii) (a) Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Braithwaite Burn and Jessop Construction Company Limited (BBJ), Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5726/18/25]

- (iv) (a) Seventy-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the NEPA Limited, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5730/18/25]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited (AYCL), Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5729/18/25]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5728/18/25]

- (vii) (a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited (EPIL), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5724/18/25]
- (viii) (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Limited (REIL), Jaipur, Rajasthan, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5723/18/25]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bridge & Roof Company (India) Limited (B and R) Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5721/18/25]
- (x) (a) Sixty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Instrumentation Limited (IL), Jaipur, Rajasthan, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5722/18/25]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-
- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Automotive Board (NAB), New Delhi, for the year 2021-22, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Automotive Board (NAB), New Delhi, for the year 2022-23, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Automotive Board (NAB), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (iii), see No. L.T. 5742/18/25]

- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Fluid Control Research Institute (FCRI), Palakkad, Kerala, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5740/18/25]

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), New Delhi, for the year 2025-26.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5739/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) One hundred and fourteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited (BSLC), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5534/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Sixty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the MOIL Limited, Nagpur, Maharashtra for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5529/18/25]

- (iii) (a) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the NMDC Steel Limited, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5532/18/25]
- (iv) (a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the MECON Limited, Ranchi, Jharkhand for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5531/18/25]
- (v) (a) Ninety-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Eastern Investments Limited (EIL), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5535/18/25]
- (vi) (a) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the KIOCL Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India there on.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5528/18/25]
- (vii) (a) Sixtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5530/18/25]
- (viii) (a) Sixty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the NMDC, Hyderabad, Telangana, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5533/18/25]

(ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5536/18/25]

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), New Delhi, for the year 2025-26.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2025-26.

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and the MOIL Limited, Nagpur, Maharashtra, for the year 2025-26.

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and the MECON Limited, Ranchi, Jharkhand, for the year 2025-26.

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and the NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana, for the year 2025-26.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (v), see No. L.T. 5527/18/25]

I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Textiles**

II. **Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of various Corporations, Committee, Boards, Associations and Institute and related papers**

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पवित्र मार्गेरिटा): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Textiles, under Section 16B of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948:-

- (1) S.O. 3789(E)., dated the 19th August, 2025, notifying the nomination of the person, as mentioned therein, to serve as Member of the Central Silk Board for a period of three years from the date of this notification.
- (2) S.O. 5218(E)., dated the 7th November, 2025, notifying the nomination of the person, as mentioned therein, to serve as Member of the Central Silk Board for a period of three years from the date of this notification.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2), see No. L.T. 5372/18/25]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Textiles Notification No. S.O. 4501(E)., dated the 1st October, 2025, amending the Principal Notification No. S.O. 1830(E), dated the 22nd April, 2025, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5375/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, (NJMC), Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5946/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI), Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5373/18/25]

(B) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 13 the Textiles Committee Act, 1963:-

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Committee.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5364/18/25]

(C) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 18 of the National Jute Board Act, 2008:-

- (a) Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Jute Board (NJB), Kolkata, for the year 2022-23, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5365/18/25]

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB), Jodhpur, Rajasthan, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5363/18/25]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5367/18/25]

- (iii) (a) Forty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA), Surat, Gujarat, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Association.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5947/18/25]

- (iv) (a) Sixtieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Wool Research Association (WRA), Thane, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5369/18/25]
- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5948/18/25]
- (vi) (a) Seventy-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5368/18/25]
- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5365/18/25]
- (viii) (a) Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5371/18/25]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5370/18/25]

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I present the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on

Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change:—

- (i) 401st Report on Air Pollution in Delhi NCR and steps taken by various agencies for its mitigation;
- (ii) 402nd Report on Water Pollution in Delhi NCR and steps taken by various agencies for its mitigation;
- (iii) 403rd Report on Review of the functioning of CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO) and CSIR-Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology (CSIR -IGIB); and
- (iv) 404th Report on Review of the functioning of Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2025-26):—

- (i) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Twelfth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on ‘Demands for Grants (2024-25)’ pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts);
- (ii) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Thirteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on ‘Demands for Grants (2024-25)’ pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;

- (iii) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Fourteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in its Fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology;
- (iv) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Fifteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications);
- (v) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Sixteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications);
- (vi) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Seventeenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Ninth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology;
- (vii) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Eighteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Tenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts); and

- (viii) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in Chapter I of its Nineteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Seventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (2025-26) on 'Review of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) with special emphasis on Urban Drinking Water' pertaining to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

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

श्रीमती गीता उर्फ चन्द्रप्रभा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं विभाग-संबंधित सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2025-26) के निम्नलिखित की गई कार्रवाई संबंधी अंतिम विवरणों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिंदी में) सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ :-

- (i) Statement showing the Final Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Fifty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Forty-fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and

- (ii) Statement showing the Final Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Fifty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in its Forty-seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Giriraj Singh to move a Motion for Election of one Member to the Central Silk Board; not there. Now, the Minister of State may please move the Motion.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL SILK BOARD

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पबित्र मार्गेरिटा): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव उपस्थित करता हूँ:-

"केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड नियम, 1955 के नियम 5(1) के साथ पठित केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 4 (3)(ग) और धारा 4 (5) के अनुसरण में, यह सभा उस रीति से, जैसे सभापति निदेश दें, सभा के सदस्यों में से एक सदस्य को केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड का सदस्य होने के लिए निर्वाचित करने की कार्यवाही करे।"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fourth Report and Ninth Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology and

Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the One Hundred Ninety-second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jitin Prasada, I lay the following statements regarding:-

- (a) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fourth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25) on the Demands for Grants (2024-25) pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5379/18/25]

- (b) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25) on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5380/18/25]

- (c) Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the One Hundred Ninety-second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in its One Hundred Ninetieth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) (Demand No. 11) pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5665/18/25]

Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमलेश पासवान): महोदय, मैं ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग की 'अनुदान मांगों (2025-26)' के संबंध में विभाग-संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास और पंचायती राज संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के पांचवें प्रतिवेदन (अठारहवीं लोक सभा) में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों/समुक्तियों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5318/18/25]

Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel on Steel

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HEAVY INDUSTRIES; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BHUPATHI RAJU SRINIVASA VARMA):
Sir, I lay the statement regarding Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel on Steel Scrap Recycling Policy pertaining to the Ministry of Steel.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5495/18/25]

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISISON

Concern over misuse of Siri Fort Golf Driving Range and illegal permission to serve liquor inside a public sports facility

श्री संजय सिंह (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): सर, देश की राजधानी दिल्ली के सिरी फोर्ट स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में इस समय लोगों को जो दुश्वारियाँ झेलनी पड़ रही हैं, वहाँ पर जो समस्याएँ हैं, उनके बारे में आपको अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ। मान्यवर, इस स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में क्रिकेट, बैडमिंटन, टेनिस और तमाम स्पोर्ट्स एकैडमीज़ हैं। देश और दुनिया के विख्यात खिलाड़ी, जो विश्व विजेता क्रिकेट टीम के सदस्य रहे हैं - मदन लाल जी - वे वहाँ पर क्रिकेट की कोचिंग देते हैं। बच्चों से लेकर बुजुर्ग तक इस स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में जाते हैं। लेकिन पिछले कुछ दिनों से इस स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में भय का माहौल है। लोग वहाँ जाने से डरते हैं। महिलाएं और बच्चियाँ वहाँ पर जाने से डरती हैं, बुजुर्ग वहाँ पर जाने से डरते हैं, क्योंकि इस स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स के अंदर शराब का अड्डा बना दिया गया है। मान्यवर, यह शराब का अड्डा इनके खुद के नियमों के विपरीत है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स के लिए जो बायलॉज बनाए गए, उनका नियम 27 यह कहता है, "Consuming liquor or alcoholic drinks and smoking in the premises of the complex is strictly prohibited. Members are requested to cooperate and avoid indulging in drinking or smoking". इसके अलावा, इसी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने 15 मार्च, 2018 को 28 लोगों की मेम्बरशिप सस्पेंड कर दी, क्योंकि वे स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स के अंदर शराब पी रहे थे। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप 28 लोगों की मेम्बरशिप इस आधार पर कैंसल कर सकते हैं कि वे वहाँ पर शराब पी रहे थे, तो आपने वहाँ पर शराब के लिए परमिशन कैसे दे दी? वहाँ पर लिकर की बिक्री के लिए परमिशन कैसे दे दी?

मान्यवर, मैं अंतिम बात कहकर अपनी बात को समाप्त करूँगा। राजेश अग्रवाल जी ने डीडीए से एक आरटीआई के जरिये सवाल पूछा कि आप मुझे बताइये कि क्या इस कॉम्प्लेक्स के

अंदर लिकर की दुकान का लाइसेंस दिया गया है? तो उत्तर मिला - हाँ। दूसरा सवाल पूछा गया कि क्या यह नियमों के हिसाब से सही है? तो उन्हीं का जवाब है - नहीं। आप खुद ही कह रहे हैं कि यहाँ पर शराब का लाइसेंस नहीं दिया जा सकता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूँगा, यहाँ पर लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस बैठे हुए हैं, वहाँ पर छोटे बच्चे जाते हैं, कृपया करके इसे बंद करवाइये। वहाँ पर ऐसा लाइसेंस प्रतिबंधित होना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Sanjay Singh : Shri Gurwinder Singh Oberoi (Jammu & Kashmir), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, (Punjab), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Narain Dass Gupta (NCT Delhi), Shri Ashok Singh, (Madhya Pradesh), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand).

**Need for strengthening the Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL)
to ensure safe and reliable air travel**

डा. विक्रमजीत सिंह साहनी (पंजाब): चेयरमैन सर, मैं आपका ध्यान एक बहुत ही संवेदनशील विषय की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। डीजीसीए ने फ्लाइट सेफ्टी को लेकर जनवरी में एक सर्कुलर जारी किया, जिसमें तीन प्रावधान किए गए थे। पहला, जब एक पायलट साढ़े पाँच दिन, एक हफ्ते में आठ से दस घंटे उड़ान भरता है, तो उसके बाद उसे 36 घंटे की बजाय 48 घंटे का रेस्ट मिलना चाहिए। नाइट लैंडिंग दो दिन ही कर सकते हैं। He can do a maximum of two night landings in a week, or, not more than two consecutive night landings. 2009 में अमेरिका में जो एयर क्रैश हुआ था, उसका कारण फटीग था, ये इंटरनेशनल सेफ्टी कंसर्न्स उसी वजह से आए हैं।

सर, यह हुआ कि इसका Phase 1 जुलाई में लागू हुआ और जैसे ही Phase 2 नवम्बर में लागू हुआ, एयरपोर्ट्स में fiasco हो गया और हम सबने फ्लाइट्स और हज़ारों पैसेन्जर्स की स्थिति देखी। डीजीसीए ने - एक तरफ पहाड़ था और दूसरी तरफ खाई थी, एक तरफ एयरलाइन्स के पास पायलट्स नहीं थे दूसरी तरफ पैसेन्जर्स suffer कर रहे थे - इसको नवम्बर के अंत में withdraw कर लिया। Safety was totally compromised. I would like to mention here that some airlines in the name of cost cutting or making profits did not have sufficient crew. इसकी वजह से फेयरस भी 1 लाख रुपये तक पहुंच गए, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि सर्कुलर बिल्कुल बर्खास्त करके वापस ले लिया जाए। आपको पता है कि एयर इंडिया का

अहमदाबाद में unfortunate incident हुआ, उसका भी अभी कोई concrete explanation नहीं मिला है। यह दुख की बात है, यह concern है कि 65 per cent of the air traffic केवल दो एयरलाइन्स के पास है। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हम सभी की जिम्मेवारी है, there is no blame game, कि जो हमारी एयरलाइन्स हैं, बैक्स हैं, पावर प्लांट्स हैं, इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर है, ये नेशनल एसेट्स हैं। जब कोई एनपीए हो जाता है, एनसीएलटी हो जाता है, तो सरकार उसकी रिस्ट्रक्चरिंग करती है, पर ऐसा एयरलाइन्स के केस में नहीं किया गया। शायद यह एक कारण हो सकता है कि दो एयरलाइन्स के पास ही 65 परसेंट ट्रैफिक है। यह जो प्रॉब्लम monopoly या duopoly की है – किसी एयरलाइन के पास पायलट्स हैं, तो उनके पास अच्छे जहाज नहीं हैं, उन्होंने ऑर्डर किए हैं, जिसमें साल-डेढ़ साल लगेगा और किसी के पास अच्छे जहाज हैं, तो उनके पास पायलट्स नहीं हैं, तो we cannot compromise with the safety. So, this safety regulation should be brought back, may be in a month's time or whenever, and we should have a fair play for airlines because हमें अगर पांच ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney : Shri Gurwinder Singh Oberoi (Jammu & Kashmir), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Narain Dass Gupta (NCT Delhi), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal (Punjab), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Sanjay Yadav (Bihar), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand).

Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar.

**Demand for intervention of the Union Government to address
distress of sugarcane farmers in Karnataka**

SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. Karnataka is witnessing a serious sugarcane farmers' agitation, especially in North Karnataka districts such as Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Vijayanagara, Bidar, Gadag, Haveri and Dharwad. Sir, the fair price announced by the Union Government for 2025-26 is Rs.355/- per quintal. After deducting harvesting and transport costs of Rs.800/- or Rs.900/- per tonne, farmers are left with only Rs.2,600/- to Rs.3,000/- per tonne, far below their demand of Rs.3,500/-, which is not profit but it is the bare minimum for survival.

Sir, the crisis deepens when we look at ethanol allocation. For 2024-25, Karnataka received only 47 crore litres, not 116.30 crore litres as claimed by the Union Minister. He is from Karnataka. He is continuously giving statements in Karnataka. Sir, this figure of 47 crore litres comes from his own reply given in Parliament dated 6th August, 2025. Over four years, Karnataka had the capacity to produce 879 crore litres of ethanol; yet, OMCs procured only 171 crore litres. But, Gujarat, with only around 40 crore litres capacity, received procurement of 31 crore litres. Out of 40 crore litres, they have received procurement of 31 crore litres. Why is Karnataka being consistently denied its fair share? Why is there this favouritism? Across India too, more than 350 distilleries are facing uncertainty due to the new 2025-26 ethanol tender policy, which prioritises 'deficit zones' and leaves many established distilleries without orders despite heavy investment.

Even in maize, *mekke jola*, Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka face continuous droughts and floods. This year, our farmers produced 60 lakh metric tonnes of maize, *mekke jola*. The Centre has still not declared MSP. The State has stepped in by raising the per-acre procurement limit from 20 to 50 quintals.

When the Union Government alone decides FRP, sugar MSP, export permissions, ethanol procurement, blending targets, molasses duties and payment-enforcement rules, why is the burden pushed onto the States? So, I urge the Prime Minister for urgent intervention. Allow States to fix a net price after H&T, revise FRP and sugar MSP, open export windows, ensure higher ethanol procurement for Karnataka, and guarantee timely payment to farmers. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri G.C. Chandrashekar: The Leader of the Opposition (Shri Mallikarjun Kharge), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Mallikarjun Kharge (Karnataka), Shrimati Sonia Gandhi (Rajasthan), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri Ashok Singh (Madhya Pradesh).

Shri Rajinder Gupta.

**Demand for expansion of international flight connectivity
at Chandigarh International Airport**

SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA (Punjab): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise under Zero Hour to urge the Government to expand international flight connectivity from Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali. Despite handling around 10,000 passengers daily and processing a modern terminal capable of managing 4.5 million passengers annually, the airport, currently, operates only two international routes to Dubai and Abu Dhabi with barely about nine international movements a week. This is disproportionately low as compared to neighbouring hubs and does not meet the growing demand of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The wider region hosts one of the largest Non-Resident Indian population, particularly, in UK, US, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Canada. Yet, millions of travellers, including students, workers, senior citizens and businessmen are forced to undertake long and costly journey to Delhi or Amritsar to access international flights, adding to fatigue, congestion and emissions. Direct services to key destinations such as London, Toronto and Singapore would significantly benefit citizens and strengthen the Tricity's emergence as a business, IT, MSME and tourism hub. This international airport's catchment, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, represents a combined market of over 60 million people with substantial economic potential. Its top-rated service quality, with the only AAI-managed airport achieving the maximum ASQ score of 5.00, among AAI airports, further highlights the readiness of the greater international operations. Enhanced global connectivity would also support defence logistics, given Chandigarh's strategic importance and align with the Government's regional development priorities of UDAN.

I, therefore, urge the Government to commission an independent route-viability audit; fast track terminal and custom capacity upgradation; secure permanently-extended operational windows and airspace authorities; and incentivize airlines to launch priority international routes to Southeast Asia, Europe and North America. This is very, very important, Sir. *Jai Hind, Jai Bharat, Vande Mataram.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Rajinder Gupta : Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), : Shri Gurwinder Singh Oberoi (Jammu & Kashmir), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Narain Dass Gupta (NCT Delhi), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal (Punjab), Shri Sant

Balbir Singh (Punjab), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal).

Shri Arun Singh.

Need for easier access to roads for Tribal communities in forest regions

श्री अरुण सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, मैं आदिवासी भाई-बहनों के लिए सड़क संपर्क मार्ग का विषय उठाना चाहता हूँ। सामान्य रूप से ये लोग वन क्षेत्र, यानी wild life sanctuary के आसपास रहते हैं। वहाँ सड़क मार्ग नहीं होने से सरकार की सारी योजनाओं का जो लाभ उनको मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिल रहा है, चाहे शिक्षा हो, चाहे उनके अस्पताल आने-जाने की सुविधा हो। अगर सड़क मार्ग ही बीच में रुक जाता है, तो किस प्रकार से वे सुविधाओं का लाभ ले सकेंगे? इसकी वजह से बहुत समस्या उत्पन्न हो रही है और दिक्कत आ रही है। उदाहरण के रूप में मैं बताना चाहूँगा कि मिर्जापुर क्षेत्र में 7 सड़कें ऐसी हैं, जहाँ कहीं 2.5 किलोमीटर, कहीं 2 किलोमीटर तक बीच की सड़क नहीं है। एक मतवार न्याय पंचायत है, जहाँ कई वर्षों से बीच की सड़क नहीं बनी है। कस्बे से वन क्षेत्र तक तो सड़क बनी है, फिर उसके बाद 7 किलोमीटर की सड़क रुक गई, उसके बाद फिर सड़क बनी है। उस सड़क मार्ग से जाने के दौरान कई प्रसव से जुड़ी मृत्यु भी हो चुकी हैं। यहाँ wild life sanctuary declared है। उसका नियम ऐसा है कि पहले सरकार उतनी जमीन आवंटित करे, उसके बाद उसका impact assessment कराए। इस तरह से यह एक बहुत जटिल प्रक्रिया है।

मेरा सरकार से यह आग्रह है कि वह ऐसी सड़कें, जो संपर्क मार्ग के तौर पर छोटी-छोटी सड़कें हैं, जहाँ पर कोई पेड़ भी नहीं कटना है, उन सड़कों का एक बार सर्वेक्षण करा ले और यह भी देखे कि इसके लिए नियम में क्या बदलाव लाया जा सकता है। बड़ी-बड़ी सड़कें तो ढंग से बन जाती हैं, लेकिन ये छोटे-छोटे संपर्क मार्ग रह जाते हैं। अगर आप जमीनी स्तर पर जाइए, तो यह देखने को मिलता है कि वन विभाग उस सड़क को रोक देता है। इसको रोकने के कारण वहाँ 1.5-2 फीट गड्ढा बन जाता है। अगर सड़क एक किलोमीटर भी रुक गई और गड्ढे 1-2 फीट के हैं, तो आदमी उससे जाएगा कैसे! इसलिए यह एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या है।

इसलिए मैं इससे संबंधित वन विभाग के हमारे जो माननीय मंत्री जी हैं, उनसे ऐसा निवेदन करूँगा कि वे ऐसी सभी सड़कें, जो छोटी-छोटी सड़कें हैं, उनका एक बार सर्वे कराएँ और उनकी समस्या का निवारण करने के लिए अगर नीति में कोई परिवर्तन करना हो, तो वह भी करें।

सर, इसके साथ ही एक दूसरी माँग है। अगर कई दशक से कोई क्षेत्र wild life sanctuary declare हो गया, तो यह रहना चाहिए। यह हम सबका दायित्व है और पर्यावरण को तथा वन्य जीव को protect करना हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी है। लेकिन अगर कहीं दो-दो किलोमीटर तक या तीन-तीन किलोमीटर तक कोई पेड़ नहीं है, कोई जंगली जानवर नहीं है, तो ऐसे कुछ क्षेत्रों को आईडेंटिफाई करके, ग्रामीणों के हितों को ध्यान में रखकर, उस क्षेत्र को डी-नोटिफाई करके, अगर ऐसी आवश्यकता लगती हो, तो उनकी सहूलियत को ध्यान में रखते हुए, यह काम करना चाहिए।

महोदय, आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा यही निवेदन है कि ग्रामीणों की समस्याओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए, आदिवासियों की समस्याओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह काम किया जाए, जिससे उनको मूलभूत सुविधाएं मिल सकें, डॉक्टर्स वहां पर जा सकें तथा शिक्षा के लिए वे लोग कस्बे में आ सकें। तो उनकी इन समस्याओं का निराकरण किया जाए, धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Arun Singh: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde (Maharashtra), Shri Mokariya Rambhai (Gujarat), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand) Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand), Shri Deepak Prakash (Jharkhand), Shri Banshilal Gurjar (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Subhash Barala (Haryana), Shri S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Shrimati Geeta alias Chandraprabha (Uttar Pradesh), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand), Dr. Bhim Singh (Bihar), Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel (Bihar), Shrimati Ramilaben Becharbai Bara (Gujarat), Shrimati Darshana Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu (Nominated), Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh), Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade (Goa), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shri Sat Paul Sharma (Jammu & Kashmir), Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki (Himachal Pradesh), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Neeraj Shekhar (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Surendra Singh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telengana), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Shri Madan Rathore.

Need for regulatory provisions to curb circulation of obscene and harmful reels on social media platforms

श्री मदन राठौड़ (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि इन दिनों सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म्स पर ऐसी घटिया रील्स जारी की जा रही हैं, जो हमारे सामाजिक रिश्तों को तार-तार करने का एक [£] लगता है। ऐसा लगता है कि किसी प्लानिंग के तहत हमारे रिश्तों को इस प्रकार से बदनाम करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। चाहे फेसबुक हो, एक्स हो या इंस्टाग्राम हो, इन पर इस प्रकार की रील्स जारी

[£] Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

हो रही हैं, जिनमें हमारे जो पवित्र रिश्ते हैं, जैसे बड़ी भाभी को हम मां के रूप में मानते हैं, लेकिन देवर-भाभी को लेकर, भतीजा-चाची को लेकर तथा इसी प्रकार के ऐसे रील्स बनाकर सोशल मीडिया पर डाले जा रहे हैं और अनचाहे लोगों को इन्हें देखने के लिए मजबूर किया जा रहा है। इससे नाबालिग नौजवान या बच्चे उनकी ओर आकर्षित होते हैं, जिससे हमारे सामाजिक रिश्ते बदनाम हो रहे हैं। मैं यह सोचता हूँ कि इस प्रकार का जो घटिया प्रयास है, उससे अनैतिक, पारिवारिक मूल्यों को तोड़ने वाली, किशोरों और युवाओं पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव डालने वाली, ऐसी घटिया रील्स फेसबुक इत्यादि पर अनचाहे आ जाती हैं।

इसलिए महोदय, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि इस मामले में कठोर कानूनी कार्रवाई की जानी चाहिए और ऐसी रील्स बनाने वालों को दंडित किया जाना चाहिए। जो लोग इनको दिखाने का काम करते हैं, इनका बहुत बड़ा दुष्प्रभाव भी पड़ता है। इनमें वे महिलाओं का अशोभनीय चित्रण भी करते हैं, साथ ही प्रेम-संबंध और पारिवारिक रिश्तों का गलत तथा भ्रामक प्रस्तुतीकरण करते हैं। वैसे हमारे यहां पर ऐसे एक्ट्स भी हैं, जैसे आईटी एक्ट, 2000 और आईटी एक्ट, 2021, उनमें कुछ प्रावधान तो हैं, लेकिन मैं ऐसे कन्टेंट आधारित रील्स और तेजी से फैलाई जाने वाली अश्लील शॉर्ट वीडियोज़ पर नियंत्रण हेतु, कठोर कानून बनाए जाने के लिए निवेदन करना चाहूँगा।

महोदय, ऐसी अश्लील, असामाजिक और विघटकनकारी रील्स को रोकने के लिए कानूनी प्रावधान और सख्त दंड देने का प्रावधान निश्चित रूप से किया जाना चाहिए। नाबालिगों को ऐसी हानिकारक सामग्रियों से बचाने के लिए, सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म आधारित जवाबदेही भी सुनिश्चित की जानी चाहिए, अश्लील रील्स बनाने वालों तथा उन्हें शेयर करने वालों पर दंडात्मक कार्रवाई की जानी चाहिए और सोशल साइट्स पर ऐसी रील्स प्रचलित करने पर कठोर दंड का प्रावधान किया जाना चाहिए, अन्यथा नयी पीढ़ी बरबाद हो जाएगी, रिश्तों की गंभीरता समाप्त हो जाएगी और वह उनको गंभीरता से नहीं लेगी। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से यह निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि इस प्रकार का कोई कानून बनाने के लिए सरकार से आग्रह किया जाए। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Madan Rathore: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Banshilal Gurjar (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Chunnilal Garasiya (Rajasthan), Shrimati Dharmshila Gupta (Bihar), Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh), Shri Deepak Prakash (Jharkhand), Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh (Gujarat), Shri Balyogi Umeshnathi (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Brij Lal (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel (Bihar), Dr. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Subhash Barala (Haryana), Dr. Bhim Singh (Bihar), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala (Gujarat), Shri Mayankkumar Nayak (Gujarat), Shri Mokariya Rambhai (Gujarat), Shri Ramilaben Becharbai Bara (Gujarat), Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade (Goa), Shri Sat Paul Sharma (Jammu & Kashmir), Shrimati Sumitra

Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Narain Dass Gupta (NCT Delhi), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Subhasish Khuntia (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Rwngrwa Narzary (Assam), Shrimati Sudha Murty (Nominated), Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand), Shri Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (Uttar Pradesh), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand), Shrimati Geeta alias Chandraprabha (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Ram Chander Jangra (Haryana), Shri Naresh Bansal (Uttarakhand), Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki (Himachal Pradesh), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shrimati Darshana Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Shrimati Rekha Sharma (Haryana), Shri Narayanasa K. Bhandage (Karnataka), Shri Amar Pal Maurya (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Mahendra Bhatt (Uttarakhand), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Neeraj Shekhar (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Surendra Singh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Shrimati Seema Dwivedi (Uttar Pradesh).

Thiru R. Girirajan.

**Need for a High-Level National Committee to investigate
rising heart attack deaths among young people in the country**

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the findings come amid concerns over rising heart attack rates among under-40 adults in the country. Over the past few years, several people including celebrities in their 40s and 50s have died due to sudden heart ailments.

Sir, although the Union Health Ministry clarified that there was no link between Covid-19 vaccines and heart attacks in young adults, there is an apprehension in the minds of the people that death by sudden heart attacks among youth population witnessed a four-fold increase post Covid times. Sir, extensive studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR, and AIIMS have established no link between Corona Virus vaccines and sudden premature deaths among adults post Covid-19. National studies have identified lifestyle and pre-existing conditions as key factors behind the deaths, but studies by medical professionals have revealed that sudden death by heart attack among Indian population especially the under-40 age group has increased alarmingly.

Sir, the death of young people at the age bracket of 20 to 30 years due to sudden heart attack has forced us to think whether it is a myth or mistake. In any case, there is an urgent need to look into this serious issue if we really want to save our youth population. I would like to suggest that the Union Government should form a high-level national committee comprising scientists from ICMR and eminent doctors from prominent hospitals for research and analysis of health conditions of million

people, samples selected from pan-India in the country and find out the truth behind the rising deaths by heart attacks of young people in the last four years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri R. Girirajan : Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Sanjay Yadav (Bihar), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Shri Subhasish Khuntia (Odisha), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Shri Narain Dass Gupta (NCT Delhi), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri G.C. Chandrashekar (Karnataka) and Dr. Sandeep Kumar Pathak (Punjab).

Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel.

Need to increase train speeds and to introduce new train services on key routes

श्री शंभू शरण पटेल: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत आभार कि आपने मुझे सदन में एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर अपनी बात रखने का मौका दिया। महोदय, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री, आदरणीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के 11 वर्षों के कार्यकाल में रेलवे का कायाकल्प हुआ है, सैकड़ों रेलवे स्टेशनों का 'अमृत भारत योजना' के तहत सौंदर्यीकरण और विस्तारीकरण हुआ है।

महोदय, मैं बिहार प्रांत से आता हूँ। जब हम ट्रेन से पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जंक्शन से वाया पटना, किऊल, लखीसराय, झांझा, जसीडीह होते हुए हावड़ा की ओर जाते हैं, तो अन्य रूटों, जैसे दिल्ली-भोपाल रूट, दिल्ली-मुंबई रूट पर ट्रेनों की जो स्पीड है, उसकी अपेक्षा बिहार की रूटों की ट्रेनों की स्पीड बहुत कम है। अगर मुझे पटना से रांची जाना हो, तो मुझे औसतन 9 घंटे का सफर तय करना पड़ता है, जबकि पटना से रांची की दूरी मात्र 379 किलोमीटर है। वहीं अगर हम दिल्ली से झांसी जाते हैं, जो 410 किलोमीटर है, यहाँ 4 से 5 घंटे में पहुँच जाते हैं।

महोदय, माननीय रेल मंत्री जी भी यहाँ बैठे हुए हैं, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से उनसे आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में 'अमृत भारत योजना' के तहत बहुत सारे रेलवे स्टेशनों का सौंदर्यीकरण हुआ है, ट्रैक पर ट्रेनों की स्पीड भी बढ़ाई गयी है। दक्षिण बिहार से उत्तर बिहार को जोड़ने के लिए जो ट्रेन की सुविधा है, जैसे पटना से सीतामढ़ी, पटना से रक्सौल, पटना से किशनगंज और पटना से कोलकाता वाली रूट पर ट्रेनों की स्पीड बढ़ाई जाए। ट्रेन जैसे ही दानापुर डिवीजन में एंटर करती है, उसकी स्पीड ऑटोमेटिक कम हो जाती है, इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि जो बचा हुआ रूट है, जैसे पटना से झारखंड और हावड़ा रूट पर चलने वाली ट्रेनों की स्पीड बढ़ाई जाए। साथ ही, हम लोगों को नई ट्रेनों की भी सौगात दी जाए, धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Shrimati Dharmshila Gupta (Bihar), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Ms. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Brij Lal (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Khiru Mahto (Bihar), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shri Deepak Prakash (Jharkhand), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sat Paul Sharma (Jammu & Kashmir) and Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala).

Shri Sat Paul Sharma.

