

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, December 19, 2022/ Agrahayana 28, 1944 (Saka)

RULING BY THE CHAIR

Regarding Rule 267 and Rule 266

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received nine notices under Rule 267 for suspension of rules and to take up the matter indicated therein. I have given my thoughtful consideration to all the notices.

Hon. Members would recollect that on December 8th, I had imparted a comprehensive ruling on Rule 267. The rule stipulates fulfilment of certain conditions before a Member can avail methodology of that rule. In spite of categorical indications, none of the notices measure up to the requirement. Hon. Members, it is a painful duty for me that not only the Rule is outraged, no attention whatsoever has been given to the Rule, and, notices are drawn in a manner as if the Rule does not exist. I expect the hon. Members to follow the procedure indicated in the rules, go through all the essential elements and then carve out notice.

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, during the tenure of my predecessor, this rule was not invoked even once because this rule is required to be invoked in extraordinary situations and in rarest of the rare cases. Suspension of the work of this House can take place under extraordinary situations. We have a situation where there is hardly a day when we do not get notice under Rule 267. Hon. Members, notice under Rule 267 is of a very serious nature. It calls for serious deliberation. You are seeking suspension of the proceedings of this House to take up other matter.

I painfully report to you that loss of more than hundred minutes of disruption on 13th, 15th and 16th of December has sent not a good signal. Crores of public exchequer that was meant to be utilized, time that was supposed to be used for public purpose, issues that were required to be discussed, could not be discussed. This august House is a unique platform. We must share vision, passion, mission of the framers of the Constitution. It is time for us to be inspired and motivated by them so that we set very high standards of emulation. Generating optics of disruption brings a very bad name to us. It generates disillusionment. It sends a signal as if those who have been elected to this august House to perform the solemn duty to act as the House of Elders, the Upper House, conduct themselves in a manner that leaves much to be desired. I would urge the hon. Members to carefully deliberate on what I have indicated. I will be open to any notice that is in accordance with the mechanism. Any notice that is in line with the spirit and essence of the rules will receive my consideration. I need to indicate to the hon. Members, I am one of you; I draw my power from you; I draw my authority from you. The tradition of this House is the writ of the Chairman runs. In spite of being cautioned, in spite of being reminded on three occasions by the Deputy Chairman, my ruling was not heeded to and disruption took place. It is my painful constitutional obligation to examine all these indiscretions. I am focussing on that. I have hinted some Members to see me in the Chamber and I will attend to the issue. It is never a pleasure, never a satisfying moment to visit a Member with any action. But getting away and abdicating constitutional obligation is not an option either with you or with me. I am your soldier; I am your part. But we all have to serve, at last, more than 1.36 billion people. Therefore, this House has to rise to a level expected of it, and not engage into usual rhetoric optics to generate a scene which is ephemeral. I am sure my suggestions will be heard. The hon.

LoP had indicated a rule. I would urge the hon. LoP to go through that rule and that rule makes it very clear, 'unless otherwise provided in the rules'. Hon. Members, I have twice gone through every reflection by every Member. All I can say is, the intellectual ability, the experience, the exposure and talent of the House is not being reflected. We all are possessed collectively of a wisdom the nation is proud of. We have to reveal it. I would, therefore, leave everything to be deliberated. I find the notices are not in order.

Hon. Members, Hon. Leader of Opposition has raised a point with respect to Rule 266. I expect all the Members to bestow attention on this. The Rule says: "All matters not specifically provided in these rules..." And Rule 266 can be availed only and only with respect to those matters which are not specifically provided. I would urge the hon. LoP to direct his office to be little more functional to involve with the rules.

All matters under Rule 266, Hon. Khargeji, you can raise those matters which are not specifically provided in these rules. This matter is provided in these rules. When a matter is provided in these rules, Rule 266 does not come into picture. This is my ruling. Rule 266 comes into picture only and only when matters are not specifically provided.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