**Concern over the increasing climate change impact in Jammu and Kashmir
and need for strengthening the mitigation measures**

श्री सत पॉल शर्मा (जम्मू-कश्मीर): माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं शून्य काल के दौरान जम्मू और कश्मीर में जलवायु परिवर्तन की गंभीर समस्या से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार से समर्थन की तत्काल आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। आदरणीय महोदय, जम्मू और कश्मीर जलवायु परिवर्तन के पूरे प्रभावों का सामना कर रहा है, जिनमें तापमान में वृद्धि, बारिश के पैटर्न में बदलाव और मौसम की अत्यधिक घटनाओं की बढ़ती आवृत्ति शामिल हैं। यह राज्य बादल फटने, बाढ़ और भूस्खलन जैसी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के प्रति संवेदनशील है, जो यहाँ के लोगों की आजीविका को बहुत प्रभावित करती है।

मान्यवर, जलवायु परिवर्तन पर NAPCC, NAFSS, जो राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजनाएँ हैं, जो जम्मू और कश्मीर को जलवायु परिवर्तन की चुनौतियों से निपटने में सहायता प्रदान करती हैं, हालाँकि राज्य को जलवायु लचीलापन उपायों को लागू करने के लिए अधिक केंद्रीय ध्यान और संसाधनों की आवश्यकता है। मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से केंद्र सरकार से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि वह जम्मू और कश्मीर को जलवायु निगरानी और आरंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों को बेहतर बनाने, स्थाई कृषि और जल प्रबंधन प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देने, जलवायु लचीलापन बुनियादी ढांचा विकसित करने और मजबूत करने, जलवायु परिवर्तन अनुकूलन और समान पहलुओं का समर्थन करने के लिए पर्याप्त वित्तीय और तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करे। मैं जम्मू संभाग के लगभग सभी क्षेत्रों, मुख्यतः चिसौती की बात करना चाहता हूँ। किश्तवाड़ में बॉर्डर में जो क्षेत्र है, जहाँ पर आई बाढ़ के कारण माल का नुकसान हुआ, जान का नुकसान हुआ। मैं ऐसी आपदाओं को रोकने के लिए सक्रिय उपायों की व्यवस्था पर प्रकाश डालना चाहता हूँ। मैं केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वह कश्मीर को ऐसे उपाय लागू करने में सहायता प्रदान करे, जो भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने में मदद कर सके।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, माननीय अमित शाह जी, माननीय जगत प्रकाश नड्डा जी, माननीय राजनाथ सिंह जी एवं माननीय शिवराज सिंह चौहान जी का

आभार प्रकट करता हूँ, जिन्होंने ऐसे समय में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के माध्यम से वहाँ पर हमारे ध्यान में इसको लाया और सभी प्रमुख मंत्रीगण ने जम्मू-कश्मीर में विजिट किया।

महोदय, मैं चेतावनी प्रणालियों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सुझाव देता हूँ कि सरकार वायुमंडलीय अस्थिरता का पता लगाने और समय पर अलर्ट जारी करने के लिए डॉप्लर राडार, उपग्रहों और ग्राउंड सेंसर जैसी उन्नत तकनीकों को स्थापित करने का विचार करे। इससे अधिकारी आपात स्थिति में तेजी से और प्रभावी ढंग से प्रतिक्रिया दे सकेंगे, जिससे जान-माल के नुकसान का जोखिम कम होगा।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Sat Paul Sharma: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Gurwinder Singh Oberoi (Jammu & Kashmir), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Shri Subhash Barala (Haryana), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Rekha Sharma (Haryana), Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla (Nominated), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Gulam Ali (Nominated), Shri Amar Pal Maurya (Uttar Pradesh), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand).

Now, Shrimati P.T. Usha.

Need to promote indigenous Anti-Doping Kit Production and to build a Dope-Free Sporting Nation

SHRIMATI P.T. USHA (Nominated): Sir, I rise to draw the urgent attention of this House to a matter that affects the integrity of our athletes and the global image of our nation - the need to promote indigenous production of anti-doping kits under the 'Make in India' initiative and to work towards making India a dope-free sporting nation. India has emerged as a global sporting powerhouse. Our athletes are breaking barriers, winning international medals and inspiring millions. However, the menace of doping continues to threaten fair play, athlete health and our country's reputation at the world stage.

At present, a significant portion of high-quality anti-doping testing kits and equipment is imported, resulting in high costs, delays in testing cycles and dependency on external agencies. This is where the 'Make in India' mission can play a transformative role. By encouraging indigenous research, manufacturing and technology development for anti-doping kits, including sample collection devices, testing reagents and portable detection equipments, India can become self-reliant and even emerge as a global supplier of world-class anti-doping solutions. Such an

initiative will not only reduce costs but also speed up testing, increase transparency and strengthen the deterrence mechanism across all levels of sports, from grassroots to elite. Indigenous kit production will also open new avenues of employment, innovation and scientific research, in line with the vision of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

Sir, at the same time, to make India a truly dope-free nation, we must adopt a holistic approach - aggressive awareness campaigns among young athletes, stronger monitoring at training centres, regular random testing and strict action against violators, while ensuring that clean athletes receive full support and protection. I, therefore, urge the Government to establish a national programme for indigenous anti-doping kit development under 'Make in India'; support Indian scientific institutions and start-ups to innovate in doping detection technology; strengthen NADA and regional testing laboratories with modern equipment and manpower; and launch a nationwide movement to build a clean, transparent and dope-free sporting culture. Protecting the purity of sports is not just a regulatory duty; it is a national responsibility. I request the Government to take urgent and concrete steps in this direction. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shrimati P. T. Usha: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla (Nominated), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Smt. Seema Dwivedi (Uttar Pradesh), Shrimati Rekha Sharma (Haryana), Shri Subhash Barala (Haryana), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sanjay Yadav (Bihar), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam (Nominated), Dr. Meenakshi Jain (Nominated), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Shrimati Sudha Murty (Nominated), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sat Paul Sharma (Jammu & Kashmir), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shrimati Rajathi (Tamil Nadu), Shri Rwngrwa Narzary (Assam), Shri Subhasish Khuntia (Odisha), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand).

Now, Dr. Bhim Singh.

Demand for adoption of a new scientific and indigenous medical emblem in place of Caduceus and Rod of Asclepius

डा. भीम सिंह (बिहार): माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान देश में चिकित्सा प्रतीकों के उपयोग से जुड़ी हुई एक गंभीर विसंगति की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। मेडिकल साइन के रूप में पहले लाल रंग के प्लस चिन्ह का व्यापक रूप से प्रयोग होता था, लेकिन रेड क्रॉस संगठन की आपत्ति के उपरांत इस चिन्ह का उपयोग भारत में बंद कर दिया गया। उसके बाद, चिकित्सा क्षेत्र में प्रतीकों के रूप में विदेशी चिन्हों का प्रयोग बढ़ता गया। आज भी हमारे देश में चिकित्सा के प्रतीक के रूप में दो विदेशी चिन्ह - Caduceus तथा Rod of Asclepius - का उपयोग किया जा रहा है। Caduceus दो साँपों और पंखों वाला चिन्ह है, जो प्राचीन यूनानी देवता हर्मिस का प्रतीक था और जिसका संबंध व्यापार, वाणिज्य व संदेशवाहन से था, चिकित्सा से नहीं। वहीं Rod of Asclepius एक साँप वाले डंडे का चिन्ह है, जो यूनान की चिकित्सा परंपरा पर आधारित है और पूरी तरह विदेशी अवधारणा है। भारत जैसे प्राचीन और समृद्ध चिकित्सा विरासत वाले देश में इन विदेशी प्रतीकों का उपयोग हमारी वैद्यकीय परंपरा, आयुर्वेदिक दर्शन और चिकित्सा इतिहास के साथ न्याय नहीं करता। हमारे पास योग, आयुर्वेद, सिद्ध, चरक संहिता और सुश्रुत संहिता जैसी अमूल्य धरोहरें हैं। सुश्रुत को शल्य चिकित्सा का जनक माना जाता है, फिर भी हमारे आधुनिक चिकित्सा तंत्र में भारतीय पहचान का कोई औपचारिक प्रतीक मौजूद नहीं है। एक स्वाभिमानी राष्ट्र के रूप में यह हमारा दायित्व है कि हमारे चिकित्सा प्रतीक हमारी अपनी संस्कृति, ज्ञान परंपरा और वैज्ञानिक विरासत को दर्शाएँ।

अतः मैं सरकार से आग्रह करता हूँ कि Caduceus और Rod of Asclepius -दोनों विदेशी प्रतीकों - को हटाकर भारत की चिकित्सा परंपरा पर आधारित एक नया, स्वदेशी, वैज्ञानिक और सांस्कृतिक रूप से उपयुक्त चिकित्सा प्रतीक निर्धारित किया जाए। वंदे मातरम्!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. Bhim Singh: Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shrimati Sudha Murty (Nominated), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Shrimati Dharmshila Gupta (Bihar), Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde (Maharashtra), Shri Chunnilal Garasiya (Rajasthan), Shri Banshilal Gurjar (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh) and Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand).

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil. A former Member of this House, Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil passed away today, the 12th December, 2025 at the age of 90 years.

Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil served as the Member of Rajya Sabha representing the State of Maharashtra from 2004 to 2010. Born on 12th October, 1935, Patil ji was an eminent public figure, who held several constitutional and parliamentary positions. During his long and distinguished career, he served as the 10th Speaker of Lok Sabha and later as the Union Minister of Home Affairs. He also served as the Governor of Punjab and the Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh.

A dignified and soft-spoken Statesman, Patil ji was widely respected for his deep understanding of parliamentary procedure. His unwavering commitment to democratic value and his calm and measured approach to public life, his contributions to the proceedings of this House and to the nation's governance remain noteworthy.

In the passing away of Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil, the country has lost an experienced Statesman, an able administrator and a respected parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil. I request the Members to rise in their place and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

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

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

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR- *Contd.*

Need for a National-Level Divyangjan Commission to ensure rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

श्री मयंककुमार नायक (गुजरात) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे देश में जो

नागरिक शारीरिक रूप से पूर्ण नहीं हैं, उन्हें आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने संवेदनापूर्वक दिव्यांग

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Mayankkumar Nayak: Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya (Gujarat), Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Shrimati Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara (Gujarat), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sat Paul Sharma (Jammu & Kashmir) and Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand).

Now, Question Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Availability of Minimum Support Price (MS) to farmers

*136. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) despite the country's overall development, farmers do not receive their rightful Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops, the underlying reasons for the same;

(b) the manner in which Government plans to address the gap between the MSP announced and the actual price received by farmers in the market; and

(c) steps taken by Government to ensure that farmers receive the MSP for all their crops, and by when the Government aims to ensure MSP coverage for all crops across the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Every year, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops for the country as a whole based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned.

The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSPs at levels of at least one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government had increased MSPs for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other Commercial crops with a minimum return of 50 percent over all India weighted average cost of production from the year 2018-19 onwards.

To realize the objectives of MSP Policy, after announcement of MSP, Government procures cereals and coarse cereals through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other designated State Agencies to provide price support to the farmers. Procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra is done under Price Support Scheme under Umbrella Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), in consultation with the concerned State Government as and when market price of these produce fall below the MSP. Procurement agencies under PM-AASHA Scheme are National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF). Cotton and Jute are also procured by Government at MSP through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI), respectively.

Government offers to procure agricultural crops through designated procurement agencies and farmers have the option to sell their produce to the government agencies or in the open market whichever is advantageous to them.

Increased MSP has benefited farmers of the country which are evident from data of procurement and MSP amount paid to the farmers. The details of procurement and MSP amount paid to farmers from the year 2014-15 to 2025-26 (upto October, 2025) are given as under:

Procurement	MSP Value
117 crore 32 lakh metric tonne	24 lakh 49 thousand crore rupees

To encourage domestic production & ensure remunerative prices to farmers, procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur from the pre-registered farmers is undertaken as much as offered by them through the Central Nodal Agencies under Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses till 2030-31.

To provide remunerative price to the farmers, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), a component under PM-AASHA, for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a

bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and the cost of production. There should be at least a 10 percent decrease in the ruling market prices over the previous normal year. The scheme is implemented at the request of a State/UT government.

Government has introduced a new component of Price Differential Payment (PDP) under Market intervention scheme (MIS) from 2024-25 season for direct payment of the price difference between the Market Intervention Price (MIP) and the selling price to the farmers of perishable crops. States/UTs have an option to choose either to do physical procurement of the crop or to make the differential payment between the MIP & Sale Price to the farmers.

Further, from 2024-25 season, Government added another component under Market intervention scheme for reimbursing the Storage and Transportation cost of TOP crops (Tomato, Onion and Potato) to central nodal agencies & state designated agencies for transporting them from the producing state to consuming states in the interest of the farmers.

Moreover, during the 2024-25 season, approval was given to the states of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh for transportation of tomatoes by NCCF and NAFED.

श्री संत बलबीर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मैं कृषि मंत्री जी का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि वे बहुत जतन कर रहे हैं। सर, सरकार ने वायदा किया था कि किसानों की आमदनी दोगुनी की जाएगी, पर अफसोस है कि किसानों की आमदनी दोगुनी नहीं हुई, जिसकी वजह से किसान, मजदूर खुदकुशी कर रहे हैं। किसानों के सिर पर कर्जे का पहाड़ है और दिनों दिन वह पहाड़ बढ़ रहा है और किसान लगातार खुदकुशी कर रहे हैं। मैं कृषि मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरीके से उद्योगपतियों के कर्जे माफ किए जा रहे हैं, तो क्या यह सरकार किसानों और मजदूरों के कर्जे माफ करने के लिए कोई योजना बना रही है? अगर कोई योजना बना रही है, तो उसके बारे में मंत्री जी बताएं।

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: सभापति महोदय, मैं परम श्रद्धेय संत श्री बलबीर सिंह जी का आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। संत सच ही बोलते हैं, इसलिए उन्होंने अपने सवाल में पूछा है कि देश के समग्र विकास के बावजूद, इसका मतलब वे स्वीकार करते हैं कि देश का समग्र विकास हो रहा है और यह सच भी है कि प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में एक वैभवशाली भारत, एक गौरवशाली भारत, एक संपन्न भारत, समृद्ध भारत, एक शक्तिशाली भारत और विकसित भारत का निर्माण हो रहा है।

महोदय, किसानों के प्रति उनकी चिंता का मैं आदर करता हूँ और विनम्रता के साथ यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि देश के समग्र विकास के साथ-साथ कृषि में किसानों की आय बढ़ाने के लिए और कृषि के समग्र विकास के लिए भी लगातार प्रयत्न किए जा रहे हैं। सर, प्रधान मंत्री

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में हमारी छह सूत्री रणनीति है। पहली, पर हैक्टेयर उत्पादन कैसे बढ़े और मुझे बताते हुए खुशी है कि 2014 के बाद 2024 तक 44 परसेंट उत्पादन बढ़ा है, जो अपने आप में एक रिकॉर्ड है। वह उत्पादन बढ़े, इसके लिए नए बीज, नई टेक्नोलॉजी और नई कृषि पद्धति, सबका उपयोग हो रहा है। दूसरा, उत्पादन की लागत घटाने के संबंध में है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि मोदी सरकार किसानों को लगभग दो लाख करोड़ रुपये फर्टिलाइज़र सब्सिडी दे रही है। प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि, छोटे किसानों के लिए वरदान बन गई है। उसमें लगभग 4 लाख, 9 हजार करोड़ रुपये प्रधान मंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि के रूप में किसानों के खातों में अंतरित किए गए हैं। फसल बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत 1 लाख, 90 हजार करोड़ रुपये की राशि किसानों के खातों में डाली गई है। किसानों को खेती के लिए कम ब्याज दरों पर कर्जा मिले, इसके लिए केसीसी पर 15 लाख करोड़ रुपये का लोन देने का चमत्कार भी मोदी सरकार ने ही किया है। प्रधानमंत्री किसान मांग धन योजना के अंतर्गत 60 साल की उम्र के बाद अगर कोई किसान उसमें शामिल होता है, तो फिर यह योजना पेंशन की गारंटी भी देती है। हमारे द्वारा मैकेनाइजेशन योजना, होर्टिकल्चर योजना, प्राकृतिक खेती मिशन, कृषि योजना, वानिकी योजना, बाँस मिशन, पर डॉप-मोर क्रॉप जैसी योजनाएँ लाकर एक नहीं अनेक प्रयत्न किए जा रहे हैं, जिससे किसानों की आय निश्चित तौर पर बढ़ रही है।

माननीय सभापति जी, कभी-कभी समस्याएँ आती हैं। कई बार सूखा, बरसात, बाढ़, अतिवृष्टि, पाला से किसान की फसलें तबाह और बरबाद हो जाती हैं, इसलिए ऐसे समय के लिए भी 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' किसान के लिए वरदान बनकर खड़ी है। मैं श्रद्धेय बलबीर संत जी से यह जरूर निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि पंजाब सरकार ने अभी तक 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' को अपने यहाँ लागू नहीं किया है। अगर यह योजना इस समय पंजाब में लागू होती, तो बाढ़ के कारण पंजाब में अभी जो व्यापक नुकसान हुआ है, उससे किसानों को और सुरक्षा मिलती।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)... Nothing will go on record except Minister's answer. It is not correct.

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं तो किसान के हित की ही बात कर रहा हूँ। मैंने पंजाब के माननीय मुख्य मंत्री भगवंत सिंह मान जी को पत्र लिखकर आग्रह किया है कि पंजाब को 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' के अंतर्गत सम्मिलित करने का काम करें, उस योजना को वहाँ लागू करें, ताकि किसानों की और ज्यादा मदद की जा सके। महोदय, हम किसानों की मदद करने में कोई कोर-कसर नहीं छोड़ेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. Shri Sant Balbir Singh.

श्री संत बलबीर सिंह: सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों द्वारा जो खुदकुशियाँ की जा रही हैं, क्या सरकार द्वारा उसका कोई रिकॉर्ड रखा जा रहा है? क्योंकि किसान लगातार खुदकुशी कर रहे हैं, इसलिए मेरा सवाल है कि क्या आपके पास इसका कोई

रिकॉर्ड उपलब्ध है? यदि है, तो 15 सालों से की जा रही खुदकुशियों की डिजिटल डिस्ट्रिक्टवाइज़ बताई जाए। अगर सरकार किसानों द्वारा की जा रही खुदकुशियों का रिकॉर्ड नहीं रख रही है, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, उसके बारे में भी भी बताया जाए?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, हर इंसान की जान की कीमत होती है। अगर कहीं पर एक भी व्यक्ति आत्महत्या करता है, तो वह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात है। आत्महत्या कहीं भी नहीं होनी चाहिए, लेकिन विभिन्न परिस्थितियों के कारण कई बार अलग-अलग पेशों में काम करने वाले भाई-बहिन, बेटे-बेटियाँ, दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण suicide करते हैं।

महोदय, जहाँ तक कृषि का सवाल है, मैं सदन में बताना चाहता हूँ कि हम किसानों की आय बढ़ाने के लिए हर संभव प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। मैं आत्महत्या के आंकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ, वह अमान्य भी होगा, क्योंकि तब कितनी आत्महत्याएँ होती थीं और अब कितनी होती हैं, इसके बारे में कुछ कहना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण होगा।...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन हमारा यह संकल्प है कि एक-एक व्यक्ति मानवीय गरिमा के साथ अपना जीवन जिए और हम उस संकल्प को पूरा करने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ेंगे। माननीय सभापति महोदय, ग्रामीण भारत में भी किसान सहित सभी की समृद्धि बढ़ी है और खर्च करने का जो सामर्थ्य है, क्षमता है, वह भी बढ़ी है। ऐसा एक नहीं कई रिपोर्ट्स कह रही हैं, इसलिए किसान की आय भी बढ़ रही है, लेकिन आत्महत्या करने के अनेक कारण होते हैं, लोग अनेक कारणों से आत्महत्या करते हैं। कई बार विद्यार्थी भी आत्महत्या कर लेते हैं, कई बार पेशेवर व्यक्ति, व्यापार करने वाला व्यक्ति, कोई गृहिणी भी आत्महत्या कर लेती है, लेकिन एक भी आत्महत्या होना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Third supplementary. Shrimati Mahua Maji.

SHRIMATI MAHUA MAJI: Sir, through you, my question to the hon. Minister is: झारखंड के किसानों के लिए एमएसपी कोई औपचारिक नीति नहीं, बल्कि जीवन रक्षा का आधार है, लेकिन सेंटर द्वारा वादे किये गये डिजिटल प्रोक्योरमेंट सिस्टम, मोबाइल प्रोक्योरमेंट वैनस और रियल टाइम एमएसपी वैरिफिकेशन जैसे कार्य आज तक शुरू नहीं हो सके हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे कि केंद्र ने अपने इन दायित्वों को समय पर पूरा क्यों नहीं किया और क्या अब केंद्र सरकार झारखंड में अब एक पूर्ण tech-enabled MSP procurement network तय समयसीमा में लागू करेगी?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, कृषि राज्य का विषय है। एमएसपी पर खरीद चाहे वह झारखंड राज्य हो या बाकी राज्य हों, वह राज्य की एजेंसी या केंद्रीय एजेंसी के माध्यम से करते हैं। इसके लिए अलग-अलग राज्यों में अलग-अलग स्तर पर टेक्नोलॉजी का बेहतर इस्तेमाल होता है। माननीय सभापति महोदय, कई राज्य बड़ी एफिशियंटली खरीद करते हैं

और 48 घंटे के अंदर किसान के खाते में पैसा पहुँच जाता है। लेकिन कुछ राज्य ऐसे हैं, जैसे केरल, जहाँ किसान के खाते में तीन-तीन महीने तक पैसा नहीं पहुँचता है। उन्होंने इसके लिए एक अलग पद्धति अपनाई है। वे एमएसपी का सीधा भुगतान नहीं करते हैं, बल्कि जब किसान मंडी में बेचने जाता है, तब उसे एक स्लिप दे देते हैं। वह उस स्लिप को लेकर बैंक जाता है, तो बैंक उसे लोन के रूप में यह कहता है कि जब राज्य सरकार या केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से पूरा पैसा आ जाएगा, तब एमएसपी की राशि दी जाएगी। तो अलग-अलग राज्यों की अलग-अलग पद्धतियाँ हैं। झारखंड राज्य भी एफिशियंटली खरीदी करे। केंद्र सरकार टेक्नोलॉजी के माध्यम से जो सहयोग कर सकती है, वह निश्चित तौर पर करेगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fourth supplementary; Shri Ram Chander Jangra.

श्री रामचंद्र जांगड़ा: सर, सबसे पहले मैं प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की नीतियों के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद करता हूँ। मैं भी एक किसान हूँ। हरियाणा में जो किसान कभी दस हजार रुपये का ट्रैक्टर भी 24 प्रतिशत ब्याज की दर से लोन पर लेता था, आज हरियाणा प्रदेश में किसानों की यह हालत है कि वे 15 लाख का ट्रैक्टर कैश डिस्काउंट पर लेते हैं। हमारे किसान पूरी तरह से खुशहाल हैं। आत्महत्या की एक भी घटना नहीं होती है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। दालें हमारे भोजन का बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण अंग हैं, तो माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करें कि दालों की खरीद को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? इसके साथ-साथ मंत्री जी यह भी बताने की कृपा करें कि एमएसपी के अतिरिक्त फसलों के उचित मूल्य हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य, रामचंद्र जांगड़ा जी को हृदय से धन्यवाद देता हूँ। दालें, विशेषकर शाकाहारी भाई-बहनों के लिए प्रोटीन प्राप्त करने का एकमात्र साधन हैं। दालों का उत्पादन बढ़े, इसके लिए सरकार लगातार प्रयास कर रही है। हमने एक दलहन मिशन भी बनाया है। माननीय सभापति महोदय, मुझे यह बताते हुए प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि प्रधान मंत्री, श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में हमने यह तय किया है कि मुख्य दालें, जैसे तुअर, मसूर और उड़द एमएसपी पर 100 प्रतिशत खरीदी जाएँगी, पूरी की पूरी खरीदी जाएँगी। किसान इनकी जितनी भी पैदावार करेगा, हम उसे पूरा खरीदने का काम करेंगे। कल ही मेरे पास कर्नाटक से लोक सभा के माननीय सदस्य आये थे। विपक्ष के सदस्य मित्र भी थे, लेकिन हम पक्ष और विपक्ष कुछ नहीं मानते हैं, केवल सेवा पर भरोसा रखते हैं। उन्होंने तुअर की दाल की खरीदी की बात की थी। मुझे यह बताते हुए प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि कर्नाटक सरकार ने भी जितनी तुअर खरीदी की माँग की थी, उसकी स्वीकृति उन्हें दे दी गई है। हम तुअर, मसूर और उड़द की दाल की पूरी खरीदी करेंगे।

सभापति महोदय, जहाँ तक किसान को और भी ठीक दाम दिलाने की बात है, तो इसके लिए पिछले दिनों कुछ निर्णय लिए गए हैं। पहले येलो पीज जीरो प्रतिशत इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी पर आती थी, अब उस पर 30 प्रतिशत इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगा दी गई है, ताकि भारत के किसानों को एक दाम दिया जा सके। हमने मसूर और चने जैसी फसल पर भी इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ाकर दस प्रतिशत कर दी

है, ताकि बाहर से सस्ती दालें न आ सकें। सभापति महोदय, मैं एक बात और गर्व के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने कहा है कि राष्ट्र हित सर्वोपरि है और किसानों का हित सर्वोपरि है। किसानों के हितों की सदैव रक्षा की जाएगी। कोई भी समझौता किसानों के हितों को दरकिनार रखकर नहीं किया जाएगा। हम दालों की भी खरीदी करेंगे और किसानों के हितों को भी सुरक्षित करने का काम करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fifth supplementary; Shrimati Rekha Sharma. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती रेखा शर्मा: मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूँगी कि 2014 से पहले एमएसपी पर फसलों की कितनी खरीद होती थी और 2014 के बाद कितनी खरीदी हुई है? इसमें कितनी वृद्धि हुई है? यदि वृद्धि हुई है, तो इसका विवरण दें और इसे सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, हमारी विद्वान सांसद बहन रेखा जी का मैं आभारी हूँ। ...(*व्यवधान*)... मोदी जी के नेतृत्व वाली है यह सरकार किसानों को एमएसपी कितनी प्रमाणिकता के साथ दे रही है, मैं इसका उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ। इस सरकार ने 2019 में तय किया कि एमएसपी लागत पर 50 परसेंट मुनाफा देकर घोषित की जाएगी, ताकि लाभकारी दाम किसान को मिल सके। महोदय, जहां तक खरीद का सवाल है, तो 2014 से 2014 तक जो धान की खरीद हुई थी, वह 45 करोड़, 90 लाख मीट्रिक टन थी और वह 2014 से 2025 तक 79 करोड़, 11 लाख मीट्रिक टन है। 2004 से 2014 तक गेहूं 22 करोड़, 54 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदा गया था और अभी यह 33 करोड़, 58 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदा गया है। उस समय दलहन 6 लाख, 29 हजार मीट्रिक टन खरीदा गया था, जो ऊंट के मुंह में जीरा भी नहीं था, लेकिन अब यह 1 करोड़, 89 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदा गया है। तिलहन, जो कि 47 लाख, 75 हजार मीट्रिक टन खरीदा गया था, लेकिन अब यह 1 करोड़, 28 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदा गया है। वाणिज्यिक फसलें जैसे जूट, कोपरा, कपास, ये 35 लाख, 37 हजार मीट्रिक टन खरीदी गई थीं, लेकिन अब ये 81 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदी गई हैं।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, सभी एमएसपी फसलें, उस सरकार के दौरान 69 करोड़, 87 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदी गई थीं और अब 117 करोड़, 32 लाख मीट्रिक टन खरीदी गई हैं। कितनी राशि किसानों को भुगतान की गई है, मैं इसकी जानकारी भी देना चाहता हूँ। 2004 से 2014 वाली सरकार ने धान की जो कुल राशि दी थी, वह 4 लाख, 44 करोड़ रुपये थी, लेकिन एनडीए की सरकार ने 14 लाख, 87 हजार करोड़ रुपये किसानों के खाते में डाला है। गेहूं की राशि 2,96,000 करोड़ दी गई थी और अब 6,38,000 करोड़ रुपया दी गई है। दलहन की राशि केवल 1,900 करोड़ थी, लेकिन अब 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये की राशि किसानों के खाते में गई है। उस समय तिलहन की राशि 9,000 करोड़ थी और अब 67,000 करोड़ है। वाणिज्यिक फसलों की राशि 26,000 करोड़ थी, लेकिन अब 1,33,000 करोड़ रुपये की खरीद का पैसा किसानों के खाते में डाला गया है। अगर सभी एमएसपी की फसलें देखें, तो पहले 7,41,000 करोड़ रुपये की राशि किसान के खाते में गई थी, लेकिन अब 24,49,000 करोड़ रुपये की राशि किसान के खाते में गई

है। आंकड़े गवाह हैं कि कितनी प्रमाणिकता के साथ किसान को एमएसपी देने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No.137, Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala; not present.

* 137. [The questioner was absent.]

Wholesale prices of Kharif crop

*137. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the wholesale mandi prices of major kharif crops as on 24 October 2025, juxtaposed with their respective Minimum Support Prices (MSPs);

(b) the number/proportion of farmers who were able to sell at or above MSP, minus any deductions, during the kharif 2025-26 harvest so far, crop-wise and State-wise;

(c) the crop-wise procurement of Kharif crops in 2025 -26 at MSP by Government; and

(d) the State-wise compensation released by Government for damage of Kharif crop owing to floods and incessant rains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Arrivals and prices of all crops, variety and grade wise is available for each Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) at agmarknet.gov.in. Data for any APMC for any date(s) can be checked online for all commodities traded. Rates vary from APMC to APMC & even within the same mandi, depending on quality of the produce & local demand. Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major kharif crops for KMS 2025-26 is as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Crops	MSP for KMS 2025-26
1	Paddy	2369*
2	Jowar	3699**
3	Bajra	2775

4	Ragi	4886
5	Maize	2400
6	Arhar	8000
7	Moong	8768
8	Urad	7800
9	Cotton	7710 [#]
10	Groundnut	7263
11	Soyabean	5328

* Paddy (Common) ** Jowar (Hybrid) # Cotton (Medium Staple)

(b) MSP is declared for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of each crop. At each APMC, market rates vary from below to above MSP depending on quality & grade of produce. Farmer wise data of transactions is not maintained centrally.

Only weighted average of modal prices are captured APMC & State wise, which include produce of all grades. On 24th October, 2025, instances of paddy trading at/above MSP were seen in 69% of total quantity of paddy traded in APMC. On the same date, on e-NAM the maximum price for cotton in Adoni APMC (Kurnooldistrict) was Rs. 9119/qtl, for groundnut in Hindol APMC (Dhenkanal district) was Rs. 7500/qtl, for Bajra in Manalurpet APMC (Kallakurichidistrict) was Rs. 3030/qtl etc all were above MSP. Grade of produce & moisture content and in oilseeds the % of oil etc, are factors that determine market prices.

(c) To ensure farmers get benefit of MSP, government undertake procurement at MSP through designated nodal agencies. The details of procurement of Kharif Crops for 2025-26 and the number of farmers benefitted are given at **Annexure-I (A) & I (B)**.

(d) As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures on ground level in the wake of notified calamities. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from funds available in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in accordance with the Government of India approved items and norms. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, in case of disaster of 'severe nature', which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

Government has introduced yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to stabilize the income of farmers etc. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided under

the scheme from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is voluntary for the States as well as for farmers.

The State wise details of farmers enrollment and claims paid from 2016-17 to 2024-25 (as on 31.10.2025) under PMFBY & RWBCIS is given at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I(A)

Major State-wise and All-India Paddy procurement and number of farmers benefitted in KMS 2025-26 (as on 10.12.2025)

S.No.	STATES/ UTs	KMS 2025-26*	
		Procurement in LMT	Number of Farmers Benefitted
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.43	255476
2	Telangana	39.58	605664
3	Bihar	2.01	27410
4	Chhattisgarh	23.69	467995
5	Haryana	53.68	858969
6	Kerala	0.15	5006
7	Madhya Pradesh	2.81	46686
8	Odisha	0.29	5773
9	Punjab	156.69	847058
10	Tamil Nadu	14.70	191452
11	Uttar Pradesh	14.92	220387
12	Uttrakhand	7.27	39441
13	West Bengal	9.07	227384
All India Total		341.87	3810666

Source: Department of Food & Public Distribution

As per the inputs received from the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd, the procurement of Cotton during season 2025-26 (upto 07.12.2025) for major states is given below.

1. Telangana — 53.28 lakh quintals
2. Maharashtra — 20.65 lakh quintals
3. Karnataka — 12.78 lakh quintals
4. Rajasthan — 5.47 lakh quintals

Annexure-I(B)

Sanction and procurement details of pulses and oilseeds under PSS during Kharif 2025-26 season								
As on 09.12.2025								
S. No.	State	Commodity	Sanction Quantity (in MT)	MSP (Rs. Per MT)	Progressive Procurement (in MT)	MSP Value (Rs in Crore)	Numbers of Farmers registered	Numbers of Farmers benefited
1	Karnataka	Moong	38,000	87,680	3,087.05	27.07	25,702	3,622
		Urad	60,180	78,000	5,460.80	42.59	8,896	4,148
		Sunflower	15,650	77,210	7,146.05	55.17	6,830	5,508
		Soyabean	1,15,000	53,280	18,977.90	101.11	47,467	15,985
		Groundnut	61,148	72,630	18.52	0.13	1,439	32
		Tur	9,67,000	72,630				
2	Uttar Pradesh	Moong	1,983	87,680	12.59	0.11	6	6
		Urad	2,27,860	78,000	2,216.38	17.29	651	371
		Toor	1,13,780	80,000				
		Groundnut	99,438	72,630	11,277.50	81.91	3,392	3,868
		Sesamum	30,410	98,460				
3	Gujarat	Moong	4,415	87,680	7.20		1,935	9
		Urad	47,780	78,000	1,134.03	8.85	6,083	1,185
		Groundnut	20,10,185	72,630	8,07,635.66	5,865.86	9,31,651	3,55,349
		Soyabean	1,09,905	53,280	32,698.66	174.22	72,450	22,803
4	Odisha	Toor	1,79,450	80,000				
5	Telangana	Moong	4,430	87,680				
		Urad	7,220	78,000				
		Soyabean	72,675	53,280	30,935.70	164.83	16,965	15,380
6	Maharashtra	Moong	33,000	87,680			542	-
		Urad	3,25,680	78,000	159.95	1.25	9,174	272
		Soyabean	18,50,700	53,280	83,827.57	446.63	3,84,341	37,177
7	Andhra Pradesh	Moong	87,680	87,680				
		Urad	28,440	78,000				
		Toor	1,16,690	80,000				
		Groundnut	32,273	72,630				
8	Tamil Nadu	Moong	3,000	87,680				
		Urad	22,400	78,000				
9	Rajasthan	Moong	3,05,750	87,680	11,356.55	99.57	99,229	5,260
		Urad	1,68,000	78,000	25.30		2,197	18
		Groundnut	5,54,750	72,630	28,996.06	210.60	1,88,035	8,364
		Soyabean	2,65,750	53,280	1,836.75	9.79	27,690	1,013
Total			79,60,622		10,46,810.22	7,306.98	18,34,675	4,80,370

Annexure-II**State wise details of farmers enrollment and claims paid from 2016-17 to 2024-25 (as on 31.10.2025) under PMFBY& RWBCIS**

State/UT Name	Farmers Applications Insured (lakh)	Area Insured (lakh ha)	Farmers Share in Premium	Paid Claims	Farmers Applications Paid Claims (lakh)
	Total		Rs. Crore		
A & N Islands	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
Andhra Pradesh	437.2	195.5	795.5	5,575.6	59.6
Assam	62.9	37.4	35.5	724.5	10.8
Bihar	52.3	48.3	402.5	811.1	4.7
Chhattisgarh	435.4	212.1	1,627.2	7,651.9	111.9
Goa	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
Gujarat	83.9	112.3	1,499.4	5,737.2	30.1
Haryana	388.9	151.9	2,351.2	9,006.3	81.9
Himachal Pradesh	26.7	356.5	274.5	607.6	11.4
Jammu & Kashmir	9.6	5.6	67.9	156.9	2.7
Jharkhand	71.6	33.0	75.4	857.3	8.7
Karnataka	223.6	190.9	2,536.3	17,475.5	125.4
Kerala	9.6	5.0	76.2	741.9	5.8
Madhya Pradesh	1,019.4	1,004.5	6,820.0	31,722.6	302.9
Maharashtra	1,308.1	796.9	5,522.2	44,978.4	620.5
Manipur	0.4	0.4	3.8	10.5	0.3
Meghalaya	0.9	0.4	0.8	24.5	0.3
Odisha	654.8	124.3	1,154.6	7,179.8	113.2
Puducherry	2.0	0.8	1.4	18.8	0.4
Rajasthan	1,942.2	914.7	6,827.5	31,411.3	497.5
Sikkim	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0
Tamil Nadu	381.7	129.6	1,396.7	15,488.1	178.5
Telangana	39.0	40.1	696.4	1,906.4	12.2
Tripura	14.0	2.6	3.8	12.3	1.3
Uttar Pradesh	529.4	337.6	3,100.0	5,801.2	91.6
Uttarakhand	20.0	232.5	344.8	1,211.0	10.1
West Bengal	138.1	56.4	305.5	1,262.8	19.1
GRAND TOTAL	7,851.9	4,989.4	35,919.9	1,90,374.1	2,300.7

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any supplementaries?

डा. संदीप कुमार पाठक: सर, मेरे एक-दो ऑब्जर्वेशन्स हैं और एक सिम्पल क्वेश्चन है। मेरा यह ऑब्जर्वेशन है कि सरकार अभी जो एमएसपी देने की बात कह रही है वह A2+FL मॉडल पर है, जो कि काफी कम है। अगर स्वामीनाथन रिपोर्ट के हिसाब से चलें, तो C2 cost plus land, which includes land rent and capital cost, यह तो सरकार नहीं दे रही है।

सर, पैदावार तो बढ़ रही है, इसमें कोई डाउट नहीं, लेकिन इसका क्रेडिट किसानों को जाता है। सरकार अपनी तरफ से क्या कर रही है, यह प्रश्न यहां पूछा जा रहा है। रूरल डेवलपमेंट फंड में पंजाब का 800 करोड़ से ज्यादा और ओवरऑल देखें, तो 1,000 करोड़ से ज्यादा पेंडिंग है। मेरा यह मानना है कि ऐसे विषय पर राजनीति बिल्कुल नहीं होनी चाहिए। सरकारें आती हैं और सरकारें जाती हैं। किसानों के मामले में अगर हम सब उदार दिल रखकर अपना व्यू रखेंगे, तभी देश आगे बढ़ेगा।

मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से सविनय निवेदन है, हाथ जोड़कर निवेदन है कि इसे राजनीति से बाहर करके यह पैसा किसानों के लिए देने की कृपा करें।

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं सम्मानित सदस्य की भावनाओं का आदर करते हुए यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ - पर उपदेश कुशल बहुतेरे। उस समय, जब यूपीए की सरकार थी, तब लागत पर 50 परसेंट मुनाफा देकर एमएसपी तय होना चाहिए, इसके बारे में सरकार ने कैबिनेट के नोट में यह लिख दिया था कि इससे बाजार विकृत हो जाएगा, यह असंभव है, यह संभव नहीं है, यह नहीं किया जा सकता। माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैंने इसी सदन में कैबिनेट नोट की प्रति रखी थी, लेकिन एनडीए की सरकार ने 2019 में यह फैसला किया कि लागत पर 50 परसेंट मुनाफा जोड़ कर ही एमएसपी तय किया जाएगा।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके सामने आँकड़े रखना चाहता हूँ। जब उधर की सरकार थी, तब A2+FL लागत थी 961 रुपए, जबकि एमएसपी केवल 1,310 रुपए था; मुनाफा केवल 36 परसेंट होता था। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ज्वार पर 1,269 रुपए की जगह 1,500 रुपए; मुनाफा 18 परसेंट था। रागी पर 1,338 रुपए की जगह 1,500 रुपए; केवल 12 परसेंट मुनाफा। मूँग पर केवल 19 परसेंट मुनाफा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उड़द पर 37 परसेंट मुनाफा। सूरजमुखी पर 23 परसेंट मुनाफा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए, प्लीज़। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Every time rising is not allowed. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह रिकॉर्ड पर आना चाहिए। धान, A2+FL लागत 1,579 रुपए, जबकि एमएसपी है 2,369 रुपए; हम 50 परसेंट से ज्यादा मुनाफा देने का काम कर रहे हैं। गेहूँ पर A2+FL लागत 1,239 रुपए, जबकि एमएसपी 2,550 रुपए; 109 परसेंट मुनाफा देने का काम एनडीए की सरकार ने किया है। जौ पर 1,361 रुपए A2+FL होती है, जबकि एमएसपी 2,150 रुपए; मतलब 58 परसेंट मुनाफा। मसूर पर 3,705 रुपए A2+FL, जबकि हम 7,000 रुपए एमएसपी देते हैं; 89 परसेंट मुनाफा। रेपसीड और सरसों पर 3,210 रुपए लागत आती है, जबकि एमएसपी 6,200 रुपए; मतलब 93 परसेंट मुनाफा देने का काम होता है।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, मेरे पास पूरी सूची है। मैं पूरी प्रामाणिकता के साथ यह सिद्ध कर रहा हूँ कि अब A2+FL पर 50 परसेंट से ज्यादा मुनाफा देकर एमएसपी निर्धारित होता है और उसकी खरीद भी की जाती है। हम किसानों के हित में लगातार यह काम करते रहेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. संदीप कुमार पाठक: सर, मेरा प्रश्न दूसरा था।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. V. Sivadasan.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Respected Chairman, Sir, on financial assistance, I would like to quote the answer of hon. Minister 'that over and above SDRF...(Interruptions)... Sir, I would like to quote the answer of the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no. आप प्लीज़ बैठिए।...(व्यवधान)...This is only a supplementary question. प्लीज़ बैठिए। Now, Dr. V. Sivadasan. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record except the supplementary by Dr. V. Sivadasan.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Sir, I would like to quote the answer of the hon. Minister, 'Over and above SDRF is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)...' The farmers, including the paddy and other crops like ginger, pepper in Kerala had faced a grave loss because of the national calamity, and because of the huge floods of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2024. The floods, landslides and other calamities have ruined not only the cash crops, but also ruined the entire habitat of the people, and entire habitat of the farmers in different parts of Kerala. Last year, people in Wayanad have experienced one of the biggest landslides and natural calamities. The Government of Kerala has given a lot of assistance to the people. The Government of Kerala completed the entire procedural things. ...(Interruptions)... My question is: Does the Government of India. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, my question is this. Does the Government of India have any plans to assist the people of Kerala, Chooralmala in Wayanad, and could you provide the State-wise data on the last five years' financial assistance to the farmers in India? This is my humble question to the hon. Minister. I expect a correct answer from the Minister.

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, "केरल हो या गुवाहाटी, अपना देश, अपनी माटी" में केरल की महान जनता को भी प्रणाम करता हूँ और यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि केरल में भी जो नुकसान हुआ है, उसकी भरपाई, जो निर्धारित मापदंड है, उसके हिसाब से केन्द्र सरकार ने लगातार करने की कोशिश की है।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, अभी 2024-25 में ही 153 करोड़, 20 लाख रुपये की राशि SDRF के तहत केरल की सरकार को दी गई है। माननीय सदस्य अवगत होंगे कि हम पहले SDRF की राशि, जिसमें 75 परसेंट हिस्सा केन्द्र का होता है और 25 परसेंट हिस्सा राज्य का होता है, राज्यों को पहले से इसीलिए देते हैं, ताकि वहाँ कोई प्राकृतिक आपदा आये, तो तात्कालिक रूप से राज्यों की मदद की जा सके। इसके बाद, अगर वहाँ कोई बड़ी प्राकृतिक आपदा होती है,

तो माननीय सभापति महोदय, NDRF के तहत भी राज्य सरकार अपना प्रतिवेदन भेजती है और केन्द्र की टीम भी दौरा करती है तथा वहाँ जो नुकसान होता है, उसके अनुपात में, यहाँ से HM की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी अलग से भी उस राज्य को राशि प्रदान करती है।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, NDRF के तहत भी इसमें 2025 में 36 करोड़, 32 लाख रुपये की राशि केरल को release की गई है। महोदय, इसके अतिरिक्त प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना के अन्तर्गत भी, फसल बीमा योजना का लाभ केरल के किसानों को दिया गया है। 76 करोड़, 2 लाख रुपये की बीमा premium के against 741 करोड़, 9 लाख रुपये की फसल बीमा योजना की राशि भी किसानों के खातों में गई है। माननीय सदस्य अगर मुझसे व्यक्तिगत रूप से भी चर्चा करना चाहें, तो वहाँ के किसानों के कष्ट के बारे में बताएँ। निर्धारित मापदंडों के आधार पर, किसानों की जो सम्भव सहायता होगी, वह की जाएगी। चाहे वे किसी भी प्रांत के किसान हों, आखिर वे हमारे भगवान हैं।

श्री सभापति: श्री कणाद पुरकायस्थ।

श्री कणाद पुरकायस्थ: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी को पहले धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार द्वारा MSP लागू करने के बाद, किसानों को इसका बहुत फायदा हुआ है और किसानों की आय में भी वृद्धि हुई है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे राज्य असम में कितने किसानों ने इसका लाभ उठाया है?

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, प्रधान मंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि का लाभ, सभी पात्र किसान असम में भी उठा रहे हैं। चाहे वे राज्य के बाढ़-पीड़ित या प्राकृतिक आपदा से पीड़ित किसान हों, उनको SDRF के अन्तर्गत पर्याप्त राहत दी जा रही है। NDRF के अन्तर्गत हमने ऐसे नुकसान भी सम्मिलित किये हैं - भगवान न करे, अगर कभी किसी इंसान की मृत्यु हो जाए, तो 4 लाख रुपये की राशि; अगर किसी के गाय, भैंस जैसे दुधारू पशु की मृत्यु हो जाए, तो 36,000 रुपये; बकरा-बकरी की मृत्यु हो जाए, तो 4,000 रुपये और अगर किसी के मुरगा-मुरगी भी मर जाएँ, तो उसके लिए भी 100 रुपये देने का काम हम करते हैं। तो राज्य सरकार जो आकलन करती है, उस आकलन के हिसाब से किसानों को राज्य सरकार के माध्यम से राहत की राशि देने का काम किया जाता है। साथ ही, अगर कहीं मकान टूटते हैं, तो मकान टूटने के लिए भी, अभी इसी बार की प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में, चाहे वह पंजाब हो, उत्तराखंड हो, हिमाचल या जम्मू-कश्मीर हो, वैसे ही प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना के अन्तर्गत राशि देने का काम किया गया है। तो असम के किसानों के साथ भी हमारी सरकार खड़ी है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 138.

Funds under PMFME Scheme

*138. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released over ₹3,700 crore to States under the PradhanMantriFormalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) total funds released to Maharashtra, district-wise, along with the number of microfood enterprises benefitted;

(c) the key activities supported in Maharashtra, including skill development, technologyupgradation, marketing assistance and credit facilitation;

(d) whether any assessment has been conducted on impact of PMFME Scheme on income generation, market access and promotion of local food products;

(e) the steps taken for timely fund utilisation and monitoring; and

(f) whether additional support measures are proposed to strengthen micro foodenterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAVNEET SINGH): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Under the Pradhan MantriFormalisation of Micro Food processingEnterprises (PMFME) Scheme (PMFME), Centre Share of Rs. 4306.40 crores has been released/allocated to States/ UTs for implementation of various components of the scheme till 31st October, 2025. The State-wise details are at **Annexure-I**.

(b) For the State of Maharashtra, Central Share of Rs. 646.24 crores have been released/allocated for implementation of various components of the PMFME scheme till 31st October, 2025. PMFME is a demand driven scheme and funds are not released district-wise under the scheme. 26,172 micro food processing enterprises

have been sanctioned loans for credit linked subsidy under the PMFME Scheme in the State of Maharashtra. The district -wise details are at **Annexure-II**.

(c) Under the PMFME Scheme, the following activities have been supported in the State of Maharashtra including skill development, technology upgradation, marketing assistance and credit facilitation:

(i) Loan for credit linked subsidy has been sanctioned to 26172 micro food processing enterprises. They are provided financial, technical and business support for setting up of new/ upgradation of micro food processing enterprises.

(ii) Seed capital support sanctioned to 53146 Self Help Groups (SHGs) members for working capital and purchase of small tools.

(iii) 4 proposals have been sanctioned under Branding & Marketing component for providing market access / linkages, product standardization, packaging and regulatory compliances.

(iv) Under capacity building component, 35996 beneficiaries have been trained. In addition, 3 incubation centers have been approved for providing common processing facilities to early-stage startups / innovators and micro food processing enterprises.

(d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has got conducted a third-party mid-term impact evaluation of the PMFME scheme to assess the impact of the scheme. The study has highlighted that the integration of technology and financial support through PMFME has helped entrepreneurs by increasing their production capacity, turn over and business growth, leading to income generation, market access/linkages and promotion of vocal for local.

(e) Regular review meetings are conducted with States/ UTs, lending banks, State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and other stakeholders for timely fund utilisation and monitoring the progress of implementation of the Scheme.

(f) MoFPI is working in convergence with various Ministries/Departments to dovetail the benefits available under their schemes with PMFME Scheme to strengthen micro food processing enterprises. Further, micro food enterprises are supported / encouraged for participation in Exhibitions & Expos, Fairs, Buyer-Seller Meets etc. to strengthen their market access/linkages. The Ministry has been organizing its flagship event 'World Food India (WFI)' over various editions, wherein a large number of PMFME beneficiaries have participated and exhibited their products in the stalls under PMFME pavilion and State pavilions. The stalls are provided free of cost to the beneficiaries by the Ministry. WFI provides a platform for the PMFME beneficiaries to showcase and promote their products to the large number of visiting domestic and international buyers.

Annexure-I

State/ UT-wise details of Centre Share funds released/ allocated till 31st October 2025

S.No.	States/ UTs	Centre Share released/allocated (Rs. in crore)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	4.47
2	Andhra Pradesh	185.83
3	Arunachal Pradesh	36.62
4	Assam	198.16
5	Bihar	364.39
6	Chandigarh	2.21
7	Chhattisgarh	45.04
8	D & N Haveli and D & D	1.43
9	Delhi	7.71
10	Goa	14.94
11	Gujarat	61.08
12	Haryana	73.93
13	Himachal Pradesh	112.70
14	Jammu & Kashmir	46.55
15	Jharkhand	59.22
16	Karnataka	272.77
17	Kerala	167.10
18	Ladakh	7.06
19	Lakshadweep	1.01
20	Madhya Pradesh	263.53
21	Maharashtra	646.24
22	Manipur	16.28
23	Meghalaya	24.71
24	Mizoram	20.67
25	Nagaland	30.67
26	Odisha	140.58
27	Puducherry	9.45
28	Punjab	199.88
29	Rajasthan	83.22
30	Sikkim	26.79
31	Tamil Nadu	362.19
32	Telangana	202.75
33	Tripura	28.49
34	Uttar Pradesh	510.98
35	Uttarakhand	43.97
36	West Bengal	33.78
		4306.40

Annexure-II**District-wise Loans Sanctioned for credit linked subsidy in the State of Maharashtra till 31st October 2025**

Sl. No.	Districts	Loans Sanctioned (Nos.)
1	Ahilyanagar	1625
2	Akola	477
3	Amravati	1029
4	Beed	159
5	Bhandara	378
6	Buldhana	1023
7	Chandrapur	803
8	ChhatrapatiSambhajinagar	2052
9	Dharashiv	473
10	Dhule	576
11	Gadchiroli	334
12	Gondia	726
13	Hingoli	245
14	Jalgaon	1036
15	Jalna	660
16	Kolhapur	1176
17	Latur	391
18	Mumbai	7
19	Mumbai Suburban	48
20	Nagpur	802
21	Nanded	396
22	Nandurbar	548
23	Nashik	1376
24	Palghar	343
25	Parbhani	347
26	Pune	1321
27	Raigad	283
28	Ratnagiri	447
29	Sangli	1402
30	Satara	1078
31	Sindhudurg	665
32	Solapur	1185
33	Thane	397
34	Wardha	926
35	Washim	546
36	Yavatmal	892
Total		26172

श्री धनंजय भीमराव महादिक: सभापति जी, कोरोना के समय में लॉकडाउन लगा था और देश के सभी उद्योग बंद हो चुके थे, उससे नागरिकों, उद्योगकर्मियों को भारी नुकसान हुआ था। उन उद्योग कर्मियों को ऊर्जित अवस्था में लाने के लिए और नए उद्योग निर्माण हेतु देश के यशस्वी

प्रधान मंत्री आदरणीय मोदी जी ने 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत योजना' की घोषणा की थी। इसी के चलते Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) योजना शुरू की गई थी, जिसमें 10,000 करोड़ रुपए घोषित किए गए थे। वैसे मंत्री जी ने बहुत विस्तार से जवाब दिया है। देश में अब तक 4,306 करोड़ रुपए इस योजना के तहत distribute हो चुके हैं। हमारे महाराष्ट्र में 26,172 एंटरप्राइजेज़ को अब तक 646 करोड़ रुपए दिए जा चुके हैं। सर, इसमें फूड प्रोसेसिंग, फूड प्रोसेसिंग स्नैक्स, अचार, पापड़, शहद, डेयरी, बेकरी इत्यादि...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please be specific about your question.

श्री धनंजय भीमराव महादिक: सर, प्रश्न ही है। इन सारे उद्योगों का निर्माण करने के लिए 35 प्रतिशत रकम दी जाती है। सर, मेरा आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से सवाल है कि क्या PMFME योजना के लाभार्थियों को ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म और राष्ट्रीय मार्केटिंग चैनलों से जोड़ने के लिए कोई कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ताकि उन्हें बेहतर बाजार उपलब्ध हो और उनकी आय में बढ़ोतरी हो?

श्री सभापति: ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर।

श्री रवनीत सिंह: चेयरमैन सर, जैसे कि अभी एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर उत्तर दे रहे थे, हमारी मिनिस्ट्री भी इनका छोटा भाई ही है, उन्होंने बिल्कुल ठीक कहा कि हमारे देश के प्रधान मंत्री की हमेशा कोशिश 'वोकल फॉर लोकल' की रही है। माननीय सदस्य ने Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises के बारे में बताया। मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह स्कीम हमारे छोटे उद्यमी, छोटे किसान और विमेन, खासकर गांव की औरतों के लिए है। बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियों के लिए ब्रांडिंग करना बड़ा आसान रहता है, क्योंकि उनके पास पैसे रहते हैं, फंडिंग रहती है, लेकिन जो गांव की औरतें हैं, छोटे किसान हैं, गरीब, मजदूर हैं, उनके लिए खास तौर से यह स्कीम है। इस स्कीम के बारे में हर स्टेट से बहुत ही अच्छा response मिला है। यह स्कीम 2026 तक है, पर इसे और आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सभी स्टेट्स ने और नीति आयोग ने मिनिस्ट्री को बोला है और इस पर बहुत अच्छी तरह काम हो रहा है। मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि हमारी मिनिस्ट्री को कभी-कभी मौका मिलता है, कि इसमें बहुत अच्छा काम हो रहा है। इसमें तीन बड़ी स्कीम्स हैं। आपने Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises की बात की। यह स्कीम 2020 में शुरू हुई, उसके बाद कोविड आया, जैसा आपने कहा, अब यह 2026 तक है और इसका बजट 10,000 करोड़ रुपए का है। हमारी दूसरी स्कीम, 'Production-linked Incentive Scheme' है, जो 2021 में शुरू हुई और यह 2026 तक है। उसमें भी हमारा बजट 10,900 करोड़ रुपए का है। तीसरी स्कीम, 'प्रधानमंत्री किसान संपदा योजना' है, जो 2017 में शुरू हुई और उसमें हमारा बजट 6,520 करोड़ रुपए का है। आपने जो बात की, उसके बारे में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसके चार components ज्यादा हैं। आपने ई-कॉमर्स की बात की। अब यह छोटे गांव के छोटे ब्रांड, आपने उसमें अभी यह कहा था कि बड़े चैनलों पर इनके बारे में बताना चाहिए। वह प्राइवेट है। हमने जो कोशिश की है, सरकार की तरफ

से जो कोशिश हुई है, उसके बारे में मैं बता रहा हूँ। हमारे मंत्री, पासवान जी यहाँ बैठे हैं। इन्होंने इस बात की बहुत कोशिश की कि कैसे देश में छोटे प्रोडक्ट्स की मार्केटिंग और ब्रांडिंग हो। सर, गाँवों में कई छोटे उद्योग होते हैं। वहाँ कोई अचार बनाता है और अगर किसी की बेकरी है, तो वह बिस्कुट बना रहा है। वहाँ इस तरह के कई छोटे काम होते हैं। अगर हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की बात करें, तो वहाँ पर ऐसी कई चीजें हैं, जो अन्य जगहों पर नहीं मिलती हैं। वहाँ पर काली मिर्च, किवी, पाइनएप्पल आदि बहुत-से छोटे-छोटे प्रोडक्ट्स हैं। इसके लिए, हमने 14 नवम्बर, 2024 को एक पहल जरूर की है। जो GEM portal है, उसके लिए हमने एक MoU साइन किया है। उसके अंतर्गत, ये अपनी जो भी चीज मार्केट में बेचना चाहते हैं, उसकी सेल-परचेज ये GEM portal के माध्यम से कर सकते हैं, जहाँ पर इसकी व्यवस्था है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik. Please be specific.

श्री धनंजय भीमराव महादिक :सर ,मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि PMFME योजना के अंतर्गत महिला लाभार्थियों को किस प्रकार से लाभ होता है? क्या इस योजना में महिला लाभार्थियों के लिए विशेष प्रावधान है ?महिला सशक्तिकरण के संदर्भ में , खासकर Self-Help Groups पर इस योजना का क्या प्रभाव रहा है ?

श्री रवनीत सिंह :सर ,इस स्कीम की खासियत सब्सिडी देना है। कई स्कीम्स में इंसेंटिव्स मिलते हैं ,लेकिन इस स्कीम में सब्सिडी दी जाती है। इसमें यह व्यवस्था है कि जो लोकल छोटे गुप्स हैं , जिनमें ज्यादातर महिलाएँ हैं ,उनके लिए 40,000 रुपये तक की एक सीड मनी है ,जो मेंबर्स को दी जाती है। अगर वे इकट्ठे होकर एक यूनिट बना लें ,तो उनको वह 10 लाख तक दिया जा सकता है। जैसा मैंने बताया है ,इसके माध्यम से उनको सपोर्ट तो दिया ही जाता है ,साथ में हम कॉमन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर बनाने हेतु उन महिलाओं की मदद करते हैं। हम उस पैसे को किसी प्राइवेट संस्था को नहीं देते हैं ,बल्कि हम उसे FPOs ,SHGs को देते हैं और जो हमारी कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज हैं ,उनको देते हैं। हम इसमें 3 करोड़ रुपये तक की राशि खास तौर पर गाँवों की उन महिलाओं को देते हैं ,जो वहाँ पर पैकेजिंग आदि किसी भी तरह का काम कर रही हैं। सर , आज मार्केट में कोई चीज तो तैयार हो सकती है ,लेकिन उसके ऊपर स्टिकर लगाना ,उसकी ब्रांडिंग करना ,उसकी पैकिंग करना ,ये बहुत मुश्किल काम हैं ,इसलिए उनको 3 करोड़ रुपये दिए जाते हैं। हम उनको मशीनें भी देते हैं। उनको अपने काम के लिए जैसी भी मशीनरी चाहिए , उसके लिए वहाँ पर कॉमन मशीनरी लग जाती है ,जहाँ पर आकर वे ये सारी चीजें कर सकती हैं।

सर ,मैं एक चीज और जरूर बताना चाहूँगा। हमारे पंजाब का एक Five Rivers' Group है। उसमें हमने उनकी ब्रांडिंग और मार्केटिंग सपोर्ट की ,तो उन्होंने SPV बनाई। उसमें कोई भी अपनी चीज को उस ब्रांड का नाम दे देता है। आज के समय में हमने अपनी रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री के सहयोग से शताब्दी ट्रेनों में उनकी इन चीजों को बेचना शुरू करवाया है।

चूँकि माननीय सदस्य ने खास तौर पर महिलाओं की बात की है, तो मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज the Capital Assisted Component provided 40,000 per Self-Help Group

members and 4 lakh per self-help group federation for working capital and purchasing of small tools. आज तक पूरे देश में 3.65 lakh women Self-Help Group members have been assisted under the Capital Seed Component. इस प्रकार, इसमें टोटल 40 per cent beneficiaries women owned enterprises हैं, जिनको इस स्कीम से बहुत बड़ा फायदा हो रहा है। 77 per cent of beneficiaries are trained under the Capital Building Component. इन women beneficiaries को ट्रेनिंग भी दी जा रही है। इस तरह, इस स्कीम से हमारी माँ और बहनें बहुत बड़ा लाभ ले रही हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Third supplementary, Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal. Hon. Member, not present. When the Members give their names for putting supplementary questions, they should be present in the House. I think this is not a good behaviour.

श्री नीरज डांगी: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि PMFME स्कीम के तहत प्रदान किए गए प्रशिक्षण और क्षमता निर्माण कार्यक्रम की गुणवत्ता और प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए क्या मापदंड हैं? क्या प्रशिक्षण के बाद आय या उत्पादन में वृद्धि के संबंध में कोई डेटा संकलित किया गया है? कई सूक्ष्म इकाइयों को पैकेजिंग, ब्रांडिंग, और खाद्य सुरक्षा मानकों के अनुपालन में कठिनाई होती है। क्या तकनीकी विशेषज्ञों की कोई समर्पित टीम ज़मीनी स्तर पर इन इकाइयों को निरंतर हैंड-होल्डिंग सहायता प्रदान कर रही है?

श्री रवनीत सिंह: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने बिल्कुल ठीक प्रश्न किया है। जो बात आप कह रहे थे, वही बात हम मिनिस्टर्स अपने ऑफिसर्स से कह रहे थे कि इसका लाभ क्या है। आखिर ज़मीनी स्तर पर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इसका पैसा दिया जाता है, सब्सिडी दी जाती है, तो मैं आपको पूरे विश्वास के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि टर्न ओवर 1.7 times increase हुआ है। अगर किसी ने 10 लाख रुपये तक किया है, तो उसे 17 लाख रुपये तक का फायदा होगा। यह मैं ज़िम्मेदारी के साथ कह रहा हूँ। हर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इसे दोबारा बढ़ाने के लिए कह रही है, नीति आयोग इसे बढ़ाने के लिए कह रहा है। जिसका भी पैसा लगा है, उसे 1.7 times फायदा हुआ है। इससे बड़ी जो 10 लाख रुपये वाली या 1 करोड़ रुपये वाली स्कीम्स हैं, उन स्कीम्स में लोग जाना चाह रहे हैं और डिमांड कर रहे हैं, इससे पता चलता है कि नीचे लेवल तक लोगों को बहुत फायदा हुआ है।

श्री संजय यादव: महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न है कि फूड प्रोसेसिंग सुविधाओं की कमी के कारण बिहार के किसानों और राज्य को लगभग 45 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान होता है। जैसे पपीते के उत्पादन का लगभग 30 से 50 प्रतिशत, केला उत्पादन का 25 प्रतिशत, 65 लाख टन दुग्ध उत्पादन के बावजूद केवल 12-13 फीसद ही प्रोसेस हो पाता है और बिहार में लगभग 120 कोल्ड स्टोरेजेज बंद पड़े हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्रालय बिहार में फूड प्रोसेसिंग ढांचे को मज़बूत करने और नई यूनिट्स की स्थापना के लिए किसी विशेष पहल पर विचार कर रहा है?