1. Rising Demand for Legal Recognition to Marriage between People of Same Sex in Country

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: I rise in this august House to oppose the efforts to legalize same-sex marriage. So far more than 33 countries have recognized same-sex marriage. This week, the US Senate passed a law allowing same-sex marriage. Of the G-7 countries, only Japan has recognized it. Whereas, apart from Japan, Taiwan is the only country in Asia that has recognized same-sex marriage. The institution of marriage is considered very sacred in India. The tradition of this sacred relationship in our society, ethos and culture is thousands of years old. There is no mention of recognizing same-sex marriage in our country under any religion. However, some leftist ideologues sitting in the judiciary are in favor of

giving it a legal recognition ignoring its social and cultural dimensions. No one should be allowed to play with ethos of Indian society. Hence, I strongly oppose it.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Need to Extend Hill Compensatory Allowance to Postal Employees of Darjeeling and Kalimpong

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: I seek to draw the attention of this august House towards the benefit of hill area compensatory allowance being given to postal employees from North-Eastern States and Sikkim. I urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister to grant similar allowance to postal employees of the hilly region of Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

(Dr. John Brittas, Ms. Dola Sen, Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Fauzia Khan associated.)

3. Rising Incidents of Suicides by Farmers

***SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:** The data shows that over 50 thousands of farmers and agricultural labourers have committed suicide in the country, including the State of Punjab. The main reason for this happens to be the non implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for a number of crops. Now, the farming has become non- remunerative. The contribution made by Punjab to national food grains stock has gone down from 60 per cent to 40 per cent. The use of pesticides has gone up. The ground water table is steadily depleting. The solution to this crisis has to be found, because, the new generation is leaving Punjab and going abroad. We need to switch over to traditional and organic farming. The Central Government should ensure the implementation of the recommendations made by Swaminathan Commission to prevent the suicides cases of farmers in Punjab and elsewhere.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

* Spoke in Punjabi.

4. Need to Establish Centre of Excellence in Research on Drone Technology in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: My humble submission is for establishing a drone research centre institute in Vishakhapatnam. We are at the cusp of fourth industrial revolution and one of the most important inventions happens to be the drone technology. The drone technology has many applications in the sectors like defence and logistics. We only need a push from the Central Government to ace the critical technology. This sector can propel the agricultural sector far ahead. The drones could be used for pesticide spray and monitoring of other farming activities. On estimate shows that drones can increase crop production by 15 per cent. Given the fact that 65 per cent of state population is engaged in agriculture, the massive production of fruits and vegetables; and sufficient IT resources at hand, I request the Central Government to establish a centre of excellence in research on drones technology at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Fauzia Khan associated.)

5. Need for Reforms in Judicial System for ensuring Simple, Easy and Speedy Justice

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the rapidly deepening disappointment in the minds of the people towards the judicial system of the country. The citizens of the country have started finding it futile to expect simple, accessible, cheap, speedy and transparent justice from the judicial system. The pendency of five crore cases means that 25 crore citizens belonging to five crore families are suffering due to faulty judicial process. Beyond accountability, the Supreme Court appears to have unlimited power. I want to know why the Supreme Court does not implement time bound justice system to dispose of different types of cases. Today, bribery and kickbacks are common from the lower courts to the higher courts. Our judicial system is not ready to deal with linguistic complexity. There is a need to give justice to the citizens of the country in the mother tongues of the country. The constitution has a provision for reservation in government jobs for people belonging to backward classes, scheduled castes and tribes, but the judicial

system is not ready to implement the reservation given in the constitution in the appointment of judges in the Supreme Courts and High Courts. It is necessary to have representation of all classes in the appointment of judges of the Supreme Court. Overall, it is the responsibility of our judicial system to ensure that the people of the country get justice with ease, speed and transparency. It is also necessary to stop the needless and unconstitutional interference of the judiciary in the work of the Parliament. Otherwise, there will be a clash and the loss of dignity to the Parliament will harm the democracy. Today, there is a lot of discussion about the collegium system in the country. No Article of the constitution states that the Supreme Court is above the constitution. If the Supreme Court wants to see itself as the custodian of the Constitution, it should first adopt democratic and constitutional methods in the appointment of judges. I urge the Government to provide an affordable, speedy and transparent justice to the general public.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Need to Amend Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 in wake of Heinous Crimes being Committed by Juveniles in Country