श्री रवनीत सिंह: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का प्रश्न मूल प्रश्न से संबंधित नहीं है, फिर मैं उनके प्रश्न का उत्तर देना चाहूंगा। महोदय, यह मिनिस्ट्री ही इसलिए बनाई गई। हमारे मंत्री जी,

पासवान साहब यहां बैठे हैं, वे बिहार से आते हैं और बहुत ध्यान रखते हैं। अभी ये वहां मखाना बोर्ड बनाकर लेकर गए हैं, मैं उसके लिए मंत्री जी को और बिहार को मुबारकबाद दूंगा। ये चीजें होती हैं, क्योंकि किसान ने अगर फल या सब्जी उगा ली, तो उसकी फसल खराब न हो – जैसे आपने पपीते की बात की – उसके लिए कोल्ड चेन की व्यवस्था। जो आपने खास तौर से प्रश्न किया है, तो मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि चाहे डेयरी, फूड्स, vegetables और चाहे वह marine products ही क्यों ने हों, उनके बारे में भी अच्छी व्यवस्था करते हैं। मैं जिस स्कीम के बारे में बता रहा हूँ, भारत में इसकी नम्बर वन रैंकिंग है, in terms of loan approved. मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि इसमें कोई कमी नहीं है, हमारी तरफ से इसके लिए 5 करोड़ रुपये से लेकर 10 करोड़ रुपये तक grant in aid दी जाती है। अब हमारे मंत्री जी भी कुछ बताएंगे।

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री (श्री चिराग पासवान): सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि जिस PMFME scheme की चर्चा हम कर रहे हैं। उसका सबसे ज्यादा लाभ बिहार राज्य को ही मिला है। इस योजना के सबसे ज्यादा beneficiaries बिहार राज्य को ही मिले हैं। इस योजना के बारे में जैसा MoS साहब जिक्र कर रहे थे कि छोटे उद्यमियों को एक व्यवसाय स्थापित करने की व्यवस्था प्रोवाइड करने का प्रयास करते हैं। गांव, देहात से आने वाले, गरीब परिवार से आने वाले लोगों को कैसे उद्यमी बनाया जा सके, कैसे उनको entrepreneurs बनाया जा सके, इस सोच के साथ इस स्कीम का निर्माण किया गया था। ऐसे में पोस्ट हार्वेस्ट लॉसेज को किस तरीके से नियंत्रित किया जा सके, ऐसे में किस तरीके से उत्पादन की शैल्फ लाइफ को और उसकी गुणवत्ता को और बढ़ाया जा सके। इन तमाम चीजों को मिलाकर इस योजना को स्थापित किया गया है। मुझे खुशी है कि जहां सबसे ज्यादा लाभ इसका बिहार को मिल रहा है, वहीं हम लोगों ने विभिन्न माध्यम से Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet के माध्यम से हम लोगों ने प्रयास किया कि किस तरीके से उन उद्यमियों को हम लोग राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों के साथ जोड़ सकें। बिहार में इसको लेकर हमने कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग सेंटर भी खोला है। इसके साथ ही मुझे खुशी है कि हमारे विभाग का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण 'निफ्टम,' एक ऐसा इंस्टीट्यूट है, जहां फूड प्रोसेसिंग को बढ़ावा देते हैं। लंबे समय से हमारे विभाग की मांग रही है, क्योंकि अभी तक देश में मात्र दो निफ्टम हैं। एक हरियाणा के कुंडली में है और दूसरा तमिलनाडु के तंजावुर में है। इस बार के बजट में ही माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी के द्वारा तीसरा निफ्टम खोलने की घोषणा की गई है और इस बार यह बिहार में खुलने जा रहा है। इसके साथ ही हमने मखाना बोर्ड का जिक्र किया है। सबसे ज्यादा उत्पादन मखाना का बिहार में ही होता है। ऐसे में इस बात को सुनिश्चित किया जा रहा है कि किसी भी तरीके से बिहार ही नहीं, देशभर में जो भी छोटे उद्योग इसके साथ जुड़े हुए हैं, उनको किसी तरीके का कोई नुकसान

श्री संजय यादव : सर, मैं

श्री चिराग पासवान: मैं इसी व्यवस्था का जिक्र कर रहा हूँ। मैं खुद हाजीपुर से आता हूँ। हाजीपुर का केला हो, मुजफ्फरपुर की लीची हो, भागलपुर का आम हो, हमारा मखाना हो, कैसे उनको हम लोग सुरक्षित रखते हुए वैश्विक बाजारों से, राष्ट्रीय बाजारों से जोड़ें, उसके लिए इस व्यवस्था को

तैयार किया गया है। इसमें सबसे महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका हमारी PMFME की स्कीम निभा रही है। अलग और स्कीमों के माध्यम से भी, प्रधानमंत्री किसान संपदा योजना के माध्यम से भी हम लोग व्यवस्था निर्माण का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। आपने कोल्ड स्टोरेज का जिक्र किया। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि वह पूरी चेन हम लोग प्रोवाइड करने का काम कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Fauzia Khan.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, many micro food enterprises struggle to upgrade equipment and use digital tools for quality control, inventory, and market access. Will the Government provide a dedicated PMFME programme with subsidized modern machines, digital training, and software support so that small food processors, especially, women entrepreneurs, can improve efficiency, ensure food safety, and compete in larger markets?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN: Sir, we are already under this Scheme, PMFME. There are many sub-components through which we are already providing these facilities in terms of purchase of machinery, for their training. So, there are many sub-components under this Scheme through which we are already doing this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 139.

Implementation of ODOP in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh

*139. SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the national progress of the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) Scheme, particularly its integration with the 'Districts as Export Hubs' initiative;
- (b) the total exports from Uttar Pradesh under this initiative;
- (c) the designated ODOP for Kushinagar and the steps taken to boost its export;
- (d) the status of proposal for a 'Common Facility Centre' (CFC) for banana fibre processing in Kushinagar; and

(e) the measures to link Kushinagar's products to international markets, especially Buddhist countries, via the new airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) One District One Product' (ODOP) is an initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with the aim to select, brand, and promote at least one product from each district of the country for enabling holistic growth across all regions. Several steps have been undertaken for the promoting exports of ODOP products.

ODOP products have also been showcased at various domestic and international events. Domestically, they were prominently featured during India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021 and at the DPIIT Pavilion in World Food India 2024 and 2025 and various other events in India. Internationally, ODOP has collaborated with the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad to promote products at global platforms. ODOP has participated in several events including a promotion and business roundtable in collaboration with the Embassy of India (EoI), Kazakhstan on 27th February 2025; the World Expo, Osaka; Incredible India Fest with CGI, Hong Kong (15th–16th March 2025); Vasant Mela hosted by EoI, China (22nd March 2025); Maldives Expo (23rd–31st May 2025); and the Indian Summer Mela organized by EoI, Russia (5th–13th July 2025).

For promoting ODOP at the international level, engagement with Indian Missions abroad, virtual buyer-seller meets, and participation in international exhibitions have been undertaken. Various ODOP products were also included as part of gifting during G-20 meetings held in India to popularize these products internationally.

The progress of ODOP Initiative as on November, 30 2025 is as under:

1. States are playing a significant role by developing unique branding for products, formulating ODOP policies, integrating with existing industrial/MSME policies, appointing dedicated nodal officers, creating seller database, capacity building initiatives, conducting exhibitions and establishing platforms to promote ODOP products and support artisans and farmers. 20+ States have included ODOP products under various policies for Artists/producers/farmers/aggregators/SHGs etc.

2. **Product Catalogue:** A detailed repository spanning 1200+ ODOP products has been made available online.
3. **Branding & Promotion:** The products are showcased in various International and Domestic fairs and exhibitions. More than 130 private brands are tagged with products ranging from Tea to Gems & Jewellery helping in increasing reach and visibility.
4. **Collaboration with Indian Missions:** 50+ Indian Missions are working closely with ODOP for increasing global presence. 03 International Stores are selling ODOP Products (02 in Singapore- in Mustafa Centre and Kashmir Heritage and One in Kuwait). Additionally, 10 ODOP wall showcasing ODOP products from various States/Districts has been setup at Indian Missions abroad.
5. **Capacity-building and skill development programmes** for artisans, weavers, SHGs and small enterprises such as NID-led design workshops.
6. **Sales & Marketing:** To boost online sales and promote ODOP products, a dedicated ODOP storefront has been created on GeM where over 500+ categories and 1090 products are available. 10+ State also have dedicated E-commerce platform selling ODOP products.

Further, under the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative of DGFT, identification of the products and services with export potential in all the districts of the country is done in consultation with all stakeholders including the States/UTs. Further, under DEH, institutional mechanism has been set up in all States/UTs by forming the State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC) and District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) at the district level. Under the initiative, District Export Action Plans detailing the existing bottlenecks in the supply chain and identifying possible interventions to mitigate the existing gaps have been prepared for more than 550 districts and are being prepared for the rest of the districts.

(b) As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, the total recorded exports in the State is worth Rs. 1,86,060/- Cr in the year 2024-25, out of which approximately 45-50% is assessed to be ODOP products. Since many ODOP products do not have an exclusive HSN Code on the DGCIS portal, furnishing separate export data for ODOP product is not possible.

(c) and (e) The One District One Product (ODOP) product for Kushinagar is Banana Fiber Products and Banana products.

Several steps have been undertaken for promotion and exports of all ODOP products including products from Uttar Pradesh. These include, facilitating participation in domestic exhibitions, regular capacity building initiatives in collaboration with various agencies; e-commerce on-boarding drives for Government

e-Marketplace (GeM)- ODOP Bazaar which showcases and stocks India's best ODOP products. For promoting ODOP at international level, engagement with Indian Missions abroad, virtual buyer sellers meets and participation in international exhibitions have been undertaken. Also, various ODOP Products have been included as part of gifting during G-20 meetings in India to popularize these products internationally.

As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, UP state export policy for the period of 2025-30 have been issued vide GO No. 684 dt.3.9.2025. Under this policy, incentives have been revised and increased up to 2 folds under existing schemes like gateway port, Marketing development assistance and air freight rationalization scheme. Besides, many new schemes have also been launched like DakgharNiryatYojna, Export credit insurance assistance, MDA for service exports, MICE assistance scheme, e-commerce assistance scheme, export-oriented infrastructure scheme etc. to ensure overall growth of exporters of the region. Under ODOP MDA (Marketing Development Assistance) scheme International Fairs/Exhibitions (list of fairs being organised in Buddhist Countries is attached) have been notified. Any ODOP Stakeholder including from Kushinagar district if participating in the notified fair/ Exhibition, will be eligible to claim for stall/ freight and travel allowance in accordance with the MDA Scheme. ODOP products are being promoted on e-commerce platforms, giving them greater visibility and easier access to national & international buyers. Thousands of ODOP products are already on e-commerce, contributing significantly to export orders. Following the MoU signed between department of MSME, Govt. of UP and Flipkart, ODOP products from all the districts including Kushinagar are now being onboarded and promoted on Flipkart's dedicated ODOP marketplace window.

With airports such as Kushinagar International Airport enabling direct connectivity to Buddhist nations, the e-commerce led branding by state government will significantly strengthen the market penetration of ODOP products in Buddhist countries.

Notified Fair/Exhibition under ODOP MDA Scheme (in Buddhist Countries)

Sl No.	Country Name	Fair/Exhibition
1.	Thailand	ThaitexAnuga Asia, Mega show, ANDTEX Agritechnica Asia.
2.	Japan	Foodex Japan India Tex trend fair, India fashion & lifestyle show,
3.	South Korea	Seoul food & hotel Preview in daegu, ICPI Week,
4.	China	China International Carpet Exp. China Import & Export Fair, Domotex Asia China Floor, Yiwu Imported Commodities Fair.

(d) As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, the proposal for setting up of one CFC center at the Kushinagar district for ODOP is under pipeline. Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared in consultation with SPV and District Level Stakeholders and will be presented before State level Committee for approval.

श्री रतनजीत प्रताप नारायन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, यह एक बहुत ही अहम सवाल है। मैं पूर्वांचल से आता हूँ और कुशीनगर में प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट स्थापित हुआ है। उस इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के माध्यम से पूर्वांचल की बहुत प्रोग्रेस हुई है। मार्च तक वहां कैट1 लग जाएगा और इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स वहां से चल पाएंगी। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट को एक एक्सपोर्ट हब बनाया गया है। हमारे जनपद में वन डिस्ट्रिक्ट वन प्रोडक्ट के अंतर्गत केले को एक प्रोडक्ट बना रखा है, परंतु उस इलाके में सिर्फ पूर्वांचल का नहीं, बल्कि बिहार तक, जहां लीची और आम हमारे यहां भी पूरे महाराजगंज को, कुशीनगर को, देवरिया को, गोरखपुर को, पूर्वांचल को विकसित करेगा, बिहार को विकसित करेगा, वहां से फल का एक्सपोर्ट हब बनाने के लिए हम प्राथमिकता से देंगे। वह एयरपोर्ट सिर्फ यात्रियों के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि हमारे जितने भी किसान हैं, उनके लिए भी बहुत फायदेमंद होगा, इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसे एक्सपोर्ट हब बनाने के लिए किए जा रहे कार्य की क्या प्रगति है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Be specific about your question.

श्री जितिन प्रसाद: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने कुशीनगर जनपद, पूर्वांचल और उत्तर प्रदेश से संबंधित बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न पूछा है, जो कि विकास से जुड़ा हुआ प्रश्न है। जहाँ तक कुशीनगर का सवाल है, यह खास तौर से बौद्ध धर्म का एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है और उसी के तहत मोदी सरकार ने यह फैसला लिया था कि कुशीनगर में एक इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट स्थापित किया जाए।

महोदय, जहाँ तक One District One Product की बात है, कुशीनगर में केला और केला फाइबर, केले के जो प्रॉडक्ट्स होते हैं, उनमें चिप्स है, आटा, यानी बनाना फ्लॉर भी आते हैं। जो बनाना फाइबर है, उससे पूजा के लिए चप्पलें बनती हैं, फाइल कवर्स बनते हैं, टोकरियाँ बनती हैं। जो ऐसी तमाम चीजें हैं, उन्हें प्रोत्साहन दिया जा रहा है, ताकि वहाँ पर निर्यात और आयात बढ़े।

महोदय, इसके साथ ही इसे एक ऐसा हब, ऐसा केन्द्र बनाया जाएगा - और मुझे यह बताते हुए बहुत प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि केंद्र सरकार और प्रदेश सरकार ने बहुत से ऐसे कदम उठाए हैं, जो कुशीनगर में खास तौर से केला उत्पादों से संबंधित जो प्रॉडक्ट्स हैं, उनके लिए One District One Product Scheme के तहत कार्य कर रहे हैं। बहुत से लोग कुशीनगर से चैन्ने के

तिरुचिरापल्ली में, जहाँ पर एक ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट है, वहाँ भेजे जाते हैं, ताकि उन्हें और हुनरमंद और कारगर बनाया जाए, जिससे उनके प्रॉडक्ट्स बिक सकें।

महोदय, एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण योजना, जो पाइपलाइन में है, मुझे उसको बताने में बहुत प्रसन्नता हो रही है और यह माननीय सदस्य के अथक प्रयासों से भी संभव हुआ है कि वहाँ पर One District One Product के अंतर्गत, केले के जो उत्पाद हैं, उनके लिए Common Facility Centre (CFC) खोलने की भी एक योजना है। यह योजना पाइपलाइन में है और मैं बता सकता हूँ – सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य को भली-भाँति मालूम होगा, क्योंकि इन्होंने तो पूरा भ्रमण किया हुआ है, तहसील कप्तानगंज में दुहिया महिया छापर एक गाँव है, जहाँ पर जमीन भी अधिकृत कर ली गई है। महोदय, आने वाले समय में वहाँ पर बनाना के लिए tissue culture, जिसमें उसके नए-नए उत्पाद और नए-नए तरीके, banana drying आदि के लिए भी फैसिलिटीज़ होंगी, जिससे shelf-life बढ़े।

महोदय, ऐसी तमाम चीज़ें हैं, जिन्हें और आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया जाएगा। इसकी कुल लागत में केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से जो मदद की जाएगी, उसमें करीब 3 करोड़, 90 लाख का प्रयोजन है। यह एसपीवी के माध्यम से कुशीनगर में किया जाएगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, Shri Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh.

SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Sir, it is easier to say 'R.P.N. Singh'. My name is very long. सर, मेरा जो दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न है, वह यह है कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने कुशीनगर की तरफ ध्यान दिया है और उन्होंने जो सीएफसी की बात कही है – मैं इसमें यह भी जोड़ना चाहता हूँ कि जब ये हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में पीडब्ल्यूडी के मिनिस्टर थे, तब इन्होंने कुशीनगर में सारी सड़कों का जाल बिछाया था और उसके माध्यम से पडरौना में एक बाईपास भी चालू हो चुका है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

श्री रतनजीत प्रताप नारायण सिंह: मैं मंत्री जी से सिर्फ यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो सीएफसी केंद्र है, क्या यह एक साल के अंदर तैयार हो जाएगा?

श्री जितिन प्रसाद: सभापति जी, जैसा कि मैंने बताया है कि यह खास प्राथमिकताओं में से एक है। कुशीनगर वह क्षेत्र है, जो बौद्ध धर्म का केंद्र है, हजारों, करोड़ों लोगों की आस्था का केंद्र है। हम लोग वहाँ पर पूरा प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि जितने भी उत्पाद हैं, उनका एक्सपोर्ट बढ़े।

महोदय, इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की बात कही गई है। जितनी बुद्धिष्ट कंट्रीज़ हैं, जो साउथ-ईस्ट एशिया में आती हैं, वहाँ पर आने वाले समय में इस एयरपोर्ट की वजह से एक्सपोर्ट होगा, इसलिए कॉमन फैसिलिटी सेंटर भी हमारी प्राथमिकता पर है। इसीलिए एक प्रयास किया जा रहा है कि यह कार्य जल्द से जल्द हो। जिसे डबल इंजन कहते हैं, जो केंद्र सरकार और प्रदेश

सरकार के माध्यम से चल रहा है, उसी के कारण जल्द से जल्द स्वीकृतियाँ हो रही हैं और इसके लिए पूरा प्रयास किया जा रहा है। महोदय, जैसा कि मैंने बताया है कि वहाँ जमीन खरीद ली गई है, उस गाँव में बिजली की व्यवस्था हो गई है, तमाम एसपीवी का गठन हो चुका है और धनराशि भी आवंटन के लिए तैयार कर दी गई है। वहाँ पर सीएफसी के माध्यम से करीब 300—400 लोगों को सीधा-सीधा रोजगार मिलेगा। ये जो नये प्रोजेक्ट इन्वेस्टमेंट्स हैं, जैसे banana plant tissue culture lab और banana drying, इनमें यह tissue culture lab ऐसी चीज़ है, जिसमें disease-free plants होंगे, uniform and genetically-identical plants होंगे, banana की तमाम तरह की नई वैरायटीज़ होंगी। सर, यह banana drying भी बहुत महत्व रखती है, क्योंकि यह shelf life के बारे में बताती है और जो प्रोडक्ट खराब हो जाते हैं, उन्हें बचाती है। इसमें moisture content भी कम होता है, ताकि आगे इसका nutrition भी बना रहे। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह सीएफसी प्राथमिकता पर है। जैसा कि मैंने बताया, यह प्रोजेक्ट pipeline में है, विचाराधीन है और हम प्रयास करेंगे कि जल्द से जल्द सभी चीज़ें - जैसे जमीन, बिजली और इसमें जो तमाम इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की जरूरत है, उनके बारे में प्रदेश सरकार से बात करके इन्हें सुनिश्चित करा करके धरातल पर उतारा जाए, ताकि जो कुशीनगर क्षेत्र है और पूरा पूर्वांचल है, उसे पूरा लाभ मिले। यह प्रयास रहेगा कि वहाँ के लोगों को रोजगार के अवसर, एक्सपोर्ट के अवसर आमदनी के जरिये मिलें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Third supplementary; Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde.

डा. अनिल सुखदेवराव बोंडे: सर, वन डिस्ट्रिक्ट वन प्रोडक्ट के माध्यम से विशेषकर कृषि उत्पादों को बहुत अच्छा सपोर्ट मिलता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वन डिस्ट्रिक्ट वन प्रोडक्ट तथा निर्यात हब के रूप में जिला, यानी डीएच, इस पहल के अंतर्गत महाराष्ट्र के जिलों में चयनित उत्पादों के लिए निर्यात संवर्धन सामान्य सुविधा केंद्र की स्थापना और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों से जोड़ने हेतु कौन-कौन से विशेष कदम उठाये गये हैं?

श्री जितिन प्रसाद: सर, यह सवाल दूसरे प्रदेश में चला गया है, मगर मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि ओडीओपी एक स्कीम नहीं है, बल्कि केंद्र सरकार का इनिशिएटिव है। यह बहुत महत्वाकांक्षी और बहुत सफल परियोजना रही कि इस ओडीओपी के तहत भारत के प्रत्येक जनपद में एक ऐसी व्यवस्था बनी, जिसमें जनपदों को भी पहचान मिली, प्रोडक्ट को भी ब्रांड आइडेंटिटी मिली। मैं एक उदारहरण दे सकता हूँ। एक जमाने में बनारस में सिर्फ सिल्क साड़ी की बात होती थी, मगर आज ओडीओपी योजना की वजह से उस सिल्क से कुशन भी बन रहे हैं, कपड़े भी बन रहे हैं और तमाम ऐसी चीज़ें हो रही हैं। तमाम बड़े-बड़े ब्रांड्स हैं, जो ओडीओपी का ठप्पा लगाते हैं। आज बहुत-से लोग फ़ैब इंडिया के कपड़े पहनते हैं। जो भी ओडीओपी का प्रोडक्ट होता है, उस पर उस जिले और प्रदेश के नाम का ठप्पा लगता है।

महोदय, जहाँ तक महाराष्ट्र का सवाल है, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह स्कीम प्रत्येक जिले में प्रोडक्ट सेलेक्ट करती है, उसे ब्रांड देती है, उसे आइडेंटिटी देती है और उसका प्रमोशन करती है। यह तमाम दायित्व केंद्र सरकार का है, मगर प्रदेश सरकारों ने भी इसमें बड़ी भूमिका निभाई है।

प्रदेश सरकारों ने फाइनेंशियल इंसेंटिव भी दिये हैं - ट्रेड फेयर में कम दरों पर स्टॉल उपलब्ध कराना, विदेशों या भारत के विभिन्न शहरों में जो आना-जाना होता है, उसमें सुविधा देना, जो इस दिशा में काम करते हैं, उन लोगों को क्रेडिट्स देना। महोदय, महाराष्ट्र हमारी प्राथमिकता पर है। सरकार का यही प्रयास है कि वहाँ जो जनपद हैं, जहाँ उनके प्रोडक्ट्स हैं, वहाँ कॉमन फैसिलिटी सेंटर्स खुलें। वहाँ पर ऐसी परियोजनाओं के माध्यम से एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ाने के लिए, उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए दोनों सरकारें, केंद्र और प्रदेश सरकार मिलकर जो भी प्रयास कर सकती हैं, वे मिलकर इस योजना को सफल बना रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fourth supplementary; Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade.

डा. अजित माधवराव गोपछड़े: सभापति महोदय, कुछ जिलों में पाया गया है कि हल्दी में करक्यूमिन की मात्रा बहुत अधिक है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस करक्यूमिन के अनुसंधान और विकास के लिए माननीय मंत्री जी केंद्र सरकार के माध्यम से हमारे देश में क्या प्रयास कर रहे हैं? यह सवाल हल्दी में करक्यूमिन के संबंध में है।

श्री जितिन प्रसाद: माननीय सभापति जी, यह दूसरा विभाग है, फिर भी मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें जो भी impurities आती हैं, फर्टिलाइजर है या तमाम ऐसी चीजें हैं, उनके लिए हमारा एफएसएसएआई है, जो इसे देखता है और सुनिश्चित करता है कि जो भी प्रोडक्ट निर्यात किया जा रहा है, चाहे वह कृषि का हो या कोई और हो, उसकी क्वालिटी maintain हो, उसमें किसी तरह की कोई कमी न हो। जो हमारी इंटरनेशनली लैब्स हैं, चाहे वे हमारे देश में हों या विदेश में हों -- इसके लिए mutual recognition agreements होते हैं, जिनके तहत यह देखा जाता है कि जो भी सामान है, चाहे वह कृषि का प्रोडक्ट हो या कोई और हो, उसमें किसी तरह की कोई कमी न हो, क्वालिटी से कोई समझौता न हो। यह सिर्फ एक जनपद और एक प्रदेश का मामला नहीं है। जब कोई भी सामान देश के बाहर जाता है, तो देश की गरिमा का सवाल होता है और यह सरकार...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Hour is over. The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

[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://sansad.in/rs/debates/officials>]

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

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS- *Contd.*

Withdrawal made from Contingency Fund of India to meet essential payment obligations relating to imported urea

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement by hon. Minister, Shrimati Anupriya Patel.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): Sir, with your permission, I lay on the Table of the House a Statement regarding withdrawal made from Contingency Fund of India to meet essential payment obligations relating to imported urea, in view of the exhaustion of allocated funds and the non-deferrable nature of the expenditure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Private Members' Business. Resolution No.1, Shrimati Sudha Murty.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Amending the Constitution to introduce a new Article 21B guaranteeing free and compulsory Early Childhood Care and Education for all children between three to six years of age

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY (Nominated): Sir, I move the following Resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) Article 21A of the Constitution guarantees free and compulsory education to children between six and fourteen years of age, and the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 introduced a Directive Principle encouraging the State to provide early childhood care and education to children below six years of age;

- (ii) Early childhood, from birth to six years, is a critical developmental period, during which over 85 per cent of brain development occurs, as recognised by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020;
- (iii) the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also recommends universal, high-quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) by 2030 and underscores the importance of strong investment in ECCE for improved long-term learning and well-being;
- (iv) scientific and developmental research indicates that children with access to structured Early Childhood Care and Education demonstrate improved health, nutrition, learning outcomes and lifelong earnings;
- (v) availability of high-quality, safe and accessible childcare allows mothers, siblings and grandparents to engage in more productive economic activity, contributing to increased household incomes and greater Female Labour Force Participation;
- (vi) screening of all children for disabilities and developmental delays facilitates early diagnosis and intervention, inclusive practices in early learning, and timely referral to medical and disability specialists, contributing to the de-stigmatization and possible prevention of lifelong disability;
- (vii) the delivery of ECCE is closely linked to India's international commitments towards meeting Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 and the Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming ECCE, 2022;
- (viii) various national frameworks, such as the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage, Aadharshila for ECCE (2024), and Navchetana for early childhood stimulation, along with Parliamentary Standing Committee Reports and ECCE Task Force recommendations, recognise the importance of strengthening access, quality and equity of ECCE for human capital development of the country; and

- (ix) the year 2025 marks the Golden Jubilee of the ICDS and Anganwadi system, providing an important moment to strengthen India's long-standing commitment to the well-being and early development of young children,

the House urges upon the Government to —

- (a) consider taking steps to amend the Constitution to introduce a new Article 21B guaranteeing free and compulsory Early Childhood Care and Education, including nutrition, health services, and pre-primary learning, for all children between three to six years of age;
- (b) work towards universal access to quality ECCE through strengthened Anganwadi services, or through any other mechanism the Government may deem appropriate, to ensure that all children receive equitable and holistic early childhood support; and
- (c) take suitable measures to enhance further the delivery, training, and support systems related to early childhood services, recognising their central role in securing strong foundations for lifelong learning and development."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you can now speak on the Resolution.

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY: Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this most important subject. I want to congratulate all our sisters and Anganwadi workers who are working and giving yeoman service and contributing towards our country, particularly, in the rural areas of India. Sir, the Anganwadi Scheme has completed its 50 years, Golden Jubilee. Happy Golden Jubilee.

Let me talk about the Anganwadi centres. In 1975, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) was launched to look after pregnant women, lactating mothers and children between the age of 0 to 6 years. Basically, it was in the form of the ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education). It continued for a long time in the buffer zone taking care of malnutrition. A big change came in 2002 under the leadership of the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who took a major step with 86th Amendment to the Constitution. This gave to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years born in our country the Fundamental Right to Free and Compulsory Education. Also, Article 45 was amended, which created a DPSP (Directive Principle of State Policy) for ECCE.

Sir, education is a magic wand. Whomsoever it touches, his or her life change. Everything is possible with education. It brings change in the destiny of the person. If you are educated, you can bring improvement in the society. You can also contribute towards the nation's economy. Nobel laureate, Dr. James Heckman once said, "If you invest one rupee in the quality and early childhood education, it will grow and contribute 13 times more to the economy of the country." Sir, the data shows that if we invest one rupee in the hard infrastructure, it also grows, it also contributes towards the country's economy, but it is only 2.3 times. That shows the importance of early education of our children.

In 2018, our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, revamped and expanded the ICDS to Poshan 1.0. It was the most important work because it led to digitalization of scheme in the name of Poshan Tracker, which enabled real-time monitoring and strengthening the Anganwadi Centres and its services. It was a massive work. It was not easy because our country is large. It was started in 2018 but the application was completed in 2021. I want to congratulate the Ministry of Women and Child Development for their hard work which has been a great success. In 2001, Poshan 1.0 was further revamped and it was called Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 for integrated, holistic development of the children and their nutrition. It has two divisions, one is Saksham Anganwadi, which gives more importance to infra development, and the other one is Poshan 2.0 which provides to take home rations to the lactating mothers, pregnant women and children between the ages of 0 to 3. It also gave healthy snacks, healthy lunch. Doctors say with their research that first 1000 days are very important when a mother conceives and the child grows up. It comes to nearly 2 years and 3 months. These are the crucial days when the mind and body develops. While taking care of that, the Government of India has done a fantastic work of providing to take home ration to the lactating mothers and pregnant mothers. In 2023, the Government of India came with a new campaign, PBPB, *Poshan Bhi aur Padhai Bhi*, which is actually a very beautiful line, which gives uniform training to the Anganwadi workers all over India. This scheme is valid from 2023 to 2026. Until then, every State used to have its own scheme. Some people would hire NGO; some people had their own way of tackling the problems. Now, there is a steady and systematic Anganwadi worker training system. In 2024, the Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced two curricula, one is Navachetana, for children between 0 to 3 years of age, and the other one is Aadharshila, for children between 3 and 6 years of age. This curriculum provided Anganwadi workers to monitor the development of a child, organize pre-school activities and many more things.

Sir, I want to give some analysis of the importance of ECCE. NEP 2020 notes that it is important that children receive good education from of 3 to 8 years. During that period, children's cognitive, social and emotional skills will develop very well. NEP 2020 also tells that up to the age of 6 years, 85 per cent of your brain will develop. Sir, let us now look at some numbers according to the statistics. In 2021 estimation, there are 16.1 crore children between the age of 0 to 6 years, which comes to 11 per cent of our population. Sir, our Poshan Tracker notes that there are around 3.5 crore children from 3 to 6 years of age, who attend Anganwadi centres. Additionally, there are 4 crore more children who are benefited by these schemes. There are a few well-off people in our country. Their children will go to private schools. I am not talking about them. I am standing here on behalf of all those remaining children. Where do they go? When there are 16.1 crore children, and 3.5 crore plus 4 crore negligible and well-off people going to school, where are the remaining children? Where will they go? They don't come to Anganwadi. Then where will they go? They may be rolling on the dusty roads in the rural areas or they may be accompanying their parents in dangerous working places like railway tracks, etc., or they may be playing somewhere without any supervision. I care for those children and I stand here for those children, Sir. As Anganwadi education is not compulsory, these children are always neglected because the rule is for the children between the age group of 6 to 14 years. So nobody bothers about the children who are between the age group of 3 to 6 years. There are many reasons for that.

- (i) Normally, these parents are not well off, these are the people who are working. They are not even aware of the importance of Anganwadi education from 3- 6 when the brain develops, when they should get nutritional food and when they should have pre-school activities. They are not even aware of it.
- (ii) They may not even have time to think about it because they are so busy in making both ends meet for their livelihood. They say that they don't even think about it.
- (iii) They have this attitude that the child will go to school after six for Standard I, so, why they should worry about it. They are not aware that by doing that, it is going to affect their children's future and their capacity to learn.

The result of this is very upsetting. Let me take two examples. Let me take a girl A and a boy B. I always believe that girls are smarter. So, let me tell that one. Both of them are brought up in the same atmosphere in the rural area where there is an Anganwadi centre. Girl A goes to the Anganwadi centre from 3-6. She learns cognitive skills, motor skills and socio-economic skills. She learns good hygiene habits. Everything happens to her. Her brain is getting developed. The other child

does not go to the Anganwadi centre in the same area. At the age of 6, both of them go to school in the first standard. Girl A is going up step by step. This is her next step. Boy B is not able to go to step 1. He has to jump to step 2. The child who comes to school without any preparation or learning any of these skills gets scared. These are the hurdles. The child sits at the back bench probably worrying what he will do, how he will talk, what the teacher will say because he does not know what अ, आ, इ, ई or ABCD is, whatever language you may know. He does not know how to count. He does not have any other skill except what he learnt while playing in the last three to six years somewhere else. The child becomes diffident. The child is worried. The child thinks about his self-esteem and self-worth. The child is scared. This is not for all children. There are many children who directly come to class 6 and they can overcome it if they have great potential. But I am talking about normal children. If the child has to improve, then, the teacher, the parents and the child should consult, and then, it is possible to overcome this hurdle. Many a time it is not possible. The child is scared of learning and going to school. For him, there is no joy in learning and going to school because his fundamentals are weak. When you build a building and your base is not good, the building will collapse. The same thing will happen to the children who do not have a good base, which is mental base. This dark mark will remain with the child even when he goes to other classes. The results are really difficult. The child will not enjoy his education.

Sir, children are our future. They are the rising sun. Their early education will benefit their life. Hence, I request through you, Sir, to our Government to consider amending our Constitution to give Fundamental Right to Education from 3 to 14 years which is right now 6 to 14 years. Just increase three more years, but fundamental years, not later years, so that the children can stand up in life with a good base and good skill.