SHRI VIVEK THAKUR: My matter pertains to The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. In the year 2014, after the formation of the Government under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister, in the wake of gruesome incident like *Nirbhaya Gangrape*, the minor, serious and heinous crime categories were defined in 2015. The Government of India had also to amend the law in 2021. Earlier, there was no strict punishment for criminals in the age group of 16 to 18 years. However, section 304 of the Indian Penal Code provided for punishment of more than 10 years. But, the attitude of the Hon'ble Supreme Court towards juvenile offenders still remains unclear. The criminals involved in terrorism and other serious crimes take unfair advantage of this. Therefore, an appropriate Amendment should be made in The Juvenile Justice Act so that the rate of conviction increases and the criminals are punished.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need to address Problems being faced by Goldsmith Community

SHRI RAMCHANDRA JANGRA: I want to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the neglect and plight of the Goldsmith community. Before the introduction of the Gold Control Act in the year 1968, the 1.25 crore goldsmiths of the country were living a life of prosperity and prestige. After this their economic downfall started. The limit was fixed for the small worker to keep gold only up to 100 grams while the licensed big goldsmiths were allowed to keep gold up to two kilos. Eventually, this work went to the big corporate houses. Under the subsequent Amendment, the limit of keeping 300 grams of gold in the form of jewelry was fixed for small artisans. But, in 1990, the gold work was opened to the corporate houses by the then Government and the small artisan goldsmith of the village remained only as their labourer. In order to remove their plight, the tax percentage on gold trading done by corporate houses should be increased. The tax limit on jewelry trading by licensed dealers should also be increased, and on the lines of Amul Milk, a cooperative association of rural, small artisan goldsmiths, artisans should be formed to buy gold. The loans should be given to them on the lines of MSMEs and purchase arrangements should be made from them, so that the lives of small goldsmiths can improve. In addition, under Section 411 of the Penal Code, any petty goldsmith is harassed by the police on a false complaint against him. This should also be rectified.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Need to restart Train from Meerut to Ganganagar via Rewari

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: I am raising an issue related to daily rail passengers. A shuttle train used to run from Meerut to Ganganagar via Delhi-Rewari for a long time. Now that train has been discontinued. Due to which, daily commuters especially of Modinagar, Ghaziabad and Meerut are facing a lot of problems. This train should be started again, so that the passengers can be facilitated.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Need to provide Age Relaxation and Fee Concession to Aspirants of Economically Weaker Sections for Applying to various Government Jobs

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: In the year 2019, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Government provided 10 percent reservation for the economically weaker from upper castes. However, there is no provision of age relaxation for the candidates coming under this quota, while other categories get a relaxation. Therefore, a relaxation in age limit should be given to the economically weaker upper castes who are eligible for reservation and a relaxation should also be given in the application fee charged from the candidates.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need to Set Up Specialized Medical Tribunal to Deal with Medical Disputes

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: The Article 323 (B) of the Indian Constitution deals with the establishment of tribunals for other matters and Article 323 (A) of the Indian Constitution deals with the administrative tribunals. These days, many cases are emerging in the medical sector which needs quick redressal. Sadly, there is no dedicated tribunal for medical offences. With partial knowledge, the fair hearing remains difficult. However, decision of the tribunal may not be final since parties can go in for an appeal to the High Court or the Supreme Court. Another important reason is that a medical case under the Consumer Protection Act takes too long to conclude. Then, the District Consumer Forum does not have a member from medical fraternity. The cases under the Consumer Protection Act would give wrong signals about medical professionals. Most doctors are middle class citizens who practice on their own. It is inappropriate to expect doctors to be able to raise such large amount. Hence, we urgently need a medical tribunal in India.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Need to Rename Clean Energy Cess as Environmental and Rehabilitation Cess and Earmark 60 per cent thereof to Coal-Bearing States

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: I am going to raise a point relating to Coal Cess or Clean Energy Cess. This was introduced by the Government of India in 2010. Basically, it deals with compensation for extraction of coal which causes a lot of environmental issues relating to air quality, water quality, pollution at top soil level etc. Now that GST Compensation Cess to states has been withdrawn. My request is that this should be converted into Environment and Rehabilitation Cess and given back to the States, particularly to the coal-bearing States like Odisha and others.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Need to provide Flight Connectivity from Punjab to various International Destinations

SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA: I would like to raise before the House a very important problem related to Punjab and Punjabis. Today, Punjabis live all over the world, be it in the United States of America, New Zealand or Australia. There are only two international airports from Punjab to these countries. One of them is at Mohali and the other is in Amritsar. Both of these international airports are international airports for name sake only, as there are hardly any international flights.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

#GOVERNMENT BILLS

(i) **#The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2022**

(ii) **#The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2022**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I move that the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2022-2023, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

I also move that the Bill to provide for the authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2020, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is very important that the issues that we raise, the questions that we ask must be answered. In the Supplementary Demands for this year, the Government is asking authorization for Rs. 3,25,756 crores as cash outgo. Defence Capital Expenditure for construction of strategic and border roads is Rs. 500 crores. The GDP for 2022-23 was Rs. 258 lakh crores, which assumes a 11.1 per cent nominal growth over last year's GDP at current prices. My first question is, what will be the inflation rate and what will be the real growth? Where will the Government find this Rs. 3,25,756 crores? There are only three ways - first, the Government has already collected money in excess of the Budgeted revenue receipts. Second way is to borrow. A third way is that the Government expects nominal growth to be more than 11.1 per cent shown in the Budget. Which route does the Government propose to take? The Corporate Tax accounts for 26.1 per cent of the gross tax revenue, whereas in 2013-14, Corporate Tax in the gross tax revenue was 34 per cent. Why has this great benefit been conferred on the corporates? They contribute 8 per cent less now. The investment of the

Discussed Together.

Corporate sector is low despite giving huge incentives to them. The Reason of it should be shared with this House. The Liberalisation started in 1990-91 and in next twelve years, GDP of the country doubled. It again doubled in next ten years. Therefore, one expects that a Government, in power for nearly nine years, should be able to double the GDP again in next ten years, i.e. in 2023-24. Government should enlighten us whether they will be able to do so. Of the four engines of growth, the Government's expenditure is robust. That is good. I only wish that Government spends efficiently and the outcome is as good as the expenditure. But the private investment and Private consumption is low. High-end items are being sold, but the consumption by the poor and the middle class is low. Exports are also low. The trade deficit is increasing. Many of the world's leading economies are headed towards a recession today. Therefore, I would like to know the plan of the Government to deal with this situation and stimulate the growth. The Government is asking funds for defence capital expenditure, for strategic and border roads in the North East. The Parliament will happily agree to this demand. This House can only recommend on a Supplementary Demand and an Appropriation Bill. We are granting this amount, if it is for relevant expenditure. However, I sincerely hope that the Hon'ble Finance Minister will enlighten us on the issues, I have raised.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: In this Bill, the provision of the highest amount has been made for fertilizer subsidy. There has been an unprecedented increase in the prices of fertilizers in the international market and due to the Russia-Ukraine war, but to save the farmers from this burden, this provision is made. A huge amount has also been provided for the subsidy related to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna. According to an IMF study, due to *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana*, during Covid period we have been able to retain the extreme poverty at 0.8 percent. Today any poor person can go to any ration shop and get ration. In 2005-06, there were 64 crores poor people in the country, which has reduced to 22.18 crores in 2019-21. In the field of digital infrastructure, India has contributed in a big way through new innovations. We brought GeM which includes Aadhaar Card, Jan Dhan Yojana etc. So far amount of rupees 26 lakh crores has been transferred to the account of the poor through Direct Benefit Transfer leading to saving of thousand crores of rupees. DigiLocker and UPI are the gifts of India. Due to UPI, today countries like Singapore, Malaysia etc. can

transact through UPI. India is also included in 10-11 countries of the world which have started digital currency. Today 97 percent of the mobile phones used in the country are made in India. India has also done commendable work in the banking sector. Indian banks have earned profits. Mudra loans have been given to crores of people. The NPA of Mudra loan is only 3.38 percent. Inflation in Sri Lanka is 70 percent. The condition of countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. is more or less the same. India appears to be a shining star in South Asia. Our interest rate is much lower compared to the US and UK. Our growth rate is expected to be 6.8 percent this year. India is likely to have the highest growth rate among the fastest growing economies in the world. India has become the fifth largest economy in the world by leaving behind Britain today. In 2027, we will overtake Germany to become the fourth largest economy and in 2029, we will surpass Japan also to become the third largest economy. In 2048, India is likely to overtake America as well. When the states move forward, the country will move forward. Several states of the country have announced to implement the Old Pension Scheme. At present, the Centre and the states have to bear Rs 5,76,000 crore per year as pension only. 80 percent of Himachal Pradesh's tax revenue is being spent only on pension. In the case of Bihar and Punjab, this figure is 60 per cent and 34 per cent respectively. Therefore, I would urge the states that it would be a big crime to put today's burden on the future generation. For the first time after independence, international trade with Russia, Mauritius and Sri Lanka has started in rupee instead of dollar. We want to make the country a 5 trillion dollar economy. India will become a developed country by 2047. I support these Appropriation Bills.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: 29 of the 98 Bills passed before 2021 were anti-federal in nature. There is an economic blockade of the States. They were burdened because the Centre cancelled schemes about seven years ago. One of those schemes was the Backward Region Grant Fund. It was so important for the States that they had to continue the scheme but the funding stopped. The Central Government has reduced its share in many schemes. One such example is the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. As regards the fiscal responsibility and budget management, this year, the states' borrowing has been brought down to 3.5 percent. When it was taken up to 4 per cent, some conditions on the states were laid. One condition was that the states have to privatise electricity and that is anti-federal. Please restore it