Sir, let us look at some opportunities in case it has been amended. One, the female labour force participation rate will increase because of more Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers in Anganwadi centres. Two, the parents of children will produce more while doing work, as their productivity is very high because they are not worried where the children will be at that time. The most important thing is early detection of disabilities. Suppose the child goes to Anganwadi centre where there is a screening method. There you will come to know if the child is having some problem with speech or hearing ability. Early screening helps them because they can get corrected in early stages. We always say you can bend a sapling in any direction when it is very small or young. Once it becomes a tree, it is very difficult to move it. Similarly, any intervention or any help, which is required for such children with some

malfunctioning, can be taken care of in screening. This is one of the most important things in Anganwadi. Number four is, children's brain is completely developed by this time. It is a great boost.

Sir, I have a few more humble suggestions for the Government, to the hon. Minister, Shrimati Annpurna Devi, who must have large-scale awareness of education of children aged 3-6 years. The beautiful campaign which caught my eyes was "बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ". Similar kind of a campaign is required for children aged 3-6 years to go to Anganwadi. The Government, the State Government, can consider roping in CSR funds from industries. Every company has mandatory CSR, which is two per cent. Second thing is, there are certain rules. Some schemes come under CSR; some schemes do not come under CSR. I would request the hon. Minister to think over it. You should put Anganwadi improvement scheme under CSR. You should list it under CSR so that industry can also participate in this. Normally, Anganwadi workers feel about its title. When I work with Anganwadi workers, they always say that they do not like to be called Anganwadi workers. I asked as to why. They say that they like the word ASHA; ASHA looks nice. Maybe, in that atmosphere, the word 'ASHA' has lot more *asha* whereas they think that Anganwadi is like anybody else. So, I want some other name. There are many names, but I have one suggestion. Ultimately, the decision is with the Government. It is 'Deepa'. 'Deepa' is the word which is light. Light is synonymous with knowledge. A lamp removes darkness; darkness is ignorance. 'Deepa' is a word which is valid from North to South and East to West. Everybody understands the meaning of 'Deepa'. It is the same 'Deepa'. So, this gives them a kind of resilience or enthusiasm to work because in village area, ASHA is more important and they always feel Anganwadi is not. This is the psychological lift I want to give them. Whenever Anganwadi centre infrastructure is made or modified, I would request the Government to consider that it should be made more child-friendly. I know it is not an easy task; it is difficult, but it is possible. You require enormous amount of time. You can see the history. Vajpayeeji took a step in 2002, but, it was in 2009 that RTE or Right to Education was implemented. It took seven long years. Similarly, in 2018, Poshan Tracking System started, but it came into existence after three years. So, it takes time.

Sir, then, I come to logistics. Many logistics are required to implement this. Most important, like a heart, is financial implication. It is a lot of investment. It has a lot of thinking on financial implications. Fourth, India is a large country with a large population. It is not like what you implement in a smaller country in 20 days. It is not possible in India even in 20 months because it is a huge country with huge population. Wherever you want to implement it, you will have to use different methodologies and

different things in each State, but we have to do it. I urge the Government to consider this.

Sir, if we want to change the destiny of our children in our country, only we have to do it. I will quote a *shloka* from Bhagavad Gita. It was asked from Krishna -- who can help, who is my good friend, who is my bad friend and who is my enemy? Krishna says, "आत्मैव ह्यात्मनो बन्धुरात्मैव रिपुरात्मनः।" You are your best friend. Who is my enemy? You are your own enemy. Suppose my country has to develop, we have to work. All of us -- we the people, we the society and we the Government -- have to work to improve our country. To make it better in our country, everyone should work. We have to work; we should not depend on anybody else. Shri Modiji's vision is always "आत्मनिर्भर भारत"; it is one of the fantastic methods because you depend on yourself. "आत्मैव ह्यात्मनो बन्धुर" means that you are your friend. And, if you don't do that, you are your enemy -- "आत्मैव रिपुरात्मनः।" It makes us self-sufficient, self-reliant and it makes us confident people. That is the reason I feel, with all the difficulties, we the people, we the Government, we the society, we the school, all should participate in this big movement of the age between three to six years and make compulsory learning method or *anganwadi* system.

Now, I want to give some examples. For example, when the job is an uphill task, like, you are walking on a hill, uphill is not easy but it can be made flat. I would give three examples. The first example I would like to give you is of Hiuen Tsang in 629 AD. He was a Chinese traveller, a bright Buddhist monk who wanted to come to India and go to Nalanda. His ultimate destination was Nalanda, a great Buddhist university at that time and learn there, take the Indian Buddhist text back to China. When he decided this, everyone gave advice to him, -- In India, we are famous for giving free advice, he also must have got a lot of free advice there -- saying that you cannot go, it is a distant land, it is the Western side, how would you go. The Emperor of the Tang Dynasty, at that time, was very fond of him. He said: "You cannot go. How can you go to India? By foot, it is not possible." So, he imprisoned him. But Hiuen Tsang escaped in the night. He crossed the Gobi desert by foot, took the Silk route and came to Kannauj, then to Patna and then to Nalanda. He learned there as a student first and later, he became a teacher. Later, he wrote a book known as Si-Yu-Ki - Wandering in the West. For Chinese, we are Westerners; so; he says "Wandering in the West" and talks so much about India, the life of Indians in 629 AD at Kannauj. He describes Peshawar, he describes Patna, he describes Nalanda and many more places, including Sanchi. He describes all those things and he took those books back to China. Today, if we want to know something about India at 629 AD, we have to refer to a Chinese book, Si-Yu-Ki, which gives all the detailing. Why did

he do that? It was not needed. He was a good Buddhist monk. He could have sat in Xi'an in his Pagoda and could have led his life. He said: "No. My passion is to go and earn knowledge. My passion is to go uphill, work, make it flat and achieve it. To get this knowledge, I have to work hard, I should have patience, I should undergo all difficulties and then only I can get it. But only I can do this. I do not care about anything but I care for the knowledge." So, it is possible in life. Whatever looks like an uphill task, over a period of time, with patience, with perseverance, with passion, we can achieve it. If we decide to do this three to six year compulsory, to some extent it is an uphill task but we can do it with patience of time. We can do this with perseverance by following up with the people, with the society and we should have passion for that otherwise, it is not possible. Any amount of money you may have but if you do not have these three P's, it is not possible to achieve at all.

Second example I want to give is, however, funny because it is my own experience and I thought I should share it in this august House. I am a small person. Compared to Hiuen Tsang and all, I am not a great person. In the year 1974, when I did my engineering, there were hardly any lady engineers in India. I saw an advertisement where the House of Tatas wrote: "Lady engineers need not apply". It is because the work was in Jamshedpur as well as in Pune and many places. As a young girl I wrote a postcard to JRD Tata who was the head of Tata Industries. I wrote to him, maybe, because at 23, we are all idealists. There is a very famous saying: "At twenty, if you are not an idealist, then you don't have a heart. And if you continue being an idealist at forty, then you don't have a brain." So, I wrote a letter to JRD Tata asking this simple question on a postcard. I said that if any country has to progress, if any society has to progress, then, men and women should participate. Women are 50 per cent of the population. Even though they are technically qualified and if you say that lady students need not apply that means you are not opening a door for a technical person in your company.

Sir, that is not fair because if half of the population is not allowed to work, then, country will not progress. There is nothing great about me writing because I was a young idealist girl; I come from a teacher family, and I did not have any connection with the corporate world. I did not know anything in politics nor do I have any other equipment to reach J.R.D. It is only a postcard! I was well-equipped with education and education was my weapon; education was also my asset. The greatness was J.R.D., Sir, not me. He read that letter, and he said, 'Yes, what this young girl has asked, has a valid point. If the society has to change, we have to allow many things to do and one of them is allow the women to work in a factory.' Sir, J.R.D. is not here now, but he must have faced many things. His colleagues used to say, 'It is not

correct. Where the girl will stay and where the ladies toilet will be there.’ But he said, ‘If you want to start anything new, you have to start at any cost.’ The rest is history. I joined the house of Tata. It is nothing great about me. It is great about that leader whose vision was so great, who had a beautiful blue eyes, which I remember, the vastness of the sky, and the depth of the ocean. He understood not just a postcard, but the content of the postcard. The meaning of that is, if we do not work, and also do not give the opportunity for remaining people to succeed in life, then it is not correct in a society. Similarly, I feel, if we do not train our children between the ages of three and six, and if they do not become good citizens--they may become good citizens but they may not be well-equipped with knowledge--the error lies with us.

I will give one more example, being a history teacher's daughter and a granddaughter, I am prone to history. In 1969, Neil Armstrong went to the Moon and placed his first foot on the Moon. He gave a very famous statement. ‘It may be a single step on the Moon, but it is a big leap for the mankind.’ This generation people may not know about it. At least, in 1969, there was no TV, I have heard every conversation; so, I remember it. It is the same way like what Hiuen Tsang talked about 10,000 Li Journey. Li is a Chinese measurement in those days of the distance. All these projects are difficult, but you have to take one step at a time. But, you have to take it; otherwise, there is no way. If we take one step today, next generation will have a leap/jump in their life, which is nothing but our asset.

I will give one more example. In 1815, there was a young person by the name Prince Bismarck of Germany. His early childhood education was his mother. Maybe from 0 to 3 years or from 3 to 6 years, what she taught him, ‘*Beta* you should do the following things.’ She told him, ‘Keep personal hygiene very good, respect time, keep house clean, go for detailing in any work, become efficient’, and many more things she taught. He learned that and he made them a part of his life. When he became the Chancellor of Russia in those days, he made all his subjects to be followed in that country, all these principles, like to keep personal hygiene, keep roads clean, keep parks clean, respect time, go into the detailing and you become efficient. It continued for two, three generations and became a part of DNA of Germany. So, today, Germany is synonymous with efficiency, actual measurement, accurate measurement, precision and cleanliness. Anything we do every day, it becomes a part of DNA. So, I want all mothers and parents should understand it, like how we used to brush our teeth, take bath, have breakfast and go to school. All parents and mothers should have that kind of a DNA that children at the age of three should get up, brush their teeth, have their breakfast and go to school. This should be automatic and autonomous. It automatically should happen. Reflection should be

immediate reflection. To happen that, we have to practice continuously. To practice that, we should have a project first. We should have a project, then, you have to practice, and it becomes a part of DNA. When it becomes a part of DNA, without any effort, you do that work. You do that work and this should become a DNA in Indian culture. To have that, Sir, we should have this project. My submission to the Government, through you, Sir, is to please consider this request seriously. Our Prime Minister's dream is of *Viksit Bharat* or developed Bharat by 2047. To realize his dream, there are many paths. This is one of the paths, I consider. Well-developed nation is always with well-developed people. One such path is ECCE, that is, Early Childhood Care and Education. If we implement it now, those children who receive these *Anganwadi* services will inherit the *Viksit Bharat* dream in 2047 as confident, self-reliant and healthy citizens. Rome was not built in a day. We did not get Independence in a day. Many leaders, for many years sacrificed their lives, their personal lives and struggled, and at the end, we got independence. So, these projects will not complete immediately or in a day. We require time, but we have to do this one. We should only realize our dream and our children will appreciate our efforts, once we have three to six or three to fourteen years of free and compulsory education all over India, which should become a birthright. It is possible under PM Modi's leadership. I am confident about it. Next generation people will remember him, owe him that he changed their lives. How Mr. Vajpayee made a change in 2002 by RTE, for kids aged 6 to 14 years, I think Modi will do for 3 to 14. Sir, I would like to conclude. Being a teacher for many years, until the next bell rings, I may go on talking. I do not want to do that today. I want to take a quote from *Gita*, which Krishna says about *atma*, but I will tell this one about *vidya*. For me, *vidya*, education, knowledge are synonymous. This is a beautiful *shloka*. It says, "नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः । न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः". I will tell, if you learn some skill, you learn your education in a proper way, you master *vidya*. When you master *vidya*, no thief can come and steal it. It need not be kept in a godrej locker. Nobody can cut it into pieces. It remains solid in your heart. It cannot be burnt with *agni* because it is imperishable. It cannot be drowned in water because it is above the water. No wind can take it to the distant destination because it is heavier than that. Education is that asset. Everybody should owe it. Everybody should have the right on it. Education can change your life forever. Education is something which is not inherited, but to be learnt in a proper age, in a proper school, with a proper teacher, with a proper leader, with a proper society and with a proper Government. And we have all those things in front of us.

Sir, I am really grateful to you for the opportunity which you gave to me to speak for such a long time. I thank all my colleagues for a patient hearing. I thank you for giving me time to participate in this debate. *Jai Hind! Vande Mataram!* With these words, I present the Resolution to the House. Thank you once again.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the Members whose names have been received for participation in the discussion. Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni.

डा. मेधा विश्राम कुलकर्णी (महाराष्ट्र): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, आंगनवाड़ी को सक्षम बनाने का जो प्रस्ताव आदरणीय सदस्या, सुधा मूर्ती जी ने रखा है, मैं उसका समर्थन करती हूँ।

आदरणीय महोदय, अगर देखा जाए, तो आज इस देश में 14 लाख आंगनवाड़ियाँ हैं, जिनमें 13 लाख 48 हजार वर्कर्स हैं और 10 लाख 23 हजार हेल्पर्स हैं। सबसे पहले आंगनवाड़ी की संकल्पना या जो इससे मिलती-जुलती संकल्पना है, उसे महाराष्ट्र में ताराबाई मोडक ने प्रस्तुत किया था और उनके बाद अनुताई वाघ ने इसे "आंगनवाड़ी" शब्द दिया। मुझे गर्व है कि अनुताई वाघ और ताराबाई मोडक, दोनों महाराष्ट्र से आती हैं।

महोदय, जो बच्चे स्कूल नहीं जा पाते या जो पैरेंट्स वर्कर कैटेगरी के हैं, जिन्हें अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने का समय या सुविधा नहीं है, ऐसे बच्चों के लिए उनके घर के आंगन में ही एक प्री-प्राइमरी स्कूल बनाया जाए, यह इसका विचार था, यह इसकी संकल्पना थी। इस संकल्पना को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, इसमें ICDS के तहत और भी वर्टिकल्स जोड़े गए और पूरे देश में यह एक बहुत अच्छा मॉडल चल रहा है, जिसका उपयोग बहुत ज्यादा है और जिसका पोर्टेंशियल इससे भी ज्यादा है, जिसे उपयोग में लाया जा सकता है। इसके जो अलग-अलग वर्टिकल्स हैं या जिन्हें ऑब्जेक्टिव्स कहा जा सकता है, वे हैं सप्लीमेंटरी न्यूट्रिशन, प्री-स्कूल एजुकेशन, इम्यूनाइजेशन, हेल्थ चेकअप, referral सर्विसेज़ आदि।

माननीय महोदय, मैं भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेशनल महिला मोर्चा में भी वाइस प्रेसिडेंट की जिम्मेदारी पर काम कर रही हूँ। भारतीय जनता पार्टी नेशनल महिला मोर्चा ने एक आदर्श आंगनवाड़ी प्रोजेक्ट लिया था और मैं उसकी हेड थी। मैं आंगनवाड़ी का प्रोजेक्ट लेकर देश भर के अलग-अलग स्टेट्स में गई हूँ। माननीय सदस्या, एस. फान्नानॉन कोन्याक जी, मैं आपके नागालैंड में भी गई थी। महाराष्ट्र में तो अलग-अलग आंगनवाड़ियों को भेंट दी थी। मैं आंध्र प्रदेश गई थी। गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश और बिहार गई थी। इतना ही नहीं, मैं आंगनवाड़ी का प्रोजेक्ट लेकर वैस्ट बंगाल गई थी और कश्मीर में पाकिस्तान बॉर्डर तक, जैसे कुपवाड़ा और डूडी माछिल तक गई थी कि इसका काम कैसा चल रहा है। मुझे खुशी है कि अलग-अलग राज्यों में इसे लेकर बहुत अच्छा प्रयास हुआ है और आंगनवाड़ी वर्कर्स बहुत अच्छा काम कर रही हैं। एकाध जगह छोड़कर, मैं उनका उदाहरण भी दूँगी।

महोदय, आंगनवाड़ी का काम दो तरीके का होता है। आंगनवाड़ी की वर्कर खुद को शिक्षिका बोलती हैं, जबकि वे शिक्षिका नहीं होतीं। हम उन्हें शिक्षिका नहीं बोलते, लेकिन वे स्वयं

को शिक्षिका कहती हैं। आंगनवाड़ी की हेल्पर और वर्कर को प्री-स्कूल में बच्चों को चार घंटे पढ़ाना होता है। इसके बाद उन्हें दो घंटे फील्ड वर्क का काम करना होता है। यह सात-आठ घंटे का काम एक्सटेंड भी हो जाता है। महोदय, 250 घरों के लिए एक आंगनवाड़ी सुनिश्चित की गई है। जैसे हमारी बूथ यंत्रणा रहती है, यह भी उसी तरह है। आंगनवाड़ी की टीचर्स, जिन्हें वर्कर कहा जाता है, वे फील्ड में जाकर उस क्षेत्र के हर घर की जानकारी रखती हैं कि वहाँ क्या-क्या जरूरतें हैं, सरकार की जो योजनाएँ हैं, उनका लाभ हर घर तक पहुँचती हैं। कहाँ लैक्टेटिंग मदर्स हैं, कहाँ प्रेग्नेंट वूमन हैं, इन्हें क्या-क्या लाभ देने हैं, यह भी देखती हैं। अगर वैक्सीनेशन देखा जाए, तो कोविड के समय आंगनवाड़ी वर्कर्स ने जितना काम किया, डॉक्टरों की जितनी हेल्प की, मेरे ख्याल से उतना किसी ने नहीं किया। उन्होंने बहुत सारे रिस्क लेकर, फील्ड में अंदर जाकर, स्लम्स में जाकर अपना योगदान दिया है। उन्होंने बहुत ही सराहनीय काम किया है। फील्ड में उनके लिए बहुत सारे काम होते हैं। जो मालन्यूट्रिशन बच्चे हैं, माताएँ हैं, सुदृढ़ माता-सुदृढ़ बालक इनका competition लेना, उन्हें ट्रेनिंग देना, पोषण और आहार को कैसे अच्छा बनाएँ, माताओं को इसकी ट्रेनिंग देना - ये सब काम उन्हें करने पड़ते हैं। इसके साथ ही चार घंटे बच्चों को भी पढ़ाना होता है। जैसे अभी सुधा दीदी ने कहा कि किस तरह से अलग-अलग स्किल्स हैं - यह एक इन्फॉर्मल एजुकेशन होती है, मैं खुद एक टीचर हूँ और किस तरह से प्री-एजुकेशन होती है, यह सबको मालूम है, मैं उसके डीप में नहीं जाऊँगी - यह सब स्किल्स पहले उसको आने चाहिए और वह फिर बाद में उनका उपयोग करेगी। उसे बहुत सारी समस्याओं को फेस करना पड़ता है, जैसे कि उनको स्मार्टफोन्स दिए गए हैं, बहुत सारी जगह पर नेटवर्क न होने की वजह से स्मार्टफोन्स काम नहीं करते हैं, तो वे डेटा भेज नहीं सकती हैं। उनको पेरेन्ट्स के वीडियो डालने के लिए कहा गया है। उनको 20-20 सेकंड के वीडियो लेने होते हैं। उन्हें उन वीडियोज को डालना पड़ता है और अगर वे समय पर नहीं डाले जाते हैं, तो उनको उनकी प्रोत्साहन निधि नहीं मिलती है। इसके अलावा, उनको रिकॉर्ड्स भी रखने पड़ते हैं। इसके संबंध में, मैं एक उदाहरण दूँगी, लेकिन यह किसी को क्रिटिसाइज़ करने के लिए नहीं है। मैं वैस्ट बंगाल गई थी। वहाँ हमें धक्के मारकर निकाला गया। हम और हमारे कार्यकर्ता मिलकर जब वहाँ आंगनवाड़ी में गए थे, तो आंगनवाड़ी से हमने पूछताछ की। उनके लिए सरकार की तरफ से पोषक आहार की सामग्री दी जाती है और उनको उसे बच्चों को देना पड़ता होता है। अगर बच्चों को वह नहीं देंगे, तो तो बच्चे सुदृढ़ कैसे बनेंगे? आंगनवाड़ी की महिलाओं को एक रिकॉर्ड रखना पड़ता है - रेड लाइन, येलो लाइन और ग्रीन लाइन। अगर बच्चे अंडरवेट हैं, तो वे रेड लाइन के अंतर्गत आ जाते हैं और उनको एक, दो, तीन महीने में अलग-अलग तरीकों का इस्तेमाल करके, सप्लिमेंट्री न्यूट्रिशन देकर, अपग्रेड करना पड़ता है और यह रिकॉर्ड उनको रखना पड़ता है। हमने वहाँ रिकॉर्ड की मांग की और हमने उनसे चंद प्रश्न पूछे, तो उन्होंने हमें कहा है कि यह आप क्यों पूछना चाहती हैं? हमने उनसे पूछा कि सरकार आपको यह देती है, क्या आप यह लोगों को देते हैं? फिर हमने पेरेन्ट्स के साथ भी बातचीत करनी चाहिए। उन्होंने गुंडे बुलाकर हमें वहाँ से निकाल दिया। वहाँ की महिला मोर्चा की जो हमारी दीदी थी वह रोने लगी और बोली कि दीदी, इससे हमें बहुत तकलीफ होगी, यहाँ से चलिए, बाहर निकलिए। हमें यहाँ से निकलना चाहिए, नहीं तो हमारे घर में यह हो जाएगा, वह हो जाएगा। वहाँ क्या-क्या होता है और क्या-क्या किस्से हैं, यह तो आप सबको मालूम ही है। एक छोटी enquiry करने के बाद उनको इतना गुस्सा आया! उसमें कुछ जगह पर मॉनिटरिंग करने

की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है। कई जगह अच्छे काम हो रहे हैं, लेकिन सुविधाएं कम हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके जरिए इसका एक उदाहरण मंत्री महोदय को देना चाहती हूँ। जैसे कि हमारी पुणे सिटी है। वहां अर्बन एरियाज़ में आंगनवाड़ी का स्कूल चलाने के लिए, जो क्लासरूम होता है, आप इमेजिन नहीं कर पाओगे कि उसके लिए 3,000 का रेंट मिलता है। 3,000 में कोई अच्छा क्लासरूम तो आएगा नहीं। अच्छी सुविधा होने के लिए ज्यादा पैसा खर्च करना पड़ता है और आंगनवाड़ी शिक्षिका की इतनी सैलरी नहीं होती है कि वह खुद की जेब से खर्च करे। प्रॉब्लम यह है कि रूल एरियाज़ में डेढ़ हजार और अर्बन एरिया में तीन हजार मैक्सिमम रेंट उनको मिलता है। अगर टॉयलेट्स, पैन्ट्री और अन्य सुविधाओं के साथ उनको ऐसे क्लासरूम्स चाहिए, तो इसके लिए ज्यादा रेंट देने की आवश्यकता मुझे महसूस हुई।

महोदय, हम सबको मालूम है कि प्री-प्राइमरी स्कूल्स की ताकत कितनी ज्यादा है। जो 0 से 3 साल के बच्चे हैं और 3 से 6 साल के बच्चे हैं, उनके ऊपर हम जितनी मेहनत करेंगे, उतना ही रिज़ल्ट हम बाद में उनकी शिक्षा में ला सकते हैं, क्योंकि 0-6 साल के दौरान बच्चों का ग्रोथ रेट बहुत ज्यादा होता है, लेकिन अगर जो यह बैंडविड्थ है, उसे हमने मिस कर दिया, तो उनकी आने वाली अगली शिक्षा पर परिणाम अच्छा नहीं होगा। अगर इस पर हमें फोकस करना है, तो आंगनवाड़ी को सक्षम बनाने की, आंगनवाड़ी को अच्छा बनाने की, आंगनवाड़ी में सुविधाओं की पूरी तैयारी करने की बहुत आवश्यकता है और यह 3,000 प्रति माह के रेंट से नहीं हो सकेगा। आंगनवाड़ी एक ग्रास रूट से जुड़ा हुआ प्रकल्प है। उनके ऊपर बहुत ज्यादा जिम्मेदारी होने के बावजूद उनको जो मानदेय मिलता है, वह मेरे ख्याल से कई राज्यों में अच्छा है, तो कई राज्यों में बहुत कम है। इसके लिए राज्यों को अपना कंट्रिब्यूशन बढ़ाना पड़ेगा, क्योंकि वहां के लोकल रेजिडेंट्स के लिए आंगनवाड़ी की सुविधा है। इसलिए मुझे लगता है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को उनको इंस्ट्रक्शन देनी चाहिए, क्योंकि इसमें सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का भी कंट्रिब्यूशन होता है। इसमें राज्यों का भी कंट्रिब्यूशन होता है, लेकिन कई राज्यों में यह कंट्रिब्यूशन बहुत ही कम है। इसलिए मिनिमम सेलरी कितनी होनी चाहिए, इसका कुछ आंकड़ा तय किया जाए और इसके ऊपर काम किया जाए। आंगनवाड़ी की सेविका जहां रहती है, वहां से निकल कर आंगनवाड़ी तक पहुंचने में उसका बहुत ज्यादा समय भी जाता है और बहुत ज्यादा खर्च भी होता है। इसलिए 10 हजार-11 हजार-13 हजार की सेलरी में वे कैसे अपना काम चलाएंगी! अलग-अलग जगह अलग-अलग सेलरी है। कई जगह अच्छी सेलरी है। यह 20 हजार हो सकती है। मेरे ख्याल से उनको अच्छी सेलरी मिलनी चाहिए। हम उनको और भी ज्यादा जिम्मेदारियां दे सकते हैं, क्योंकि वे 250 घरों में रोज जाती हैं। हम उनको अलग-अलग और भी जिम्मेदारियां दे सकते हैं। जैसे मातृ वंदना योजना में उनकी जिम्मेदारी है, कक्षा में उनकी जिम्मेदारी है। इसके अलावा वैक्सीनेशन है, और भी काम है। हम उनको और भी ज्यादा जिम्मेदारियां दे सकते हैं और हम उनको और ज्यादा सेलरी भी दे सकते हैं। क्या हम ऐसा मॉडल ला सकते हैं, हमें इस पर विचार करना चाहिए।

सर, पुणे जैसे एरिया में एक प्रयास किया जा रहा है। पुणे म्युनिसिपल कॉरपोरेशन के जो स्कूल्स हैं, चूँकि स्कूल में इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर अच्छा होता है, इसलिए उससे आंगनवाड़ी को जोड़ा जाए। अगर इस प्रयास का बाकी जगह भी अनुकरण हो सकता है, तो अच्छी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर वाला क्लासरूम हर आंगनवाड़ी को मिल सकता है। जेडपी के जो स्कूल्स हैं, म्युनिसिपल

कॉरपोरेशन/नगरपालिका के जो स्कूल्स हैं, उनके साथ आंगनवाड़ी को जोड़ा जा सकता है। मुझे मालूम है कि आंगनवाड़ी महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के अंदर आता है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I request; please, आवाज आ रही है।

डा. मेधा विश्राम कुलकर्णी: सर, यह एजुकेशन से संबंधित सब्जेक्ट है, लेकिन दोनों सब्जेक्ट्स को जोड़ा जा सकता है। आंगनवाड़ी प्री-एजुकेशन के लिए काम करता है और न्यू एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में आंगनवाड़ी को ...

श्री उपसभापति: मेधा जी, आप समाप्त कीजिए।

डा. मेधा विश्राम कुलकर्णी: सर, मैं लास्ट सेंटेंस कहना चाहती हूँ। न्यू एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में प्री-प्राइमरी एजुकेशन को प्राइमरी एजुकेशन से जोड़ा गया है। इसलिए इन दोनों डिपार्टमेंट्स को जोड़ कर हम कुछ ऐसा मॉडल सामने ला सकते हैं, जिससे आंगनवाड़ी सुदृढ़ हो और प्री-प्राइमरी एजुकेशन और बाकी योजनाओं को भी लाभ हो।

सर, हमारे आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी महिलाओं के लिए, बच्चों के लिए, बालकों के लिए, उनकी शिक्षा के लिए, उनकी सुदृढ़ता के लिए बहुत अच्छे उपाय कर रहे हैं। हम आंगनवाड़ी को सक्षम करके इस प्रयास को और भी ज्यादा इफेक्टिव बना सकते हैं। पापुलेशन के मामले में हमारा देश सबसे ज्यादा पापुलेशन वाला देश होने वाला है। हमारा देश युवा देश के नाम से जाना जाएगा और जाना जा रहा है। इसलिए ये आने वाले युवा ऐसेट होंगे या लायबिलिटी बनेंगे, यह शिक्षा के ऊपर निर्भर है। इसलिए मुझे यह रिक्वेस्ट करनी है कि आंगनवाड़ी को सक्षम बनाए जाने की आवश्यकता है। सर, आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, मैं आपको धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करती हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति: मेधा जी, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। ऑनरेबल पी. विल्सन जी।

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. I welcome the Private Members' Resolution to amend Article 21 and introduce Article 21B guaranteeing free and compulsory early childhood care and education between three to six years so that all children receive equitable and holistic early childhood support. Sir, this can also be done by amending Article 21A itself. The Article 21A which was introduced in 2009 for a noble cause is now sought to be made meaningless even to a child between six and fourteen years because of the New Policy of the Union of India. Let us see whether Article 21A really receives its literal respect in this country. The Union Governments collects four per cent health and education cess from every citizen. These funds are meant exclusively for schemes under Article 21A, the fundamental right to free and compulsory education.

Now let us see whether it is spent meaningfully. The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan is funded from this cess. It is not charity; it is not discretion; it is a constitutional obligation. But instead of honouring that obligation*. It is because our State refuses to accept a non-binding National Education Policy, a policy that has never been placed before the Parliament for legislative scrutiny. Will this policy bind the State of Tamil Nadu, which has a law to teach only two languages in its State? Is this how cooperative federalism is supposed to function? Is dissent from a State Government now a reason for the Union to financially strangle school education and deny fundamental rights to children? *

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is another pathetic situation wherein 98 lakh teachers are going to lose jobs in this country within two years, thus have a direct effect of Article 21A of the Constitution. The interpretation of RTE Act and NCTE Act by the courts mandates that all in-service teachers of minority schools who have never written the Teachers' Eligibility Test must now pass that test within two years, failing which they will lose their jobs within two years. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education of 2009 Act, shortly called as RTE Act, is applied retrospectively to all teachers in this country to qualify Teachers' Eligibility Test. Even teachers with less than five years of service remaining have been stripped of the promotion if they don't qualify in TET. Such alteration of service condition and disruption of their legitimate expectation of promotion after appointment certainly violates their rights. Sir, in Tamil Nadu alone, 4 lakh teachers will be losing their jobs. Across India, 98 lakh teachers are going to be affected and will be losing their jobs. Therefore, Article 21A is under great threat, and schools will have no experienced teachers after two years. These teachers who are going to lose their jobs were fully qualified, legitimately recruited and professionally-competent under the statute/rules that existed at the time of appointment. They began their service long before the Teachers' Eligibility Test was introduced in 2009. They entered services with a legitimate expectation of career progression based on the rules then in force. And what is worse is that the NCTE Notification dated 23-08-2010, issued under the RTE Act, explicitly protected all pre-2010 teachers. It clearly said, new qualification requirement shall not apply to teachers appointed prior to the Notification. That protection was absolute and unambiguous. But, later, insertion of Section 12A in the NCTE Act in 2012 and Provisos in RTE Act, 2009 created a direct contradiction, and this made the courts to interpret the law in a manner that one has to necessarily qualify in the Teachers' Eligibility Test. Thereby, this Amendment completely nullifies

* *Not recorded.*

the earlier statutory protection. Mr. Deputy Chairman, the result is, teachers who have been teaching for 15 years, 20 years and even 25 years are suddenly told that they have to leave their services...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, speak on the Resolution also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. WILSON: Yes, I am coming to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the subject, and you know the Rules also.

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, I am coming to the subject only.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to speak for or against the Resolution.

SHRI P. WILSON: Yes, yes, I am coming to that only.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Speak on the Resolution, please.

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, Article 21A becomes meaningless. No State, no matter how efficient it is, can replace lakhs of serving-teachers within two years. No education system can withstand such an overnight shock without collapsing and no teacher should be humiliated after decades of service by being forced to take a new eligibility test that never existed when they were appointed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, please speak on the Resolution.

SHRI P. WILSON: I will come to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have spoken enough. Please come to that.

SHRI P. WILSON: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Article 21A has become meaningless. Let us talk about 21A. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please move for parliamentary procedure for discussion on that subject.