unconditionally. Cess goes directly to the Centre and is not shared with the States. In 2011, cess was 10 per cent of gross tax revenue which is now 26.7 percent. In the last five years, Rs. 10 lakh crores have been written off by the Government as bad debts. Of this, only 13 per cent has been recovered. The unemployment rate in the last three months has been eight per cent. 42 percent of the youth in the age group of 20 to 24 are unemployed. The youth don't want slogans, they want jobs. Only 8 of the 36 projects in the North-East had been sanctioned till 2021. They had kept lofty objectives in their manifesto but result has been empty.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: A complete analysis on farming techniques and the total expenditure incurred directly and indirectly by the farmers for their agriculture production should be calculated accurately and based on this data, MSP for all agricultural produce be fixed and paid to farmers. The PM-KISAN scheme does not cover landless agricultural labourers who form 55 per cent of the agricultural workers in the country. I urge the Union Government to intervene immediately and warn the Karnataka Government for their unconstitutional, illegal efforts to construct a dam at Mekedatu, along the river Cauvery. There is an increase in toll gates which will increase the transportation costs, which will again affect the common man, causing hardship for local residents. India tops the world with 11 per cent of global deaths in road accidents. The Government should focus on this area of road safety and road maintenance. Tourism should be given an unprecedented importance by the Government of India to showcase the geographical diversity, the rich cultural heritage and the historical legacy of India to the world. I recommend that the future tourism policy be state-specific. The exporting units and their supplier MSMEs are staring at a severe financial crisis in the ensuing months due to low demand and several other factors including the economic impact of COVID-19. Considering the above circumstances, the MSMEs must be given special credit facilities to survive this crisis. The People of Tamil Nadu have apprehension that Tamil Nadu is getting step motherly treatment, when it comes to a Railway project or National highway project or any other project announced by the Union Government. The setting up of AIIMS at Madurai was announced in Budget 2015. I urge the Union Government to expedite construction of AIIMS at Madurai. As population of a State is taken as a major criterion for devolution of funds, Tamil Nadu is badly affected because it has controlled its

population growth to just 6 per cent. I would like to reiterate that the Budget is not merely an account of the Government's budgeted expenses and receipts. It also sets the stage for the country's growth and reform trajectory. I hope the Government will fulfill the aspirations of the poor, downtrodden and middle class people.

SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA: At the beginning of the financial year, the Government has under-presented its financial budget or it has completely mismanaged its budget. This assembly had sanctioned a huge budget of Rs 40 lakh crore to the Government at the beginning of the financial year, what did the Government achieve by spending that Rs 40 lakh crore, because the country's economic indicators are ringing the alarm of crisis. We should discuss the budget twice in the House. Once when the budget is presented and then after seven-eight months, in the Winter Session, what has the country achieved from that budget and how many jobs have been created, what is the unemployment rate and how much is the inflation. Our income is not increasing, but inflation is increasing. From consumer goods to fuel and cylinders, the prices have increased enormously. The prices of flour, pulses, rice, milk and curd are skyrocketing. India's food inflation rate has ranged from 10 per cent to 17 per cent throughout the financial year. Per capita income has also decreased. Real income has decreased due to inflation. Economic reforms are being shown but in the second quarter in which many festivals come and the economy picks up speed, the growth rate has come down to half. That means India's economic growth rate is decreasing. By the time the budget is presented, this growth rate will probably come down to 5 per cent which has never happened. The Government says that we are moving ahead at a growth rate of 8 per cent, while many international financial institutions are estimating a much lower growth rate. Indian economy is coming down instead of going up. The debt of the Government of India has increased a lot. There has been an unprecedented increase in the loan amount in these eight years. The debt to GDP ratio has increased from 40 per cent to almost 90 percent. The debt of the country's farmers has increased by 53 percent in eight years. Every farmer has a lot of debt. The farmers are committing suicide. Their condition is very bad. This Government had promised to double the income of the farmers. But the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture shows that in more than four states the income of farmers has decreased by 30 percent.

There has been a huge decline in the private sector of India's economy. By reducing the corporate tax, the government is bearing a burden of Rs 1.5 lakh crore every year. After the benefits were given to the corporate world, it was expected that employment would be generated but it did not happen. Today the unemployment rate in India is highest in 45 years. The rate of inflation is the highest in 30 years, so inflation has also not come down. It has been told that private investment has increased but that too has decreased by 20 per cent. Gross fixed capital formation has declined in almost all the quarters since FY 2019-20 till date, barring only a couple of quarters. Investment comes not by giving concessions but by increasing demand. When demand increases, production will increase and consumption will increase. In 2014, one dollar was exchanged for Rs 60, but today one dollar comes in Rs. 82. When the rupee falls, India's exports increase. But our rupee is falling and dollar is getting stronger, but India's exports are also decreasing. Start-ups were also promoted but they too have mostly failed. Today less than 10 per cent of start-ups in India complete their fifth anniversary. Many big start-ups have made thousands of people unemployed by throwing people out of jobs. In these supplementary demands for grants, funds have been mostly sought for subsidy. Many questions are raised when we give subsidy. There are many developed countries; they provide free education and facilities. In this way human resource is created by providing free facilities. The matter of Enforcement Directorate has come up in the supplementary demand for grants. I want to ask the Honourable Finance Minister that jobs are not being created from the government's budget, private sector is not investing, inflation is increasing. Tremendous melt-down in India's economy, weakening of rupee without a corresponding increase in Exports is a cause of concern. The Government should consider reducing the tax burden on common man.

DR. PRASHANTA NANDA: India is trying to achieve five trillion dollar economy. But the financial relationship between the Centre and the States has not been satisfactory. Delinking of eight Centrally-Sponsored Schemes from Central support, discontinuance of Special Plan, abolition of Normal Central Assistance and a steep increase in State share of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes have imposed severe financial burden on the State. The unique geo-climatic conditions of Odisha make it vulnerable to frequent natural disasters. It has been a demand of Odisha that 'natural calamity'

should be included as a criterion for according Special Category Status. This will not only help Odisha but also other States. The sharing pattern in the SDRF ought to be in the ratio of 90:10 for the Centre and the States respectively. But, the Government has modified the recommendations of the Finance Commission to keep the percentage share of states same as before i.e. 75:25. The recommendations of 14th Finance Commission on Disaster Relief Fund should be fully implemented. The Government has intimated that since GST had not been stabilized, the Centre's share in State Disaster Response Fund would remain in the same ratio. The Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended sharing pattern of 75:25 between the Centre and States. Taking into consideration the Disaster Risk Index, Odisha needs a special dispensation by allowing the sharing pattern of 90:10. My next point is regarding discontinuance of off-Budget central transfers for centrally-sponsored schemes, thereby, bypassing the State treasuries. The Government should stop this practice of off- Budget transfers directly to the implementing agencies. Cess and surcharges do not form a part of the divisible pool. The Government has imposed cess and surcharge to finance their share of the centrally-sponsored schemes while denying the same benefit to the States. The Government may, therefore, consider eliminating cess and surcharge on the taxes and duties in a phased manner. Besides, Government should take steps making cess and surcharges part of the divisible pool. My next point is on steep increase in State's share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Delinking of eight Centrally Sponsored Schemes from Central support, abolition of normal Central assistance and a steep increase in State's share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes has imposed severe financial burden on the State. This change in sharing pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes has cast a huge additional financial burden on the States leading to much less resources for the State schemes appropriate to our needs. Financial inclusion in the State of Odisha has been constrained by lack of brick and mortar branches. Around two-thirds of our Gram Panchayats do not have brick & mortar bank branches. Finance Department has selected 270 unbanked GPs for opening of brick and mortar branches by banks. The people of the unbanked areas are deprived of getting access to affordable banking services due to lack of brick & mortar branches in most of the GPs. I request the Government to provide information regarding the steps taken to provide banking services in unbanked GPs in the State of Odisha and instruct