SHRI P. WILSON: Yes, Sir. *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, I would request you to come to the subject. आप इस पर बहस चाहते हैं, तो इसके लिए ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन को अलग से नोटिस दीजिए, we can discuss it.

SHRI P. WILSON: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am coming to that. *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record anymore, I am warning you. Please confine yourself to the subject.

AASHRI P. WILSON: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, confine yourself to the subject. I would call the next speaker.

SHRI P. WILSON: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, so far as the Resolution is concerned...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are supposed to talk on the Resolution only.

SHRI P. WILSON: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, so far as the Resolution is concerned, it talks about the right to free and compulsory education to children. Education cannot stop at three to six year old students. It has to be considered from six to 12 years because the right under Article 21A is a valuable right. The RTE Act was brought in 2009 to see that all children in India get education. That is why Article 21A was brought in. What I wanted to point out is that Article 21A has become meaningless today because of the attitude of the Union Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The mover of the Resolution has talked about this.

SHRI P. WILSON: No doubt, we must appreciate that she has sought this amendment and the Constitution needs to be amended accordingly. But if you look at this, compulsory education cannot be confined to elementary levels alone. It must be progressively extended to cover all students up to Class XII, ensuring continuity, equity and universal access to quality schooling. Expanding this constitutional guarantee is essential not only for strengthening our human capital but also for upholding the spirit of social justice and preparing the next generation to meet the challenges of a modern knowledge economy. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

Sir, I am concluding. I, therefore, urge the Union Government to act decisively and initiate the process of including Articles 21A and 21B to make free education up to 12th standard a constitutional right.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ms. Swati Maliwal.

Ms. SWATI MALIWAL (National Capital Territory of Delhi): Sir, I am thankful to Shrimati Sudha Murty, a brilliant educationist, for raising such an important issue, and I fully endorse her demand. This is an issue that would define the quality of India's future. If we strengthen the first six years of a child's life, we strengthen the next 60 years of our nation. Sir, research shows that 85 per cent of the brain is developed until the age of six years. इसलिए दुनिया के सबसे डेवलप्ड देश - जापान, फिनलैंड, साउथ कोरिया जैसे देश सबसे ज्यादा इन्वेस्टमेंट बचपन पर करते हैं। Japan's pre-schools are famous for raising emotionally strong, socially responsible and extremely independent children by the age of six. वहाँ 3 साल की उम्र के बच्चे खुद अपना काम करते हैं। उनसे रोज क्लासरूम में सफाई करवाई जाती है। यहाँ तक कि खाना तक उनको सेफली खुद बनाने के लिए सिखाया जाता है। Sir, this is not punishment; it is character education. इससे बच्चों में शुरू से ही independence and collective responsibility की feeling आती है। यह सोच टूट जाती है कि मेरी गंदगी कोई और साफ करेगा। सर, इन कंट्रीज़ में play-based learning पर फोकस रहता है। This builds curiosity, emotional health and love for learning. वहाँ टीचर का रोल कोई बॉस की तरह नहीं होता है, बल्कि गाइड और दोस्त की तरह होता है।

सर, आज इंडिया के पास वर्ल्ड का largest early education system है, but the quality gap is huge. हमारे देश में 13.9 लाख आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स हैं, यह नंबर बहुत बड़ा है, पर 50 परसेंट आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स की अपनी बिल्डिंग तक नहीं है, 27 परसेंट आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स में functional toilets नहीं हैं, 47 परसेंट आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स में piped water connection नहीं है और लगभग 10 परसेंट आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स single worker model पर चल रहे हैं, मतलब एक ही दीदी है, वही दीदी टीचिंग भी करती है, record keeping भी करती है, कुकिंग भी करती है, सब करती है, and she is the most under-paid in our system.

Sir, according to NFHS, about 49 per cent of children enrolled in Anganwadi were not attending the pre-school services. इसी वजह से आज प्राइवेट प्ले स्कूल्स हर गली, मोहल्ले, कॉलोनी में खुल गए हैं। उनका मार्केट 25,000 करोड़ रुपए क्रॉस कर चुका है। उसकी फीस 30,000 रुपए से 2,00,000 रुपए तक है। मिडल क्लास तो जैसे-तैसे करके अपने बच्चों को प्राइवेट प्ले स्कूल्स में पढ़ा रहे हैं, पर भारत का गरीब प्राइवेट प्ले स्कूल afford ही नहीं कर सकता। वह आंगनवाड़ी पर ही डिपेंडेंट है, इसीलिए आंगनवाड़ी का सुधार ऑप्शनल नहीं है।

4.00 P.M.

सर, हमारी करिकुलम की ओवरहालिंग की भी बहुत ज्यादा आवश्यकता है। सर, हम आज भी कोलोनियल माइंडसेट वाला करिकुलम चला रहे हैं। हम अभी भी ब्रिटिश एरा का रट्टाफिकेशन और क्लैरिकल स्टाइल सिलेबस पढ़ाते हैं। सर, वह जमाना अलग था, उन्हें स्लेब्स चाहिए थे, जबकि हमें क्रिएटर्स चाहिए। उनको employees चाहिए थे, हमें employment generators चाहिए। New India cannot run on old education models. Leadership, communication, creativity, problem solving ये सब क्वालिटीज़ बचपन से डेवलप होती हैं, 12वीं कक्षा के बाद नहीं। Also, future is in skills. Skills must start early. आज के बच्चे उन जॉब्स के लिए पढ़ रहे हैं, जो शायद अब exists भी नहीं करतीं, इसलिए उन्हें मॉडर्न स्किल्स चाहिए, which can be anything, from AI tools to photography. सर, किसी शायर ने कहा है:

*"लिख-लिखकर पढ़ा हथेली पे,
अल्फा-बीटा-गामा का छाला,
Concentrated H₂SO₄ ने,
पूरा बचपन जला डाला।"*

It is high time we moved from rote-based learning to creative and fun methods and make our children future ready and emotionally intelligent. Further, as a country, our focus on fitness, nutrition, sports and mental health is extremely minimal. Sports must become a national movement and that does not include simply watching cricket. सर, हमारे स्कूल्स में स्पोर्ट्स को फ्री टाइम की तरह ट्रीट किया जाता है, पर स्पोर्ट्स डिस्प्लिन है, यह टीम वर्क सिखाता है, कॉन्फिडेंस बढ़ाता है और हेल्दी बनाता है। सबसे इम्पोर्टेंट, स्पोर्ट्स बच्चों को नशे से दूर करता है। सर, हमें अपने बच्चों को एक्सप्लोर करने के मौके देने होंगे। यह जरूरी नहीं है कि जो पढ़ाई में अक्वल है, वही सक्सेसफुल है। हर बच्चा एक शाइनिंग टैलेंट लेकर आता है - कोई कैमरा में, कोई कम्प्यूटर में, कोई स्पोर्ट्स में, कोई म्यूजिक में। एजुकेशन का काम टैलेंट डिस्कवर करना है, न कि सबको एक fixed template में डालना। सर, एजुकेशन का काम है, अच्छा इंसान बनाना। जिसके दिल में दूसरों के लिए दर्द न हो, जिसका व्यवहार खराब हो, जो बड़ों की इज्जत न करे, जो किसी की मदद नहीं कर सकता, वह literate जरूर हो सकता है, लेकिन एजुकेटेड नहीं हो सकता। सर, एजुकेशन की शुरुआत 3 साल की उम्र से होनी ही चाहिए and that is why I support the Resolution moved by Shrimati Sudha Murty ji and I demand: Number one, National Mission on Early Childhood Learning बनाया जाए। नंबर टू, आंगनवाड़ीज़ के लिए टाइम बाउंड क्वालिटी स्टैंडर्ड्स सेट किये जाएँ तथा टीचर्स को बेटर ट्रेनिंग और सैलरीज़ दी जाएँ। Number three, curriculum needs complete overhauling and rote learning should end. We are the youngest nation of the world. अगर हम फाउंडेशन स्ट्राँग करेंगे, तो हमारा future automatically strong हो जाएगा। Thank you. जय हिन्द!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sasmit Patra.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Hon. Deputy Chairman Sir, thank you for the time. I will seek your indulgence for one or two minutes extra today, it being a Private Member's Resolution.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise today with a profound sense of constitutional responsibility and I wholeheartedly support the Resolution moved by Shrimati Sudha Murty *ji*, primarily, because now is the time to articulate it strongly. What we started in 1950, we renewed in 1976 with the 42nd Amendment and strengthened it with the 86th Amendment in 2002, we are trying to re-articulate it today through this Resolution. So, I thank Shrimati Sudha Murty *ji* for bringing it forward. There are three specific aspects, and within a limited time, I will try to cover them. First, the need for introducing a new Article 21B, guaranteeing free and compulsory ECCE -- Early Childhood Care and Education, including nutrition, health services and pre-primary learning -- for every child from three years to six years. Second is the universal access to care and education through *Anganwadi* services and other mechanisms. The third is, to enhance the quality of delivery, training and support. I support all the three operative paras of this Resolution. This Resolution also has got the Preambular paras. I am not referring to them because that, in a way, buttresses the argument for the operative paras. So, these three operating paras being there, and the lack of time, I will focus only on these three operative paras. Let me start with the basic foundation of our Constitution and why Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is referred to. Let us start with Article 21 - the Right to Life. The Supreme Court, over the decades, has expanded the Right to Life and Article 21 to encompass many such areas of life and liberty. If we were to go back to Francis Coralie Mullin vs. the Administrator of Union Territory of Delhi 1981 case, or Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs. Union of India case, we would see jurisprudence, which actually states why the Right to Life and Liberty is held so precious, and whether it is privacy, education or health, each and every aspect, including clean air, comes under Article 21 - Right to Life and Liberty. And, that is what Shrimati Sudha Murty is trying to expand on today through this Resolution.

I will come to a specific aspect of Article 45 of the Constitution. Article 45, as amended by the 86th Constitutional Amendment, directs the State to provide Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for all children until they complete the age of six years. This is not a suggestion; this is a constitutional direction, and towards that end of Article 45, Shrimati Sudha Murty is trying to drive the conversation today.

Let me come to the jurisprudence of education and development. Where is the jurisprudence coming from? Mohini Jain vs. State of Karnataka 1992, and Unni Krishnan, J.P. and others vs. State of Andhra Pradesh 1993 - both these landmark

judgments have actually led to the Supreme Court that held the Right to Education, including the right to free education, for children up to 14 years, as the basic right. This was before Article 21A existed. We are talking about Article 21B today, but before 21A came, the precursors of jurisprudence that flowed from the Courts actually energised the Parliament to go forward and think about Article 21A. So, what did the Parliament do in response to these specific jurisprudence arising out of the Supreme Court? It passed the 86th Amendment and codified the Right to Education under Article 21A. Today, we are standing at an identical moment in history. The Court has repeatedly interpreted Article 21 to include components of early childhood development. Now, the Parliament must take a step, as was seen in 1993 jurisprudence, to consider the inclusion of Article 21B to further strengthen what this Resolution wants to bring about on ECCE. I would like us to consider for a moment the Right to Food. In *People's Union for Civil Liberties vs. Union of India* 2001 and onwards, the Supreme Court said that every child is entitled to supplementary nutrition, Anganwadi Centres must be established in every habitation and children between 0-6 years must receive nutrition and pre-school education through ICDS. So, this is how we have moved forward.

Now, I come to the second aspect of it. Due to paucity of time, I will keep moving quickly. I will come towards the statutory and policy structures that support this Resolution, and try to buttress the statutory and policy structures that will help this Resolution come true through Article 21B inclusion. The first is the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009. The second is the National Food Security Act of 2013. The third is the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015. If we were to look at all of these three, along with the National Education Policy of 2020, we would realise whether it is food, education primary healthcare or children's development, all of them have already been taken care of through several laws and jurisprudence over the last 50-70 years of our democracy. That is why, the idea of Article 21A came forward. Can I take another two minutes?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, please continue.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Now, I come to the National Education Policy. The NEP of 2020 declares Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to be a national priority. This is what the Resolution is also about - to use ECCE as the national priority and commit the country to achieving universal ECCE by 2030. So, we have created a target for ourselves, and if this Resolution passes through, through Article 21B, then that will

further give us energy to go forward. I come to the National Curriculum Framework for the foundational stage 2022, which is part of the policy as well. It provides a pedagogical roadmap about how we have to go forward for the children from the age of three to eight.

It is not that we do not have frameworks, we have them but we have to energize it. I will not talk of the international obligations. I understand that the time is over. I won't also go into the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) of 1989 or the Sustainable Development Goals, etc. etc. I will come to the last three operative points, namely, (1) the Constitutional Right to Article 21B; (2) Universal Access to Strengthen Anganwadi; and, (3) the Supportive System. I will only take 30 seconds more.

Let us adopt this resolution with conviction. Let us make Article 21B a reality. Let us strengthen the Anganwadi system and all mechanisms of early care. Let us equip our educators and caregivers with skills, dignity, and resources they deserve.

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

And above all, hon. Vice-Chairperson, Madam, let us honour the children of India, the silent citizens of our democracy, the sovereigns of our future. With these words, I support the resolution moved by Shrimati Sudha Murty ji and I hope it passes through. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Thank you. Now, hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Thank you, Madam, Vice-Chairperson. I hope the Chair would be magnanimous like it was to Dr. Sasmit.

I am honoured to speak on the Resolution moved by Sudha ji. Her insightful and philosophical words have given a direction to us. Though I have certain reservations when she tried to compliment the Government for what it is doing. Had her expressions for the Government were genuine or right, there would have been no need absolutely for her to bring in a Resolution like this. Since there are a lot of things which are found wanting, she had to bring such a Resolution. But I admire her. She could bring such a Resolution because a lot of things happened in her life and her life

got reformed during her marriage; her husband was a Communist. That also changed her life.

Madam, you know that the best way to predict the future is to create the future. The best way to predict the future is to create the future. And you know that all big ideas were simple. I would say that the simple thing is that you give education to the people, empower them and that will change them. I fully subscribe to her. Madam, you will appreciate that one State, which invested heavily in education and health, is Kerala.

Now, I can tell you the extent of impact that it is creating in the life and profession of Sudha ji as a Parliamentarian because she has a Malayali LAMP as her assistant. Am I not correct? Tell me, please.

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY: Yes.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: I am correct. Please get it recorded. Madam, I had the opportunity to meet the hon. Minister. She was very courteous, very nice, very gentle. Madam, the Anganwadi program was launched 50 years back. It is a golden jubilee year. My request to the Minister was that if the Government has some respect for these hapless Anganwadi workers, who toil day and night to prop up our lesser mortals, the children, the Government should declare an additional incentive or increase their wages. Madam, didn't I come and request you? Hon. Minister, didn't I come and request you? I requested you. You were in favour of that. I know that. She said she will try her level best. She promised also but she could not succeed.

Sudha ji, why she could not succeed? You praised the hon. Prime Minister so much. Had the Prime Minister just shown a little bit of gesture towards this hapless Anganwadi workers...she could have been in a position to be jubilantly participating in this debate saying that in the 50th year of the Anganwadi Programme, I was instrumental in increasing the honorarium of the Anganwadi workers. Our hon. Minister couldn't get that opportunity, Sudha ji. Please understand that. Madam, in Kerala, when we invested heavily in education, in health, a lot of people said, "Why are you wasting your time, wasting your money? You should start some factories." That was the advice given to us by many. We said, "No, we have to emancipate the people."

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

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Madam, what is this? I have just started. You gave some five minutes extra to him. If you want me to speak, I will speak. If you want me to sit, I will sit down. This is a Private Member's Day. We are free to talk.

Now, do you know one thing? For this Anganwadi programme, Kerala is giving Rs. 13,000 per month. I know it is not sufficient, Madam. But do you know what is the contribution of the Central Government? It is Rs. 4,500! Pittance! The last increase they did was in 2018. After that, nothing has been done. All these schemes started as Central schemes. None of the State Governments told them to start any of these schemes. It was at the behest of their initiative. My only request to the Government is that if you are unable to continue this scheme in a dignified way, just disburse the fund of the States. Let them do it on their own way, depending on the actual situation, reality of a State. In Kerala, we could actually dismantle the fortress of feudalism because of education. Now it is an era of enlightenment. I understand, Madam. Please give me 2-3 minutes more. I will just wind up. Madam, Sudha ji was quoting profusely the Gita. You know, when Arjuna was reluctant in the field, that is, Kurukshetra, paralyzed by doubt and fear, Krishna tells Arjuna, "Look, don't think about the past. You cannot change the past. You think about the present. Move ahead." I am requesting the Government; please don't dwell in the past. Think about the present. Make sure that we have a generation, which is groomed in scientific temper, with better education. Don't make them indulge in superstitions. Give them a good education, secular education, Madam Sudhaji. Let them be scientific in their approach. Let them be redeemed. There is a very important dialogue in a movie called Asuran, where Dhanush is saying, "Look, we are from the downtrodden community. Whatever we have, they will actually steal all this from us. Even our self-respect they will steal. They will steal our wealth, all the cultivation." As you rightly said, if you have education, it will empower us. Nobody will be in a position to steal those things from us. So, I feel that the importance of the Resolution of Sudha ji lies in the fact that we have to make sure that our children need to be groomed in a proper way. Proper education and care should be important. At that time, we should not forget those hapless women, lakhs and lakhs of people across the length and breadth of this nation, who are toiling. I am talking about Anganwadi workers. If the Government is a little considerate towards Sudha Murty ji and her Resolution, if they are sincere in the cause, I feel that at the end of this discussion, when the hon. Minister gets up to reply to her, she would declare that the honorarium of the Anganwadi workers would be increased at least by Rs. 5000. Is it not a fact that the High Courts also ruled in favour? Don't make them somebody who goes around without dignity. Make them Government workers, staff, employees, etc. Let them

have some dignity. If the teacher does not have the dignity, how can the children who are groomed will have the dignity? Self-respect is something which you impart, Sudha ji. My request to the hon. Minister is this. The activists, who are working in this field, have been meeting and interacting with the hon. Minister. I am sure the hon. Minister being erudite and ebullient; she is abreast of the nuances of this field. The only thing that she needs is a helping hand from the other side which is powerful and mighty. A political initiative should be there to help her also. I have one more thing to say.

We talked about facial recognition based attendance verification and Poshan Tracker App. You know about the difficulties that are there. The rule is intrusive, impractical and punitive. You are compelling women to depend on unreliable technology. You do not have Internet in the rural belt. You want all these hapless women to toil to make sure that it is done. Don't make them somebody who steal things. They don't lie. They are poor people. They want to help our children. Please make sure that the grievances which have been aired to you needs to be reciprocated because they are there to support your cause.

Madam, you know what is happening in education sector. This is something which would be helpful to you, because in your part of the country also, this is happening. Primary education is very crucial. That also is part of this. A large number of Government schools are being closed across the country. As per the report, in the last decade, Government schools in India decreased by 8 per cent while private schools grew by 14.9 per cent. What does it mean? Our poor children do not have Government schools for education. As per the statistics, 89,441 Government schools have been shut down in last ten years, which is nearly 73 per cent of the schools which are shut down. Arun Singh ji, I want your indulgence. Seventy-three per cent of the schools which are shut are in BJP-ruled States. Don't you think so? Why don't you tell your colleagues in those States which are ruled by your Party? We need to have Government schools. We should not leave the children at the mercy of the private entrepreneurs who want to fleece the parents of these children. This is a very important vertical for the country to grow. I feel that the Minister also should advise that. These are the areas which need rectification and reformation. I feel that Sudha ji has brought forward a Resolution which is insightful enough to inspire all of us. Let this country be inspired. Moreover, let this Government be inspired by your Resolution. Thank you very much, Madam.

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सदस्या, सुधा मूर्ति जी के द्वारा जो संकल्प सदन के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया है, मैं उसके समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं

समझता हूँ कि इस सदन के सभी तरफ से इस संकल्प के समर्थन में आवाज़ें आ रही हैं, इसलिए इस चर्चा के अंत में माननीय मंत्री जी को बिना किसी परेशानी के इस संकल्प को स्वीकार कर लेना चाहिए और जो माँगें इस संकल्प के द्वारा रखी गई हैं, उन्हें मान लेना चाहिए। सुधा जी ने अपने भाषण के दौरान ज्यादातर बातें कह दी हैं, जो और बाकी आवश्यक बातें थीं, उन्हें हमारे साथियों ने अपने-अपने भाषण के दौरान कहा है। मैं बहुत कम समय में अपनी बात रखूँगा।

महोदया, छोटे बच्चे, जो तीन वर्ष से छः वर्ष की आयु के बच्चे हैं, जिनकी देखभाल का जिम्मा हमारे तंत्र ने आमतौर पर आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं और आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों को दे रखा है, जब तक हम उन्हें सुदृढ़ नहीं करेंगे, मजबूत नहीं करेंगे, तब तक इस लक्ष्य को पाना बहुत मुश्किल काम है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं की स्थिति बहुत दयनीय है। उन्हें 4,500 रुपये तो केंद्र सरकार से मिलते हैं और मात्र 1,500 रुपये उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार उनको मानदेय के रूप में देती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह रकम हमारे देश में न्यूनतम मजदूरी की लिमिट से भी कम है। उनसे काम कितना लिया जाता है - आप यह समझ लीजिए कि बच्चों को साफ रखना, आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र की सफाई करना, उनका खाना बनाना और पूरे दिन उनकी देखभाल करना, इन सब कार्यों का जिम्मा उनके ऊपर होता है। उनका मानदेय बहुत ही कम है। अगर हम उन्हें सम्मानजनक मानदेय नहीं दे सकते हैं, तो फिर हम उनसे अपेक्षा के अनुसार काम की भी उम्मीद नहीं कर सकते हैं। शहरी क्षेत्रों में आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र बहुत कम हैं, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी कम हैं, लेकिन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में फिर भी कुछ बने हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के अंदर शहरी क्षेत्रों में अधिकांश स्थानों पर किराए के मकान में आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र चलाए जाते हैं। सरकार 750 रुपया महीना आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र का किराया देती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि किसी भी कस्बे में या गांव में भी 750 रुपये में एक या दो कमरे का स्थान नहीं मिल सकता है। आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्त्रियों को कई बार अपने पास से या फिर बहुत ऐसी बस्तियों में, जिन्हें हम मलिन बस्तियों के नाम से जानते हैं, जहां हाइजीन का कोई कॉन्सेप्ट नहीं होता है और वहां संभव भी नहीं है, उन क्षेत्रों में आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र चलाने पड़ते हैं।

सुधा जी ने अपने प्रारंभिक उद्बोधन के दौरान एक बात कही कि एजुकेशन में इन्वेस्टमेंट करते हैं, तो वह एक अरसे के बाद 13 परसेंट बढ़ता है और इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर में करते हैं, तो वह 2.5 परसेंट बढ़ता है। उनकी इस बात को उन लोगों ने भली भांति समझ लिया, जो एजुकेशन को कॉमर्शियलाइज करना चाहते हैं। आप सरकार के इन्वेस्टमेंट की बात कर रही थीं, देश के इन्वेस्टमेंट की बात कर रही थीं, लेकिन लोग व्यापार करने लगे हैं और स्कूलों को, शिक्षा को कॉमर्शियलाइज कर रहे हैं। छोटे बच्चों की देखभाल के लिए भी गलियों में, खासतौर पर शहरों और कस्बों में छोटी आयु के बच्चों के लिए प्ले स्कूल के नाम से स्कूल खोले जा रहे हैं। वे लोग यह सिर्फ मुनाफा कमाने के लिए कर रहे हैं।

मैं समझता हूँ कि वैसे तो सरकार को शिक्षा का काम हर स्तर पर अपने हाथ में ही लेना चाहिए था, इसमें निजीकरण नहीं होना चाहिए था, व्यवसायीकरण नहीं होना चाहिए था, लेकिन कम आयु के बच्चों को कम से कम प्राइमरी एजुकेशन तक या स्कूल एजुकेशन तक या 3 साल से 6 साल के छोटे बच्चों की देखभाल है, इसका सारा खर्चा एक्सक्लूसिवली सरकार को अपने ऊपर bear करना चाहिए था। यह सरकार को हर वर्ग के बच्चों के लिए करना चाहिए था। आंगनवाड़ी में जैसे कार्यकर्ताओं की परिस्थिति है, वैसी ही स्थिति जो आंगनवाड़ी से निकलकर प्राइमरी स्कूल जाते हैं, उन बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों की भी है। प्राइमरी स्कूलों के अंदर एक रसोइया नाम

کی چیز ہوتی ہے۔ انکو بہت کم वेतन दिया जाता है। 2,000 रुपया महीना एक रसोइया को सरकार देती है। उन प्राइमरी स्कूलों में, जहां 6 साल के आस पास के बच्चे हैं, वहां एक रसोइया 50 बच्चों का खाना बनाते हैं। उनमें ज्यादातर महिलाएं हैं और ज्यादातर कमजोर वर्गों की महिलाएं हैं। एक महिला 2,000 रुपये में 50 बच्चों का खाना रोजाना बनाती है। आज घर में दो बच्चों और चार आदमियों का खाना बनाने के लिए 2,000 रुपया महीना का कर्मचारी हमें नहीं मिल सकता है।

مैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हम इस तंत्र को, इस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को, जो छोटे बच्चों की शिक्षा के लिए, उनकी देखभाल करने के लिए और उनके बचपन की देखभाल के लिए, यानी ईसीसीई के लिए जरूरी है, इसे हमें मजबूत करना पड़ेगा और इसके अंदर जो कार्यकर्ता काम करते हैं, उनके साथ सरकार को सम्मानजनक तरीके से व्यवहार करना पड़ेगा। इसलिए मैं उम्मीद कर सकता हूँ कि आज चूँकि बहुत दिनों के बाद मैं सदन के अंदर ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव या संकल्प देख रहा हूँ, जिस पर सबकी राय एक है, सरकार को इस संकल्प को स्वीकार कर लेना चाहिए। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

[†] جناب جاوید علی خان (اثر پردیش): (آپ سبھا ادھیکش مہودیہ، ماننیہ سدسیہ، سڈھا مورتی جی کے ذریعہ جو سنکلیپ سدن کے سمکش پرسنٹ کیا گیا ہے، میں اسکے سمرتھن میں کھڑا ہوا ہوں۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں، کہ اس سدن کے سبھی طرف سے اس سنکلیپ کے سمرتھن میں آوازیں آ رہی ہیں، اسلئے اس چرچا کے آخر میں ماننیہ منتری جی کو بنا کسی پریشانی کے اس سنکلیپ کو سویکار کر لینا چاہیئے اور جو مانگیں اس سنکلیپ کے ذریعہ رکھی گئی ہیں، انہیں مان لینا چاہیئے۔ سڈھا جی نے اپنے بھاشن کے دوران زیادہ تر باتیں کہہ دی ہیں، جو اور باقی آوشیک باتیں تھیں، انہیں ہمارے ساتھیوں نے اپنے اپنے بھاشن کے دوران کہا ہے۔ میں بہت کم وقت میں اپنی بات رکھونگا۔

مہودیہ، چھوٹے بچے، جو تین سال سے چھ سال کی عمر کے بچے ہیں، جن کی دیکھ بھال کا ذمہ ہمارے تنتر نے عام طور پر آنگنواڑی ورکرز اور آنگنواڑی کینڈروں کو دے رکھا ہے، جب تک ہم انہیں سدرٹھ نہیں کریں گے، مضبوط نہیں کریں گے، تب تک اس لکشیہ کو پانا بہت مشکل کام ہے۔ ہمارے اثر پردیش میں آنگنواڑی کاریہ کرتاؤں کی ستھتی بہت دینیہ ہے۔ انہیں 4,500 روپے تو کینڈر سرکار سے ملتے ہیں اور صرف 1,500 روپے اثر پردیش کی سرکار انکو ماندے کے روپ میں دیتی ہے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ رقم ہمارے دیش میں کم سے کم مزدوری کی لمٹ سے بھی کم ہے۔ ان سے کام کتنا لیا جاتا ہے - آپ یہ سمجھ لیجئے کہ بچوں کو صاف رکھنا، آنگنواڑی کینڈر کی صفائی کرنا، انکا کھانا بنانا اور پورے دن انکی دیکھ بھال کرنا، ان سب کاموں کا ذمہ انکے اوپر ہوتا ہے۔ انکا ماندیہ بہت ہی کم ہے۔ اگر ہم انہیں سمان جنک ماندیہ نہیں دے سکتے ہیں، تو پھر ہم ان سے اپیکشا کے مطابق کام کی بھی امید نہیں کر سکتے ہیں۔ شہری علاقوں میں آنگنواڑی کینڈر بہت کم ہیں، گرامین شیتروں میں بھی کم ہیں، لیکن گرامین شیتروں میں پھر بھی کچھ بنے ہیں۔ اثر پردیش کے اندر شہری علاقوں میں زیادہ تر جگہوں پر کرائے کے مکان میں آنگنواڑی کینڈر چلائے جاتے ہیں۔ سرکار 750 روپیہ مہینہ آنگنواڑی کینڈر کا کرایہ دیتی ہے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ کسی بھی قصبے میں یا گاؤں میں بھی 750 روپے میں ایک یا دو کمرے کا ستھان نہیں مل سکتا ہے۔ آنگنواڑی ورکرز کو کئی بار اپنے پاس سے یا پھر بہت ایسی بستوں میں، جنہیں ہم ملن بستوں کے نام سے جانتے ہیں، جہاں ہانجین کا کوئی کانسیپٹ نہیں ہوتا ہے اور وہاں ممکن بھی نہیں ہے، ان علاقوں میں آنگنواڑی کینڈر چلانے پڑتے ہیں۔ سڈھا جی نے اپنے پرارمبھک ادبودھن کے دوران ایک بات کہی کہ ایجو کیشن میں انویسٹمنٹ کرتے ہیں، تو وہ ایک عرصے کے بعد 13 پرسینٹ بڑھتا ہے اور انفراسٹرکچر میں کرتے ہیں، تو وہ 2.5 پرسینٹ بڑھتا ہے۔ انکی اس بات کو ان لوگوں نے بھلی بھانتی سمجھ لیا، جو ایجو کیشن کو کامرشیلانز کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ آپ سرکار کے انویسٹمنٹ کی بات کر رہی تھیں، دیش کے انویسٹمنٹ کی بات کر رہی تھیں، لیکن لوگ بیوپار کرنے لگے ہیں اور

[†] Transliteration in Urdu script.