the Scheduled Commercial Banks to open more brick & mortar branches and ATMs in the unbanked GPs in the State of Odisha. But it is not being taken care of. The problem is not being solved. I hope this time our Hon'ble Minister will give us a positive reply.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: It was asked how much of 11.1 per cent nominal GDP growth is on account of inflation and how much is on account of real growth. In the regime of current Government, inflation is 4.7 per cent, which is an all-time low. Mr. Chidambaram spoke about the declining share of corporate tax. The House has been misled by quoting figures from the pandemic year. It was when Corona Virus was there that corporate tax was purposely lowered by Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi to provide relief to Covid patients. It was in 2019. That is not the year which should be compared with the current year. The data of pandemic years of 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been quoted here, when corporate collections were an all-time high at 32 per cent. Third point is about doubling of GDP. It was also raised why India's GDP has not doubled in the last ten years. Comparison on the global scale will show that in 2014 the India's GDP was tenth highest in the world. After nine years of the current Government, India's GDP is now fifth highest. I strongly believe that India's GDP has truly doubled on the global scale. Article 115 of the Constitution allows the Centre to incur additional expenditure when the budgeted amount is found to be insufficient. Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that supplementary expenditure is needed to respond to the situations which are developing on the ground. In fact, these situations prevailed at the time of the Budget. For fertilizers, I requested the Government to raise the fertilizers subsidy, but the Government did not act upon. I made a representation to the Rural Development Minister for NREGA, which went unheeded. For fuel, I requested the Government to reduce taxes on fuel but nothing has happened. Now this Government is realizing the same. These Supplementary Grants make it very clear that the Centre has not acted promptly. The supplementary grants should be treated as an exception and not the rule. The next issue is regarding financial problems which are being faced by the Andhra Pradesh Government. My only concern is that the Centre is ending the GST compensation for the States. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh is facing financial difficulties due to the inaction of the Centre. The Government has allocated funds at the rates of 2010-11 for the Polavaram Project that is being

implemented in 2022. No State Government can implement it and the Centre also cannot implement it. Instead of compensating Andhra Pradesh for financial issues, the Centre is giving step motherly treatment towards the State of Andhra Pradesh. I request the Government to take note of these issues and give the people of Andhra Pradesh what they rightfully are entitled to. The Government has allocated almost 25 per cent of the supplementary grants to the tune of Rs.1.09 lakh crore for fertilizer subsidy. Of this, almost one-fourth is geared towards the import of fertilizers. My point is, India should be self-sufficient in terms of agriculture and agricultural needs using the *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. The Centre has been unable to meet the fertilizer production targets. We have numerous fertilizer PSUs in the country that can take up the challenge. Instead, the Central Government plans to privatize as many as eight fertilizer PSUs. These PSUs collectively made a net profit of thousand crores during the pandemic year, 2020-21. But The Government is planning to privatise these profit making PSUs. My last point is about vacancies. There are almost 40 lakh vacancies, and out of sanctioned strength of 40 lakhs, there are almost 10 lakh vacancies in Central Government Departments and Ministries. This means that one out of every four posts is vacant. During the current year, only 1.5 lakh appointments have been made by the Central Government. In conclusion, I would like to say that, there is no doubt that Indian economy is resilient. We have survived global recessions and a worldwide pandemic. With this, we support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE: Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar has demanded about giving special status to the state and he has also demanded caste census. There is flood in Bihar, he has demanded funds for that also. I understand that our demands are not being met due to paucity of funds. I demand from the Government that we should fulfill the demands of the people. We are talking about the Appropriation Bill. And your organizations are demanding minimum support price and regarding organic farming. We want to do organic farming in the whole country. The farmers of our country are spraying glyphosate in large quantities by spending a lot of money of the Government, which is affecting the health of the people. Similarly, technology is being brought from America to spray Glufosinate, a herbicide which is increasing the unemployment of rural women, in large

quantities, which is affecting the health of the people . Government money should not be spent on these things.

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***Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.