اسکولوں کو، شکشا کو کامرشلائز کر رہے ہیں۔ چھوٹے بچوں کی دیکھ بھال کے لیے بھی گلیوں میں، خاص طور پر شہروں اور قصبوں میں چھوٹی آبیو کے بچوں کے لیے پلے اسکول کے نام سے اسکول کھولے جا رہے ہیں۔ وہ لوگ یہ صرف منافع کمانے کے لیے کر رہے ہیں۔

میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ویسے تو سرکار کو شکشا کا کام ہر سطح پر اپنے ہاتھ میں ہی لینا چاہیئے تھا، اس میں نجیکرن نہیں ہونا چاہیئے تھا، ویوسائیکرن نہیں ہونا چاہیئے تھا، لیکن کم عمر کے بچوں کو کم سے کم پرائمری ایجوکیشن تک یا اسکول ایجوکیشن تک یا 3 سال سے 6 سال کے چھوٹے بچوں کی دیکھ بھال ہے، اسکا سارا خرچہ ایکسکلوسیولی سرکار کو اپنے اوپر bear کرنا چاہیئے تھا۔ یہ سرکار کو ہر طبقے کے بچوں کے لیے کرنا چاہیئے تھا۔ آنگواڑی میں جیسے ورکرز کی پرستہتی ہے، ویسی ہی حالت جو آنگواڑی سے نکل کر پرائمری اسکول جاتے ہیں، ان بچوں کی دیکھ بھال کرنے والوں کی بھی ہے۔ پرائمری اسکولوں کے اندر ایک رسوئیا نام کی چیز ہوتی ہے۔ انکو بہت کم ویتن دیا جاتا ہے۔

2,000 روپیہ مہینہ ایک رسوئیا کو سرکار دیتی ہے۔ ان پرائمری اسکولوں میں، جہاں 6 سال کے آس پاس کے بچے ہیں، وہاں ایک رسوئیا 50 بچوں کا کھانا بناتے ہیں۔ انمیں زیادہ تر خواتین ہیں اور زیادہ تر کمزور ورگوں کی خواتین ہیں۔ ایک خاتون 2,000 روپے میں 50 بچوں کا کھانا روزانہ بناتی ہے۔ آج گھر میں دو بچوں اور چار آدمیوں کا کھانا بنانے کے لیے 2,000 روپیہ مہینہ کا ملازم ہمیں نہیں مل سکتا ہے۔

میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر ہم اس تنتر کو، اس انفراسٹرکچر کو، جو چھوٹے بچوں کی شکشا کے لیے، انکی دیکھ بھال کرنے کے لیے اور انکے بچپن کی دیکھ بھال کے لیے، یعنی ای سی سی ای کے لیے ضروری ہے، اسے ہمیں مضبوط کرنا پڑے گا اور اسکے اندر جو کاریہ کرنا کام کرتے ہیں، انکے ساتھ سرکار کو سمانجنک طریقے سے بیوپار کرنا پڑے گا۔

اسلئے میں امید کر سکتا ہوں، کہ آج چونکہ بہت دنوں کے بعد میں سدن کے اندر ایسا کوئی پرستاؤ یا سنکلپ دیکھ رہا ہوں، جس پر سب کی رائے ایک ہے، سرکار کو اس سنکلپ کو سویکار کر لینا چاہیئے۔ آپ کا بہت بہت دھنیواد۔

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Madam, first of all, I fully associate with Shrimati Sudha Murty. I stand with the Resolution which she has brought and I want to speak on it. I must also thank her for having brought in such an important subject here. This Resolution opens a vital conversation on the foundations of India's human capital. *Viksit Bharat* cannot be *Viksit* at all without quality education. This phase of education, early childhood education, is the foundation, is the most important phase of education, I feel, and we need maximum emphasis here. It beautifully aligns our care for every child with the promise of the Constitution and our deepest moral duty to nurture their innocent dreams. It comes at a crucial time when early childhood care and education faces neglect ultimately impacting the future of our education. If the foundation of education is strong, the building that is built upon this foundation would be strong. But this is where the future of our children is not taken proper care of. India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Education in 1989 and Education for All in 1990, both prioritizing ECCE as learning begins at birth; not only at birth, at conception, it is said. The Indian Early Childhood Education Impact Study proves that quality ECCE yields higher learning levels, positioning it at the most potent level against our learning crisis. We are in a learning crisis today. Neuroscience underscores this urgency, as Madam has also pointed out in her resolution that 85 per

cent of the brain development occurs at the age of three. Now, where 85 per cent of intellectual development takes place, I think, our maximum focus, our maximum attention has to be at that age because this is the most formative age of a human being's life and just imagine the importance. I am happy that the NEP speaks about it and, for the first time, there is emphasis on early childhood education in the NEP. Yet the public's spending compounds the crisis - mere 0.1 per cent of the GDP on early childhood care and education. So, this has caused a stark paradox. While you say in your NEP that this is the most important learning phase, you also spend 0.1 per cent on it. Moreover, data reveals that 51 per cent of children from the lowest strata attend *anganwadi* centres while 62 per cent from the highest strata opt for private facilities making a great quality shortfall, a structural disadvantage for the most marginalized. Our *anganwadi* system can focus more on health care, nutrition but not on the educational and development aspect. They are not prepared for it. Most private ECCE institutions, that charge huge amounts of money, have a better developed curriculum, better qualifications for caregivers with necessary expertise in handling or imparting learning through a scientific age appropriate informal approach. They give better trainings to caregivers, better infrastructure facilities. How can that match the level that is there in our *anganwadis* and even in urban slums for that matter? In several private ECCE centres, there is focus on formal education, I mean, on rote learning. This is another paradox, the other end of it. So, there is no uniformity anywhere. Our childhood education demands much, much more focus and attention of the Government at this phase of learning. Madam, what do we need? What we need is uniformity in curriculum, standards, qualifications and trainings. There is no uniformity anywhere. In this phase of education, people are doing what they want. I think, Swati Maliwalji spoke about the Japanese and the Finland Model. Finland is supposed to be the world's best education system. Madam, in Finland, do you know what are the qualifications of teachers for early childhood education? It is postgraduate! A postgraduate degree in early childhood education is fundamental, required and mandatory there but we are happy with Class 12. This is a big disparity. About the teacher-pupil ratio, since this is a specialized field, it needs research; it needs a lot of scientific analysis of a child's psychology, the way child is handled, of how through play-way the child is taught, and how learning takes place. All this is not there if you just limit it to the *Anganwadi* centers. The first thing is there. *Anganwadis* are very good for care and nutrition, health and immunization. But, they also have to cook food; they have to do so many other jobs and along with it, they are teaching! How can that be so casual? Besides this, in the NEP, you have made Class 1 and

Class 2 as part of pre-primary. Class 1 and Class 2 are under the ambit of Department of School Education, and *Anganwadis* are under the ambit of Ministry of Women and Child Development. So, I do not know as to how this clash we are handling under the different Ministries. But, I think, the whole education side has to come under the ambit of Department of School Education. And, if we are giving *Anganwadis* also the responsibility to teach, I think, there should be additional employment of teachers there. Here is where we have to invest. Do not shy away from this investment. This is a very important investment for our country. Only then, we can march towards becoming *Viksit Bharat*. We need to have a pre-primary education board, so that we have all uniformity on all aspects. We need to make ECCE a special cadre. Through you, I wish to tell the hon. Minister sitting here. We need to have a special carder of care-givers who have, at least, the qualification which is B.Ed. plus Early Childhood Education or something like that, but something which has a research-based on childhood and on the growth of children. You have to also enforce regulation on private institutions that run early childhood education centers because this is a very, very sporadically-run field. We need to have control over it, because it is the future of our children. Three valuable years, from age three to six years are formative years, and we cannot take it so casually! We need to take very, very crucial decisions here.

Sudha Murtyji, I am very happy with your Resolution, but I wish to give some suggestions here, in the sense, you bring it under RTE. And, as she said, 'You should be bringing it under RTE', but you also need new employment for this teaching side of the children in *Anganwadi*. It cannot be the same force because it is a different skill. It is a different kind of an expertise that is needed and we are not catering to that. Only a six month training will not be adequate for that. What we are doing is: We are just saying for a six month training and she is ready to teach.

So, I urge the House to adopt this Resolution, but we have to make Early Childhood Care and Education a Fundamental Right and the Government must invest heavily. This much amount is not enough. The Government must invest very, very heavily in this sector, so that we see the revolution that they are talking about of *Viksit Bharat*. If this really has to happen, we need to act here. This is my appeal to the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Now Shri Mayankkumar Nayak.

श्री मयंककुमार नायक (गुजरात): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, आज सुधा मूर्ती जी आंगनवाड़ी में pre-school education देने के संबंध में जो Resolution लाई है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। देश के जो बच्चे हैं और आने वाली पीढ़ी के जो बच्चे हैं, वे देश का भविष्य हैं। गांवों और शहरों के मध्यम वर्ग के बच्चे भी इस देश का भविष्य हैं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी 'विकसित भारत' का लक्ष्य लेकर देश को आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं। हमारे देश में 14 लाख आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स हैं। वहाँ पर जो बच्चे हैं, उनको सही शिक्षा मिले, उनकी हेल्थ की चिंता हो - इसका ध्यान रखा जा रहा है। जो लोग मेहनत, मजदूरी करने जाते हैं, उनके ही ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा बच्चे आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर में आते हैं। जब बच्चों के माँ-बाप रोजी-रोटी कमाने जाते हैं, तो वे अपने बच्चों को आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर में छोड़ कर जाते हैं, तब उनके बच्चों को मानसिक और शारीरिक रूप से तैयार करने की जिम्मेदारी आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर की दीदी की होती है। जब ऐसे लोग अपने बच्चों को आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर में छोड़ कर जाते हैं, तो आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर की बहनें तीन-चार घंटे के लिए उनमें से हर बच्चे की मां बन कर उसकी चिंता करती हैं। उसके खाने का ध्यान रखती हैं, उसको खेलने के लिए खिलौने भी देती हैं और बच्चों को प्री-स्कूल एजुकेशन के लिए भी तैयार करती हैं। मेरा यह मानना है कि मजबूत भारत, शिक्षित भारत और तंदुरुस्त भारत बनाने के लिए आंगनवाड़ी का आधुनिकीकरण भी होना चाहिए। उसका खुद का मकान भी होना चाहिए। जो बच्चे आने वाले भविष्य की नींव हैं, देश का भविष्य हैं, उनके लिए हमें सोचने की जरूरत है। जैसे जब हम अच्छी बिल्डिंग बनाते हैं, तो उसके लिए नींव पक्की रखते हैं, जब हम पेड़-पौधे उगाते हैं, तो उनके लिए पानी और खाद की चिंता करते हैं, वैसे ही जो बच्चे हमारे देश का भविष्य हैं, जिन पर आने वाले समय में अपने देश को प्रगति के पथ पर ले जाने की जिम्मेदारी है, उनको मजबूत करने की जिम्मेदारी हम सबकी है।

पिछले 12 वर्षों से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी आंगनवाड़ी हो या प्राइमरी स्कूल हो, उसमें बच्चों की पढ़ाई की तो चिंता करते ही हैं, मगर उसके साथ-साथ उनकी हेल्थ की भी चिंता करते हैं। सभी बच्चों की हेल्थ का चेकअप होता है। जिन बच्चों की हेल्थ में कमी पाई जाती है, उन बच्चों का इलाज सरकारी खर्च से कैसे हो, उसके लिए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी का कार्यक्रम चलता है। आंगनवाड़ी में बच्चों को सही शिक्षा और आरोग्यता मिले, इसके लिए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की यह सोच है कि स्वस्थ परिवार हो और परिवार में माँ भी स्वस्थ रहे। इसलिए प्रधान मंत्री जी ने देश के 'लाल किले' से कहा था कि जिस घर में शौचालय नहीं है, वहाँ शौचालय बनवाऊँगा ताकि मां-बहनों को तकलीफ न हो। अगर माँ का स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ता है, तो बच्चे का भी स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ता है। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने पूरे देश में हर घर में शौचालय बने, उसकी भी एक मुहिम चलाई थी। जब मां-बहनें रसोई में लकड़ी जला कर खाना बनाती थीं, तो उससे कई सिगरेट्स के बराबर धुँआँ माँ-बहनों के शरीर में जाता था, जिससे उनका स्वास्थ्य ठीक नहीं रहता था, इसलिए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 'उज्ज्वला योजना' चलाई। जब माँ स्वस्थ नहीं रहेगी, तो बच्चा भी स्वस्थ नहीं रहेगा, इसी सोच को ध्यान में रख कर माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यह योजना चलाई। उसी सोच के कारण करोड़ों घरों में शौचालय बने, करोड़ घरों को "उज्ज्वला योजना" के माध्यम से गैस के सिलेंडर मिले। वे परिवार हेल्थ के मामले में सुरक्षित हों, इसकी चिंता केंद्र सरकार ने की है और इस क्षेत्र में काम किया है।

महोदया, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण के लिए गुजरात सरकार गरीब परिवारों की गर्भवती माताओं, धात्री बहनों एवं किशोरियों के लिए बहुत चिंतित है। आने वाली पीढ़ियाँ कुपोषित न हों, इसीलिए आंगनवाड़ी के माध्यम से पोषक खुराक एवं दवाएँ भी सरकार उपलब्ध कराती है। हमारे गुजरात में आंगनवाड़ी और प्राइमरी स्कूलों के बच्चों को 300 मिली लीटर दूध भी "दूध संजीवनी योजना" के माध्यम से सरकार देती है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री, श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी पूरे देश में सभी आंगनवाड़ियों और उनके बच्चों को दी जाने वाली व्यवस्था, जैसे खिलौने, खाना, फूट्स और आरोग्य कवच प्रदान करने का जो काम कर रहे हैं, उसको सुदृढ़ करने के लिए मैं यह बात आज माननीय सरकार के सामने रख रहा हूँ।

महोदया, बच्चों का जीवन जन्म से लेकर छः वर्ष तक सबसे महत्वपूर्ण होता है। इसी उम्र में बच्चे का दिमाग, उसकी भाषा, उसका व्यवहार, सीखने की क्षमता और उसका स्वास्थ्य, इन सबकी नींव पड़ती है। अगर इस समय में सही पोषण, सही देखभाल और सही सीख मिले, तो बच्चा आगे चलकर एक स्वस्थ, आत्मविश्वासी और सक्षम नागरिक बन सकता है। आंगनवाड़ी देश की सबसे बड़ी ताकत है। महोदया, देश भर में लगभग 14 लाख आंगनवाड़ी हैं और यह दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा बाल विकास कार्यक्रम है। आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र सिर्फ भोजन देने का स्थान नहीं है। सबसे अच्छी बात यह है कि कोई भी बच्चा आंगनवाड़ी आए, उसे सभी सेवाएँ निःशुल्क उपलब्ध करा दी जाती हैं। यह सरकार की मजबूत नीति और सोच का परिणाम है। हमारे संविधान का अनुच्छेद 45 भी यह कहता है कि छः वर्ष तक बच्चों की देखभाल करना और उनको शिक्षा देना राज्य की जिम्मेदारी है। नई शिक्षा नीति, 2020 में भी यह साफ कहा गया है कि हर बच्चा जब कक्षा एक में जाए, तो वह स्कूल के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार हो। इस सोच के साथ "मिशन सक्षम आंगनवाड़ी और पोषण 2.0" शुरू किया गया है, जिसका मतलब है कि बच्चों का पोषण, स्वास्थ्य और शुरुआती शिक्षा, इन तीनों को एक साथ मजबूत करना होता है। पोषण भी, पढ़ाई भी - यह एक बड़ा बदलाव है। 10 मई, 2023 को शुरू की गई यह योजना खूब सराहनीय है। इसका उद्देश्य है कि आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र केवल राशन वितरण के केंद्र न रहकर एक लर्निंग सेंटर बनें, जहाँ बच्चा खेलता भी है, सीखता भी है और आत्मविश्वास भी पाता है। इसके लिए आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र को खेल और पढ़ाई का सामान दिया जाता है, जिसका बजट बढ़ाया गया है। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि आंगनवाड़ी के कार्यकर्ताओं को भी प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है।

महोदया, देश की आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता इस पूरी व्यवस्था की रीढ़ हैं। अगर उन्हें सही प्रशिक्षण, सम्मान और सहयोग मिलेगा, तो यह योजना जमीन पर सफल होगी। ज़ीरो से 3 और 3 से 6 साल के बच्चों का खास ध्यान रखने के लिए सरकार ने नवचेतन पहल की है। माता-पिता को यह सीख दी गई है कि वे बच्चों से कैसे बात करें, उनके साथ कैसे खेलें और कैसे प्यार से उनकी देखभाल करें। 3 से 6 साल के बच्चों के लिए आधारशिला पाठ्यक्रम खेल-आधारित शिक्षा पर भी जोर देता है। आंगनवाड़ी में कहानी, गीत, चित्रकला, खेल और अन्य गतिविधियों के माध्यम से बच्चों को शिक्षा दी जाती है, ताकि पढ़ाई बच्चों का बोझ न बने और वे आंगनवाड़ी में खुशी से पढ़ सकें, ऐसी व्यवस्था भी सरकार करती है। दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए सरकार ने आंगनवाड़ी में प्रोटोकॉल बनाया है, ताकि उनकी जल्द पहचान हो, उन्हें बाकी बच्चों के साथ जोड़ा जाए और जरूरत पड़ने पर उन तक सही इलाज पहुँचाया जाए। यह सरकार का एक बहुत सकारात्मक कदम है, लेकिन इसके लिए यह देखना भी जरूरी है कि जिला स्तर पर डॉक्टर, विशेषज्ञ और

रेफरल व्यवस्था भी मजबूती से काम कर रही हो। नई शिक्षा नीति के तहत आंगनवाड़ी और प्राथमिक स्कूलों को एक साथ जोड़ने की पहल एक दूरदर्शी निर्णय है। आंगनवाड़ी से स्कूल जाते समय बच्चा घबराता नहीं है, बल्कि सहज रूप से आगे बढ़ता है। मैं सरकार के प्रयासों का समर्थन करते हुए कुछ सुझाव रखना चाहता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मयंककुमार नायक: आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों की गुणवत्ता पर लगातार निगरानी रखी जाए। आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्त्याओं को निरंतर प्रशिक्षण और प्रोत्साहन मिले तथा दूर-दराज़ व ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में infrastructure अधिक मजबूत किया जाए। डिजिटल योजनाओं में नेटवर्क और उपकरणों की समस्या दूर की जाए।

आज माननीय सुधा मूर्ती जी द्वारा जो रिज़ॉल्यूशन लाया गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। साथ ही, देश के बच्चों का भविष्य उज्ज्वल और सुनिश्चित हो, उसकी कामना करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Now, hon. Member, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Thank you, Vice-Chairman. The hon. Member, Shrimati Sudha Murty, has brought the Resolution, and we are discussing the future of early childhood education in India. As much as I appreciate and support the Resolution, I wish to place before the House my concerns as well. At a time when the world recognises early childhood as the most critical phase of human development, our nation is witnessing an unfortunate distortion of both policy intent and educational purpose. The National Education Policy, 2020, places early childhood care and education at the heart of India's educational vision, or, at least, that is what is being said. It acknowledges that the early years, from ages 3 to 8, form the foundational stage. Not just that, it recognises that the first years determine the learning outcomes for the rest of life.

Moreover, our Constitution, through the Directive Principles and the Right to Education Act, Section 11, brought by the UPA Government, clearly mandates early childhood care and education as an essential component of the educational framework. These are not optional provisions; they reflect a constitutional promise, a promise to India's youngest citizens.

But, Madam, what happens when sound policy is hijacked by narrow political interests? What happens when early childhood education becomes a soft target for

ideological imprinting? What happens when the innocence of children is exploited as a laboratory for manufacturing loyal minds? Today, the early childhood care education framework is being used not for nurturing curiosity and compassion, but for cultivating conformity to a single political ideology. The nation is concerned about what is going to take place under the shield of promoting early childhood education. The ground reality today is deeply disturbing. Instead of strengthening scientific pedagogy, the nation sees centralised content control over early childhood learning materials. Politicised narratives are being inserted into picture books and fundamental curricula. There are lingering attempts to rewrite cultural memory. The use of early childhood spaces to sanitise caste narratives and distort history is also a matter of concern.

Rather than nurturing independent thinking, we are encouraging premature ideological imprinting. Regarding this distortion of history, I wish to say something about which this Parliament, this Rajya Sabha, this House discussed in detail a few days back. How history is being used or created by the ruling dispensation is an example I wish to give. Wrong facts are being brought in and made to look like they are real history. * Let me explain. ...(*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the subject?

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Subject is how the young minds are being corrupted. That is the big discussion which is happening.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, please speak on the subject.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: If you make it a fundamental right...(*Interruptions*)..

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, please speak on the subject.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: *...(*Interruptions*)..

* Not recorded.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Whatever is not on the subject will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: *

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Kindly speak on the subject.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: And, that is how they create.*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Whatever is not on the subject will not go on record..

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: * So, how is it history in question? Let me explain. ...*(Interruptions)*... Those who have...

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, one second, there is a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Madam, how the young minds are getting corrupted is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*.. We are talking about future of education in our country.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, there is a point of order.

श्री मयंककुमार नायक: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सदस्य जो बोल रही हैं, उसका स्वागत है, लेकिन आंगनवाड़ी विषय पर बोलें।

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Madam, on Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, we had two full days of discussion. So what is the sanctity of this discussion today, then? Then we have Rule 110, which clearly speaks about this. Madam, this should be deleted from the record.

* Not recorded.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Kindly speak on the subject. Whatever is not on the subject will not go on record. Please continue.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: So, I wish to say, Madam, the history is being changed. Even Sabyasachi Bhattacharya who knows in and out about Bankim Chandra Chatterjee has not said that it was written on this day, that is, Akshaya Navami. It is written by the Prime Minister, and the Government has said that. *

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Whatever is not on the subject will not go on record.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Again, coming back to early child care, the centralized content and not giving the real content is definitely affecting them and so this cannot go on. As far as we are concerned,* books for kindergarten and foundational classes are beginning to carry selective stories. *

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Hon. Member, kindly speak on the subject.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Madam, secondly, sanitization of science. Instead of encouraging scientific temperament as mandated by our Constitution, early education introduce concepts that blur the line between the mythology and evidence-based knowledge. Madam, third point is marginalisation of minority cultures. The diversity that defines India is reduced. So, with all these, I am trying to convey the message that when we are talking about early education and care for children, we should be concerned about what they are being taught. Definitely, that period of below six years is a age when the brain develops. During this period, they should be given knowledge and priority. I agree with Sudha Murtyji when she says it should be the fundamental right. Definitely, it should be made a fundamental right. They are our future. They are the future of our country. But when facts are being distorted, when the history is not being said in the way it should be said, we fear that even at the age of six years, below six years also, they are being affected. So, who deals with these people, these six year children? It is the *Anganwadi* workers who take care of these children. What is the plight of *Anganwadi* workers? They keep asking for more wage increase, but that does not happen in our country. Another thing I wish to say is,

* Not recorded.

when we are talking about early childhood care, as a citizen of India, I am also concerned. When the Government says, *beti padao, beti bachao*, they say that slogan, but what happens to the little girls. *

4.00 P.M.

So education is important, their well-being is important, protection is important, and safety is important. As far as we are concerned, the fundamental right to life, to change this Right to Education till the age of six years should be definitely made a fundamental right. We support it. But, at the same time, we should also make sure that the correct method of teaching should be given to the children while providing necessary care. I appreciate Sudha Murtyji for bringing this Resolution in the interest of millions of children in our country. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Shri R. Girirajan. He will speak in Tamil.

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Madam Vice-Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. First, I congratulate Madam Sudha Murty for bringing this Resolution. Actually, a Tamil Poet, Thiruvalluvar, has written a separate chapter containing ten couplets about the importance of good education 2,000 years ago. & “Learning is the true imperishable riches; all other things are not riches.” The wealth which can never decline is not riches but learning.

Sir, we have talked about Anganwadis. In our country, what is the situation of Anganwadis. Fifty years have passed after the setting up of Anganwadis. People are hesitating to enroll their children in Anganwadis. It is because their condition is in a very bad shape. They don't have proper buildings, they don't have proper drinking water, they don't have proper drainage facilities, they are not given proper food and teachers in Anganwadis are not paid proper salaries. The assistants in Anganwadis get such wages which are below the Minimum Wages Act. Therefore, what I would like to inform at this instant is that Anganwadis may be handed over to respective State Governments. The State Governments are giving proper education whether it is school education from class I to Class 12, or collegiate education. Sir, it is not difficult to administer Anganwadis. The State Government will give education in the medium

* Not recorded.

& English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

of that respective state. In Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian model Government run by Mr. M. K. Stalin has initiated several path breaking schemes and innovative inclusive policies for promoting education among poor people.

Sir, why were the Anganwadis set up fifty years ago? All the people enrolled their children in Anganwadis. What is the situation today? Children are enrolled in kindergarten schools. Before kindergarten, they are sent to crèches. But who are going to Anganwadis? People belonging to below poverty line, people from marginalised sections, people belonging to Scheduled castes, underprivileged children are approaching Anganwadis. It is the duty of the Union Government to give them proper education and encouragement. But the Union Government is not giving them. That is why their condition is in a very bad shape. Therefore, at this juncture, when I put forward my views with regard to the Resolution initiated by Mrs. Sudha Murthy, I advise you to handover these Anganwadis to State Governments. Give proper financial assistance. We will manage them properly.

Sir, one of the most powerful tools and popular schemes implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government Incentivizing the thousand rupees to girl students who passed out from Government and girls students studying in Tamil medium in aided schools to peruse the higher education. The Government of Tamil Nadu had implemented a new scheme called 'Pudhumai pen Thittam'. In order to facilitate higher education for girl children, each girl child is given Rs.1000 till she completes collegiate education. Such assistance is now given to boy students also. That is why, we are requesting to handover all the Anganwadis to respective State Governments. Please take a policy decision. Hand over all the Anganwadis to respective State Governments._The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M.K. Stalin, on 07.05.2022, under Rule 110, announced that breakfast would be provided for primary school children from the 1st to 5th standards in Government schools, on all school working days. Children from the age of 5 to 12, are the children who are going to primary schools. They could not get proper breakfast as their parents are also going for their jobs. That is why, this scheme was launched in Government schools on all working days. The scheme was launched on 15.09.2022 at Madurai by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. In the first phase, corporations, municipalities and panchayats were selected based on the higher prevalence of anemia. As per the NHFS-5 data, economically backward blocks in SBGF habitations of tribal populations and inaccessible areas will be covered under this scheme; 1,14,095 primary schools have been covered under this scheme. Children studying in 1,545 Government schools will be covered under this scheme at a total cost of Rs. 33.26 crore, which would be extended to the remaining schools in a phased manner. Sir,

why am I mentioning this? It is in Tamil Nadu that ‘the Breakfast scheme’ was implemented for the first time in India. Tamil Nadu is the first State in India to implement free Breakfast scheme in children studying from 1st to 5th standards. Canada has learnt about this scheme from Tamil Nadu and has implemented in their country. That is why I say that you can not manage the Anganwadis. Hand over them to us. We will take care of it because we are protecting children from the age of 6 to 12. Can we not manage them from the age of 3 to 6? That is why I once again reiterate that Anganwadi children should have better future. They have to be given proper education, they have to be taught proper discipline, they have to be taught how to face this world. Only when the education is given through mother tongue, the purpose of education will be fulfilled. That is why I request you to handover the Anganwadis to us.

Before I conclude, I would like to remind the people who designed NEP 2020 that it is not suitable for the whole of a large country like India. * The success of any Government lies in providing quality and purposeful education. Education, culture, and meaningful life is the mantra of our Tamil Nadu Government. Madam, I would urge the Union Government to follow the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy and this innovative and inclusive scheme to achieve the desired results throughout the country. Thank you.”

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Shri Rajinder Gupta; maiden speech.

SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA (Punjab): Madam, as this is just a Resolution, I would not like to consider this as my maiden speech. I would make a maiden speech somewhere else. Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I stand here to wholeheartedly support the Private Member’s Resolution moved by hon. Member, Shrimati Sudha Murty, an immensely timely and visionary proposal, to introduce a new article 21B guaranteeing free and compulsory early childhood care and education for every child between three and six years of age. This is not merely a legal amendment, but a scientific necessity. Over 85 per cent of a child’s brain development is complete by the age of six. These early years save language, emotional regulations and social behavior. If we miss these years, we miss the child. In India, the *Anganwadi* system is very core of our early childhood care and education. Our most important platform for reaching children in their foundation years is *Anganwadi* system. This year, as the *Anganwadi* system completes 50 years, it is worth recalling how it began with just 33 pilot

* Not recorded.

projects in 1975 and grown to the world's largest early childhood network. Over a century ago, India made a visionary decision that nourishment, health and early learning must come together under one roof; that early childhood care cannot be fragmented. शुरुआत ही देश की दिशा तय करती है। Today, we have 13.96 lakh *Anganwadi* centres, the backbone of our early childhood efforts. Only 10 lakh centres operate under Government community buildings and more than 3 lakh centres still function from rented, cramped, temporary and simply unsuitable rooms. As the facility gaps highlight the everyday struggle, 47 per cent *Anganwadi* centres lack piped water, 27 per cent lack functional toilets, 28 per cent lack functional kitchens and 95 per cent lack solar power electricity. Even in these conditions, *Anganwadi* workers and helpers shoulder more than 20 responsibilities, right from nutrition, immunization, early learning, home visit, community mobilisation and maintaining of exhaustive records. In many States, they are further burdened with election duties and survey works. If we are at the constitutional guarantee under article 21B, then we must first generate that very hand that delivers that right. I wish to highlight two areas, though often overlooked, namely, early childhood care disability and rare diseases. According to Census 2011, India has more than 2.68 crore persons with disabilities, which include lakhs of children below 6 years. While the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, guarantees free education from 6 to 18 years, children below 6 years remain outside the protective framework. At the same time, 70 per cent rare diseases appear in early childhood, many within the first month of life. Delay in detection, often 3 to 7 years, causes irreversible neurological damage, preventable disability, loss of development milestones and economical burden on the family. In practice, both groups face the same challenge. 0 to 6 years window is most critical for intervention; yet, the most special schools start only from 6 years. Private therapies are unaffordable. *Anganwadi* centres lack trained special educators, screening tools and supportive system. There are more than 25 lakh children with special need in schools. But, barely, 12,000 trained special educators are in the entire country! Meanwhile, thousands of infant and toddlers with rare disease are left without life-saving therapy because treatment is inaccessible and quite expensive. If article 21B is very meaningful, ECCE must include early screening, early intervention and support for children with disabilities and their disease. Beyond infrastructure, beyond work force and beyond health, the larger philosophical question before us is this: What kind of early childhood are we emphasising for India? Across countries like Japan, Finland and Scandinavia nations, early childhood is not only limited to ABC and numbers, they focus on self-efficiency, cooperation, emotional regulations, empathy responsibility and age-appropriate independence. Every task is done for a

child, instead of with a child. This is not the fault of parent-teacher, it is infrastructure. As one of the youngest countries in the world, we need children who are not just academic but most emotionally-resilient, socially capable and confident to navigate life. The proposal of Article 21 is, therefore, not just a constitutional step, but it is a commitment towards re-imagining childhood in India. To make it real, we must strengthen Anganwadi infrastructure, reduce non-core burden on the workers, equip centres to support disability and rare disease and train more special educators. I support this Resolution. It is not about the children of today alone; it is about the citizens of tomorrow. I strongly and wholeheartedly support this Resolution. *Jai Hind; Jai Bharat. Vande Mataram!*

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): I request all the hon. Members to kindly maintain decorum while an hon. Member is speaking. Now, Dr. V. Sivadasan.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Madam, today, we are discussing a very important matter. Shrimati Sudha Murty has introduced a Private Members' Resolution on childhood education. In India, crores of children are not getting proper pre-school education. What is the reason for this? Various problems are there. In pre-education sector, the investment of the Government is comparatively very less. In developed countries, they invest huge amounts and comparatively better amounts in the pre-education sector. But, in India, our Government is not ready to invest proper amount for the children's education. What are the real issues in the education sector? In our pre-education centres, proper infrastructure is not there. Where is the infrastructure? Why is it not there? In majority of the pre-schools, about 95 per cent of these pre-school centres are working in below 1,000 square feet buildings. Even pucca buildings are not there. Electricity is not there. Internet connectivity is not there. Proper water facility is not there. Even drainage facilities are not there. What is the real reason for all this? The Union Government should provide proper financial assistance to the State Governments. The role of the Union Government is very important. They make some of the schemes, but they are not ready to provide proper financial assistance to this sector. Then, teachers are not there in Anganwadis. And, wherever the Anganwadi teacher and helper are there, what are their salaries? Dr. John Brittas has already mentioned this aspect. Our Minister is here, but she is not listening to my speech.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Kindly address the Chair.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: The Minister is discussing something with other Members. She is not listening to us. That is not good. She is discussing other things. The Minister is sitting, but not listening to us. Then, what is the purpose of this discussion? Why is the Minister here? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The Minister is listening. Kindly address the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. SIVADASAN: We are making important suggestions, but she is talking to others.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Kindly address the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Our Parliamentary Affairs Minister is trying to protect the Minister. Then, what is the purpose? I have the right to raise the issue. I am requesting the Minister to listen to us. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am requesting the Chair and not the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Please speak on the subject, and address the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. SIVADASAN: They are trying to disturb me. I know she is very interested in protecting the interests of the children and she is interested in investing money for Anganwadi centres. But, I do not know who is making the blockade in this matter. The issue is that the Anganwadi workers are not getting proper salaries. The Government is not ready to treat them as employees. They are getting very less salary from the Government. In India, they do not get even the minimum wage. The interesting thing is that they are compelled to do a lot of other works. The Government compels the Anganwadi teachers to do other works also, which the Government should not do. The Government should provide proper salary to the Anganwadi workers.

Madam, the name is 'Anganwadi' but there is no garden. Where will they make the garden? If the place of Anganwadi is only 1000 square feet, 800 square feet

or even 500 square feet, where will they make the garden? Proper playground is very much necessary for pre-school children, but it is not there. The internet facility is not there. So, my request to the Government is to provide basic infrastructure facilities for the pre-school children.

Respected Member, Sudha Murty ji, has taken a very good initiative to move this Resolution. I congratulate her for this. I have lot of reservations but I would say that she has taken a very good initiative by introducing this Resolution in the House.

Respected Madam, in India, the first Education Commission was formed under the leadership of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan in 1948. Dr. Radhakrishnan openly advocated for 'Education for All'. But what happened thereafter. The Kothari Commission Report clearly mentioned the importance of Education for All. But in 2000, during the Vajpayee Government, one Commission was appointed not by the Education Department but by the Ministry of Commerce. That Commission suggested the free education and other things are not good for the nation. The Commission suggested like that. Madam, we have lot of differences with the Union Government. But, I believe, the present condition of the nation should be developed. For that, we need a proper policy framework.

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

DR. V. SIVADASAN: I will conclude in one minute. In the National Education Policy, there are suggestions regarding Cluster Centres and that teachers will be managed by the Managers of the Cluster Centres. Labs for Cluster Centres, but not for the schools! Playgrounds in the Cluster Centres, but not for the schools! That concept should be resisted and that should not be implemented. If that proposal is implemented, it would be harmful.

Madam, in Kerala, majority of schools are working with proper playgrounds and labs. The concept of NEP is totally against the public education system. Madam, commercialization, privatization and communalization are the three major hurdles in any education system. So, we should oppose this commercialization, centralization and privatization of the education sector. Communalization is the most dangerous thing in the education sector. So, together, we are opposing the NEP.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Next speaker is Shri Sandosh Kumar P.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Madam, I support the content of the Resolution. She could have mentioned about some of the former Prime Ministers but it is a hope against hope case. The question is: Do we need a constitutional amendment to achieve these goals? If at all, it happens, how are we going to implement the same? In the Constitution, there are a number of fundamental rights which are getting infringed day-by-day and there are the Directive Principles of State Policy, which we are not implementing. So, I think, even though the idea behind this Resolution is acceptable, we need to discuss as to what is the way out. As far as our Anganwadis are concerned, on 22nd March, 2023, in a reply to Question No. 230, it was stated that we have around 1.4 million Anganwadis and only two lakh are having Government buildings. They say that there is a scheme which is getting implemented slowly. Leave that part. The thing is that the Anganwadi workers are doing six important jobs. There is a mandate for that. Number one is supplementary nutrition; number two is pre-school non-formal education; number three is nutrition and health care; then there is immunization, health check up and referral services. The point is: Do we need to redefine this, because in the documents it is AWW, Anganwadi Workers? I think we have to redefine the term. To impart education, the term 'worker' must be redefined to 'teacher' or something like that and it should find a place in the official document. That is my take because all these duties cannot be mixed up and this cannot be entrusted to one or two persons. We have more than 14 lakh Anganwadis which are having a lot of issues. That has already been mentioned by Dr. Sivadasan and others. There are many drawbacks. No toilets or drinking water facilities are there. That's okay. But at least this term needs to be redefined and they should be elevated to the status of teachers and then we need to train them. And what should be the content of the training? That is the most important thing. Number one is scientific number. That mindset must be developed from the very beginning because 'catch them young' is the policy of almost all organizations. Then we have to make them imbibe what is science, how society is moving, what is humankind. There is no point in division and all these kinds of caste, creed and religion. Anyway, the syllabus must be scientific temper oriented. Then, enrolment must be strengthened. Thousands of children are not getting chance to go there. School dropout is very high. According to Government sources, 14,000 schools were closed during the last 10 years. So, we need to strengthen the enrolment in these Anganwadis. Then, proper scientific training to the teachers should also be imparted.

Finally, I want to say a few words on the use of mobile phones. Children are getting addicted to the mobile phones. During our time, there were grandmother stories, but instead of grandmother stories, it is the mobile phone which is the guiding factor, the controlling factor. So, how to use social media? It may be a big term but mobile phone addiction is there even among small children. This all has to be taken care of very seriously. Buildings, wages, syllabus, if we can correct all these things, then we can develop our Anganwadis. That will be a big contribution in strengthening the pre-primary education in our country. I hope the Government will take care of all these things. The situation of Anganwadi helpers and workers is very miserable in most of the States. Recently, the Gujarat High Court observed that they should get a decent minimum living wage. But that mandate was not implemented in many States. In Kerala, we have appointed a Commission to look into these matters and, soon, that Commission will submit its report. I hope the Government of India, I mean the Minister concerned, will take care of all these points and to strengthen our Anganwadis...

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): It is 4.30 p.m. Now, we will take up Special Mentions. Shri Ashok Rao Shankar Rao Chavan. ..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Madam, there is still some time left. ..(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Okay. Shri Sujeet Kumar.

श्री सुजीत कुमार (ओडिशा): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं सबसे पहले सुधा मूर्ती मैडम को धन्यवाद देना चाहूँगा कि उन्होंने Private Members' Resolution के तहत इतने महत्वपूर्ण विषय को उठाया। मैं आज भारत के महान जननायक, जननेता स्वर्गीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी को नमन करना चाहूँगा। हम लोग इस साल वाजपेयी जी का जन्म शताब्दी मना रहे हैं। मैडम, मैं आज Private Members' Resolution की चर्चा पर अटल जी को इसलिए स्मरण कर रहा हूँ, because he had the vision. He had the Statesman-like quality to enact the RTE Act. What is popularly known as the RTE Act is the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 which actually laid the foundation for primary education in our country.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Now we will take up Special Mentions.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan. Not present. Shri Ramji. Not present. Shrimati Mahua Maji.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over overworking and rights of the employee in the corporate sector

श्रीमती महुआ माजी (झारखंड): महोदया, हम ऐसे समय में हैं, जब पेशेवर सफलता अक्सर व्यक्तिगत स्वास्थ्य, मानसिक संतुलन और सामाजिक जीवन की कीमत पर मिलती है। भारत के दफ्तरों, को-वर्किंग स्पेस और डिजिटल कार्य-स्थलों में करोड़ों कर्मचारी लगातार बढ़ते लक्ष्यों, प्रमोशन की दौड़ और दफ्तर समय के बाद भी ऑनलाइन बने रहने की अनिवार्यता के दबाव में काम कर रहे हैं। यह स्थिति अब अपवाद नहीं, बल्कि सामान्य जीवन शैली बन चुकी है। पिछले वर्षों में कई प्रतिभाशाली युवाओं ने इस अति श्रम और बर्न आउट के कारण मानसिक व भावनात्मक लड़ाइयों में हार भी झेली है। कॉर्पोरेट क्षेत्र में हालात और गंभीर हैं। अधिकतर नियुक्ति-पत्र केवल न्यूनतम कार्य-घंटों का उल्लेख करते हैं, अधिकतम का नहीं। कर्मचारियों से तय समय से कहीं अधिक काम लिया जाता है तथा बिना ओवरटाइम वेतन, बिना अवकाश क्षतिपूर्ति और कई बार छुट्टियाँ तथा वीकेंड भी काम में जोड़ दिए जाते हैं।

यूरोपीय देशों में श्रम विभाग निजी कंपनियों पर सख्त निगरानी रखता है और अतिरिक्त काम को अनुबंध का उल्लंघन माना जाता है। इसके विपरीत भारत में, खासकर उच्च वेतन वर्ग के कर्मचारियों को न्यूनतम सुरक्षा भी प्राप्त नहीं होती। मांग-आपूर्ति के असंतुलन ने स्थिति को और बिगाड़ा है। सीमित अवसरों के कारण एक कर्मचारी से दो-तीन लोगों का काम करवाया जाता है, जिससे थकान, अनिद्रा, मानसिक तनाव, पारिवारिक समस्याएँ और आत्महत्या जैसे गंभीर परिणाम सामने आते हैं।

अतः मैं सरकार से आग्रह करती हूँ कि स्पष्ट कार्य घंटे, ओवरटाइम भुगतान, छुट्टियों की सुरक्षा और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संरक्षण जैसे प्रावधानों पर तत्काल कदम उठाए जाएँ, ताकि काम उद्देश्य दे, अत्यधिक दबाव नहीं।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Mahua Maji: Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha).

Demand for mandatory provisions for Differently-abled persons to be elected as nominated members in local governance

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 are key legislative frameworks that aim to ensure equality, inclusion and dignity for individuals with disabilities. These Acts promote the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities, including the provision of aids and appliances, access to education, employment, healthcare services and social integration. This will be possible only when the differently-abled people have adequate representation in local bodies too. The Tamil Nadu Government has made significant strides in nominating persons with disabilities to local bodies, with 3,631 persons with disabilities already nominated to urban and rural local bodies. This number is expected to grow, with the Government planning to nominate an additional 12,000 persons with disabilities in rural local bodies after the completion of elections to 28 village panchayats. The initiative is part of Government's broader commitment to social justice and representation for differently-abled individuals in local governance.

Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary published on June 26, 2025, introduces the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Nomination of Person with Disability as Member) Rules, 2025, aimed at facilitating the nomination of persons with disabilities as members of panchayats. Nominated members will have rights and responsibilities as per the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act and will be entitled to honorarium and allowances as determined by the Government. This should be followed nationwide.

Therefore, I urge the Government to make mandatory provisions for Differently-abled persons to be elected as nominated members in local governance throughout India. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri R. Girirajan: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Demand for Procurement of Indigenous Indian Products, especially Indigenously Produced Coffee, in Government Offices and Establishments

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Madam, I draw the attention of the Government to the issue of continued reliance on non-indigenous goods in our official internal consumption. This is a matter vital to the broader national vision of promoting *swadeshi* and strengthening India's path toward self-reliance. India is a powerhouse of high-quality indigenous products, from textiles and handicrafts to countless agricultural goods. A prime example is our world-class GI-tagged FPO-sourced and tribal-grown coffee, such as the unique varieties grown in Koraput, Odisha, as well as in Araku and other regions. These products are celebrated globally for their quality. Yet, in our own Government canteens, including in Parliament, in our railway networks, and in our public offices, we often serve consumables -- be it coffee, tea or biscuits -- from foreign sources or of non-descript origin. To replace these is the obvious next rung in the ladder of *swadeshi*. The tribal farmers of Koraput work in difficult conditions to produce a globally acclaimed product, but lack the large-scale stable market that the Government of India itself can provide.

I demand that the Government issue a procurement directive to replace all such foreign-origin goods with indigenous Indian products. Let the Government be the proudest patron of our tribal producers. By institutionalizing this change, we ensure that the true flavour of '*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*' becomes a daily practice in every office of this Republic. *Jai Hind!*

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Sujeet Kumar: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla (Nominated), Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel (Bihar), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand) and Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh).

Demand for comprehensive reforms in juvenile homes under the Juvenile Justice Act

SHRIMATI RAJATHI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I draw attention of the Government over alarming conditions in the juvenile homes, where there is inadequate monitoring, nutrition, education and safety that continue to expose children to severe

vulnerabilities. This is evident from repeated news on children being beaten to death in these institutes and severe overcrowding. Juvenile homes are governed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, under which each district is required to have an observation home for children facing trial before the Juvenile Justice Board.

As per the latest National Crime Record Bureau report (2023 data), juvenile crime in India is 7.1 per lakh children; 31,365 cases are registered. These numbers are more worrying when seen with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) inspections that have highlighted overcrowding, poor resources, poor food quality, untrained staff and lack of psychological support in several childcare institutions.

The Juvenile justice system is the product of a system built supposedly to protect and rehabilitate children, but in reality it functions more as a punitive institution of neglect. If we expect these children to reintegrate into society with dignity, I urge the Government to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, upgrade nutrition and education standards, ensure accountability in staff recruitment and create meaningful livelihood opportunities so that our juvenile homes become places of protection and hope, not fear. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Rajathi: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand) and Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala).

**Concern over the safety and livelihood of fishermen from the districts of
Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, and Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu**

DR. M. DHANAPAL (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I bring the attention of the Government to a matter of grave concern affecting the safety and livelihood of fishermen from the districts of Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, and Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu. Over the past weeks, there have been repeated reports of violent attacks and intimidation faced by our fishermen while carrying out their traditional fishing activities in their customary waters. These incidents are allegedly perpetrated by fishermen from neighbouring areas, including Karaikkal and Andhra Pradesh, leading to fear, loss of

livelihood, destroying fishing nets and severe disruption in the daily lives of the affected fishing communities. The fishermen from these coastal districts depend solely on the sea for sustenance. Any threat to their safety directly impacts thousands of families, pushing them into distress. Moreover, such confrontations risk escalating into inter-State tensions, which must be addressed immediately through coordination and firm action.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the reported incidents at the earliest; facilitate coordinated action between the maritime authorities of the concerned States and Union Territory to prevent recurrence; strengthen coastal security measures in the affected zones; ensure protection and livelihood support for the fishermen who have suffered losses. Safeguarding the lives and livelihood of our coastal communities is a national responsibility. I request the Government to look into it.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. M. Dhanapal: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Demand for targeted promotion of sports in the Darjeeling hills and the North Bengal region

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA (Nominated): Madam, I rise to request focused promotion of sports in the Darjeeling hills and the North Bengal region. This area has a remarkable football tradition that spans more than a century. Darjeeling was among the earliest centres where the sport took deep root and its schools and local institutions produced players who later joined leading Kolkata clubs. Footballers from the hills have represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy and served in forces teams that achieved national honours. However, the region today suffers from inadequate sports infrastructure. The absence of quality stadiums and training facilities has pushed this legacy to the margins and local youths from the place are unable to place them in State, regional and national teams. North Bengal also has immense potential in adventure and outdoor sports. Its terrain is ideal for trekking, rock climbing, paragliding, mountain biking and river activities. Darjeeling already has a heritage of mountaineering training through institutions like the Himalayan

Mountaineering Institute. What is needed now is upgraded infrastructure, new adventure circuits, certified safety systems and coordinated promotion to attract both domestic and international participants. Under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, the Government has prioritised sports excellence and youth development through initiatives like Khelo India. In this context, Darjeeling hills deserve a dedicated football academy, high quality turf grounds and a regional plan covering football, hockey, indoor and adventure sports. I, therefore, request for three integrated sports centres in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong, and one training centre in Mirik. Thank you Madam Vice-Chairman for the opportunity. *Jai Hind!*

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel (Bihar), Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar, not present. Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam, not present. Shri Pramod Tiwari.

**Concern over the delay in the construction of
Unchahar-Amethi railway line project**

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): महोदय, ऊँचाहार-अमेठी रेल लाइन उत्तर प्रदेश के रायबरेली और अमेठी के जिलों को जोड़ने वाली एक महत्वपूर्ण रेलवे परियोजना है। यह रेलमार्ग लगभग 66.17 किमी. लंबा प्रस्तावित है, जिसका उद्देश्य रायबरेली, अमेठी और प्रतापगढ़ जिलों के 81 गांवों को जोड़ना है। इस रेलवे लाइन पर सात रेलवे स्टेशन प्रस्तावित हैं। ऊँचाहार-अमेठी नई रेल लाइन परियोजना के अंतर्गत सर्वे, भूमि चिन्हांकन तथा भूमि अधिग्रहण जैसे महत्वपूर्ण कार्य वर्षों पूर्व पूर्ण किए जा चुके हैं। परियोजना के प्रारम्भिक चरण में आवश्यक औपचारिकताएँ पूरी कर निर्माण कार्य भी प्रारम्भ किया गया था, किंतु विगत कई वर्षों से परियोजना की प्रगति अत्यंत धीमी है, अतः मैं केन्द्र सरकार से यह आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस परियोजना की उच्चस्तरीय जाँच कराकर एजेंसियों की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करे और स्पष्ट निर्देश प्रदान करे ताकि आने वाले दिनों में इस रेल लाइन का निर्माण पूरा हो सके और रेल सेवा प्रारम्भ की जा सके।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Pramod Tiwari: Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr.

John Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).

Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham.

Demand for safety audit of NH 66 and compensation for the families of those who have lost their lives at the NH construction sites

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Madam, I rise to bring to attention of Government the recent collapse of a section of NH 66 at Kottiyam in Kerala. The accident shows the flaws in the execution of the National Highway projects in the State. The sudden caving-in of the road left the vehicles, including a school bus, stranded on the service road.

The stability of the reinforced earth wall has been in question since the Kooriyad incident, wherein the National Highway collapsed in a similar manner. The vulnerable terrain of these places, owing to the proximity of paddy fields, cannot afford the present earth filling method. Apart from this, unscientific construction practices such as insufficient side-drain systems, poorly designed retaining structures, etc., are leading to recurrent incidents of NH collapses.

The public has been repeatedly raising concerns about unfinished work, absence of basic safety protocols during construction, etc. The glaring example of the same is the unscientific construction of Aroor—Thuravoor stretch of NH 66, where, at least, 42 people have lost their lives in road accidents along this stretch, the latest one being the death of a driver who was killed when a girder collapsed onto a pickup van.

In this context, I urge the Government to conduct a comprehensive technical audit of NH-66 and mandate strict adherence to scientific engineering standards. I further urge to take necessary steps for the immediate disbursal of compensation to the families of those who have lost their lives at the NH construction sites.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham: Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).

Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy, not present. Shri Subhasish Khuntia, not present. Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu.

Concern over the alarming rise in uranium, nitrate and other pollutants in groundwater of Punjab

श्री सतनाम सिंह संधू (नाम निर्देशित) : My concern is related to Punjab only , मैं अपना स्पेशल मेंशन पंजाबी भाषा में पढ़ना चाहता हूँ।

& महोदया, मैं पंजाब के भू-जल में मौजूद यूरेनियम, नाइट्रेट और अन्य जहरीले प्रदूषकों की गंभीर स्थिति की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। Central Ground Water Board की 'Annual Ground Water Quality Report 2025' के आँकड़े बेहद चिंताजनक है। इसके अनुसार, पंजाब के 62.5% जल-नमूनों में यूरेनियम सुरक्षित सीमा से कहीं अधिक पाया गया है, जो पूरे भारत में प्रदूषण की सबसे ऊँची दर है। प्रि-मानसून और पोस्ट-मानसून, दोनों में आधे से अधिक नमूनों में यूरेनियम 30 ppb से ऊपर है। यह एक 'Public Health Emergency' है। यूरेनियम कैंसर और किडनी रोग बढ़ा रहा है, जबकि 14.6% नमूनों में नाइट्रेट और 11% में फ्लोराइड की अधिकता हमारे बच्चों को 'Blue Baby Syndrome' और हड्डियों के रोगों का शिकार बना रही है। 25% नमूनों में residual Sodium Carbonate और बढ़ती क्षारीयता सोने-सी उपजाऊ धरती को बंजर बना रही है। मेरी केंद्र सरकार से अपील है कि पंजाब को बचाने के लिए तुरंत एक 'Special Groundwater Mitigation Mission' शुरू किया जाए। गाँवों में वार-फुटिंग पर 'RO-based community purification systems' लगाए जाएँ और बीमारी से जूझ रहे क्षेत्रों में तत्काल 'Health Screening Camps' आयोजित किए जाएँ। इसके साथ ही 'deep aquifer mapping' द्वारा स्वच्छ जल स्रोत खोजे जाएँ और वैज्ञानिक तरीकों से प्रदूषण रोका जाए। महोदय, पानी एक 'national asset' है। जो पंजाब पूरे देश का पेट भरता है, आज उसके लोग जहरीला पानी पीने को मजबूर है, अतः अन्नदाताओं को बचाने के लिए हमें आवश्यक कार्रवाई करनी होगी।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu (Nominated): Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Shrimati Sulata Deo.

Demand for Metro Rail Project between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

SHRIMATI SULATA DEO (Odisha): Madam, I draw the attention of the Government to an important matter relating to the development of Odisha— the need for a metro rail project between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are often

& English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.

called the Twin Cities of Odisha. They are major centres of administration, education, healthcare, commerce, and employment. Every day, lakhs of people travel between these two cities, and the number is increasing rapidly. Due to heavy traffic on the existing roads, commuters face long delays, pollution, and serious safety concerns. A modern metro rail system between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will greatly reduce travel time, ease traffic congestion, and improve the overall quality of urban transport. It will also support economic growth, attract investment, and help build a cleaner and more sustainable environment. The population of the region is growing fast, and the current transport infrastructure will not be able to handle future demand. A metro rail network is not only desirable but essential for the long-term development of the capital region of Odisha.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to extend full support for the early approval, funding, and implementation of the Bhubaneswar—Cuttack metro rail project. This will benefit lakhs of commuters and contribute significantly to Odisha's progress.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha): Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), and Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala).

Shri Tiruchi Siva; not present. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya; not present. Shri Sat Paul Sharma; not present. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil.

Demand for bypass railway line in Junagadh in Gujarat

श्री शक्तिसिंह गोहिल (गुजरात): गुजरात के जूनागढ़ शहर के अंदर से पुरानी रेलवे लाइन चल रही है। जूनागढ़ एक बहुत ही ऐतिहासिक और टूरिज्म के हिसाब से भी महत्व का शहर है। रेलवे लाइन पूरे शहर में से इस तरह से गुजरती है कि शहर के अंदर ही सात रेलवे क्रॉसिंग आते हैं। बार-बार शहर में ट्रेन गुजरते वक्त रेलवे क्रॉसिंग पर रोक लगने से पूरे जूनागढ़ में ट्रैफिक की बड़ी गंभीर समस्या हो रही है। आसानी से जूनागढ़ शहर को बाईपास करते हुए रेलवे लाइन निकल सकती है। अतः सरकार से अनुरोध है कि जूनागढ़ शहर में हो रही रेलवे क्रॉसिंग की परेशानियों से शहर को मुक्त करने के लिए बाईपास रेलवे लाइन तुरंत लगाई जाए।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Shaktisinh Gohil (Gujarat): Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Dr. John

Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala) and Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala).

Dr. V. Sivadasan.

Need to manage human-wild life conflict

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Madam, the human—wildlife conflict in Kerala is creating lot of hardships to the people. Communities across many regions are facing repeated threats to life, safety, and livelihood due to wildlife entering into human-dominated landscapes with increased frequency. The existing provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are inadequate to address these contemporary challenges, and timely intervention from the Centre has become essential. The Wildlife Protection Act, along with its associated rules, protocols, guidelines, and advisories, needs to be amended to reflect present day conditions. Incorporating practical and flexible provisions into the law will allow effective action to protect human life and property while maintaining ecological balance. Without such updates, the response mechanisms remain constrained and insufficient. A notification is required declaring the wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) as vermin for, at least, one year in Kerala under Section 62 of the Act. The uncontrolled rise in the wild pig population has resulted in severe crop destruction, frequent accidents, and significant hardship for rural households. A legal provision enabling management measures is urgently necessary.

Another pressing demand is the reclassification of the Rhesus Monkey (Bonnet macaque) from Schedule I to Schedule II, enabling site-specific management and mitigation measures. The species' growing presence in towns, villages, and agricultural areas is creating safety challenges and economic losses that cannot be effectively addressed under the current classification. The Central Government is urged to act to safeguard lives, reduce distress among affected communities, and reform the legal framework for managing human—wildlife conflict.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala): Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand) and Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha).

Now, Dr. John Brittas.

**Concern over the denial of Point of Call (PoC) status to Kannur
International Airport in Kerala**

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Madam, since its inauguration in 2018, Kannur International Airport has emerged as a vital connectivity hub for northern Kerala and south Karnataka, serving a large expatriate population. However, denial of point-of-call status to Kannur Airport limited airlines operations, curtailed capacity, stifled competition, inflated fares, and undermined trade, tourism and growth. While the new non-metro airport at Mopa in Goa has been permitted to host foreign airlines, Kannur Airport has not been accorded the same opportunity. In its replies to the questions raised on this matter, the Civil Aviation Ministry stated that the entire State of Goa has been designated as a PoC under certain Air Services Agreements, allowing foreign airlines to operate from any airport within Goa. Three individual airports in Kerala - Calicut, Cochin, and Thiruvananthapuram are designated as PoCs in specific agreements. This policy, requiring separate PoC status for each airport in Kerala is inconsistent.

As such, I urge the Government to revisit its stand and grant Point of Call status to Kannur Airport as well or permit it to operate foreign airlines in the same manner as is being allowed at Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Goa.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas (Kerala): Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

5.00 P. M.

**Demand for establishment of a Railway Wagon Technology Park at
Sitalapalli in Ganjam, Odisha**

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Madam Vice-Chairperson, since 2011, the people of Ganjam and South Odisha have awaited the promised wagon factory at Sitalapalli in Ganjam district of Odisha. A national wagon factory is not feasible as national wagon production already exceeds current demand. While this may rule out the earlier proposal, it should not close the door on Sitalapalli's development. Instead, it

presents an opportunity to create something more visionary and better aligned with India's evolving freight priorities, a railway wagon technology park.

A wagon technology park moves beyond the limits of standard wagon manufacturing. It is an integrated ecosystem combining advanced materials, modern design, digital technologies, prototype development, and specialised wagon manufacturing. Such a centre would support the railway's emerging needs, lightweight aluminium wagons, LNG and hydrogen tank wagons, high-speed container wagons for dedicated freight corridors, and sensor-enabled smart wagons for predictive maintenance. These are segments where India's current capacity is limited or nascent, and where future demand is certain to rise.

Sitalapalli is particularly suited for this transformation. Odisha's strong aluminium industry, growing investments in green hydrogen and LNG, and proximity to steel and mineral corridors make it an ideal base for next-generation rolling stock. The upcoming East Coast Dedicated Freight Corridor further strengthens its strategic relevance. Establishing a wagon technology park at Sitalapalli will finally fulfil a long-standing promise to the people of Ganjam, while positioning South Odisha as a hub for innovation, skilled employment, and future-ready freight infrastructure. I urge the government to look into it. I thank you, Madam Vice-Chairperson.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala); Dr. John Brittas (Kerala); Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala); Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu); Shrimati Kahua Maji (Jharkhand); and Shrimata Sulata Deo (Odisha).

Next speaker, Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala — hon. Member not present. Shrimati Rekha Sharma — hon. Member not present. Next, Dr. Bhagwat Karad.

**Demand to establish Yoga and Naturopathy Research and Medical
Institute in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra**

DR. BHAGWAT KARAD (Maharashtra): Thank you, Madam Vice-Chairperson, for giving me the opportunity for a Special Mention. The subject of my Special Mention is the demand to establish a Yoga and Naturopathy Research and Medical Institute at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra.

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar is a region of immense historical, cultural, and spiritual significance, home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the Ajanta and Ellora caves. Its unique geographical location, excellent connectivity, and emerging

reputation as a wellness and tourism hub make it an ideal location for a world-class research and medical institution dedicated to traditional healthcare systems.

There is a growing national and global demand for trained professionals in yoga and naturopathy, along with a clear need for premier institutions that can integrate education, research, training, and clinical care under one roof. In this context, I humbly urge the Government of India to establish a national-level apex research institute for yoga and naturopathy in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra.

Such an institute would not only promote holistic health and wellness, but also create avenues for education, research, skill development, and employment. It would position Maharashtra as a leader in integrative medicine and significantly benefit the people of Marathwada and adjoining regions.

I urge the hon. Minister of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav and the Government of India to look into this matter seriously and do the needful. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. Bhagwat Karad: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

Demand for a hostel for working women

श्रीमती सुमित्रा बाल्मीक (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैं महिला कार्यबल के लिए हमारे सहयोग ढांचे में मौजूद एक महत्वपूर्ण कमी की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ।

महोदया, यद्यपि 'सखी निवास' योजना ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से आवश्यक आवास प्रदान किया है, किंतु वर्तमान ढांचा आधुनिक भारतीय महिलाओं की आकांक्षाओं के साथ तालमेल बिठाने में संघर्ष कर रहा है। टियर-2 और टियर-3 शहरों से महानगरों की ओर पलायन करने वाली, युवतियां अब बड़ी संख्या में आईटी क्षेत्र, बीपीओ या गिग इकॉनमी में कार्यरत हैं। इन भूमिकाओं में काम के घंटे अनिश्चित होते हैं और निरंतर डिजिटल कनेक्टिविटी की आवश्यकता होती है। मौजूदा सरकारी छात्रावासों की जर्जर स्थिति, इंटरनेट सुविधा का अभाव और सख्त कर्फ्यू (समय-सीमा) उनके पेशेवर विकास को असंभव बना देते हैं। परिणामस्वरूप, इन महिलाओं को अक्सर महंगे या असुरक्षित निजी आवासों में रहने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है। मैं सरकार से 'सखी निवास 2.0' शुरू करने का अनुरोध करती हूँ। इस आधुनिक पहल का उद्देश्य केवल आश्रय देने से आगे बढ़कर एक समर्थकारी वातावरण प्रदान करना होना चाहिए।

अतः सरकार से मेरी यह माँग है कि इसमें निम्नलिखित प्रमुख सुधार शामिल होने चाहिए: कमरों में अनिवार्य हाई-स्पीड वाई-फाई, फ्रीलांसर्स और रिमोट वर्क (घर से काम) करने वालों के लिए छात्रावास के भीतर निर्दिष्ट कार्य क्षेत्र, नाइट शिफ्ट और वैश्विक कामकाजी घंटों के

अनुकूलन के लिए पुराने कफर्यू नियमों के स्थान पर बायोमेट्रिक आधारित 24/7 सुरक्षा प्रणाली लागू करना चाहिए। हमारे कार्यबल को सही मायने में सशक्त बनाने के लिए, हमारे बुनियादी ढांचे को उनकी महत्वाकांक्षाओं की गति के साथ विकसित होना होगा, धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Sumitra Balmik: Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara (Gujarat), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala).

Concern over the increasing water crisis and falling groundwater level in Madhya Pradesh

श्रीमती माया नारोलिया (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदया, मैं सरकार का ध्यान मध्य प्रदेश में तेजी से बढ़ते जल-संकट और भू-जल स्तर में हो रही चिंताजनक गिरावट की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ।

महोदया, केन्द्रीय भू-जल बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार नर्मदापुरम, भोपाल, विदिशा, सागर, छिंदवाड़ा सहित कई जिले, 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक क्षेत्र में, अर्ध-संकटग्रस्त घोषित हो चुके हैं। यह स्थिति आने वाले वर्षों में एक गंभीर जल-आपदा में बदल सकती है। इस संकट के मुख्य कारण हैं: अनियंत्रित और अत्यधिक भू-जल दोहन; वर्षाजल-संचयन एवं पुनर्भरण संरचनाओं की भारी कमी और नर्मदा सहित प्रमुख नदियों के तटों पर प्रदूषण तथा अवैध रेत-खनन, जिसने प्राकृतिक जल-पुनर्भरण की क्षमता को कमजोर कर दिया है।

महोदया, इन कारणों से ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में पेयजल का गंभीर संकट, किसानों को सिंचाई के लिए पानी न मिलने की समस्या, बोरवेल के सूखने से बढ़ता आर्थिक बोझ और गर्मियों में टैंकरों पर निर्भरता - जैसी भयावह स्थितियाँ लगातार बढ़ रही हैं।

अतः मैं सरकार से आग्रह करती हूँ कि जल-संकटग्रस्त जिलों में ग्राउंड वाटर एक्शन प्लान तत्काल लागू किया जाए; आर्टिफिशियल रिचार्ज संरचनाएँ, स्टॉप-डैम और पुनर्भरण कुएँ मिशन मोड में बढ़ाए जाएँ; माइक्रो-इरिगेशन को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए सब्सिडी बढ़ाई जाए; और नदियों पर अवैध रेत-खनन व प्रदूषण पर सख्त कार्रवाई की जाए, धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Shrimati Maya Naroliya: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Sandosh Kumar P.

Demand for a special package to Non-Resident Indians

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P. (Kerala): Madam, I request the Government to announce a comprehensive Special Package for Pravasi (overseas) workers from Kerala. Lakhs of Malayali workers across the Gulf region and other countries have contributed immensely to the national economy through remittances, which support not only their families but also play a vital role in strengthening India's foreign exchange reserves. Their contributions have been the backbone of Kerala's economic and social development. However, in recent years, especially after the pandemic, the Pravasi community has been facing critical hardships due to a combination of factors such as global recession, fluctuating oil prices, job losses, increasing cost of living abroad, and restrictions on labour migration. Many workers have returned home without savings, employment opportunities, or social protection measures. Their families continue to struggle due to inadequate income support, lack of access to healthcare, and educational burden on children.

In light of these challenges, I humbly request the Central Government to consider a targeted Special Package that includes provisions for emergency financial assistance, concessional loans, social security coverage, comprehensive health insurance, skill development programmes for re-employment, and support for rehabilitation and entrepreneurship ventures. I also suggest forming a dedicated Pravasi Welfare Task Force to coordinate with State authorities and Indian missions abroad to ensure timely benefits and grievance redressal. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Shri Sandosh Kumar P: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 15th December, 2025.

The House then adjourned at thirteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 15th December, 2025.

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