

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, February 09, 2023 / Magha 20, 1944 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to Ensure Proper Implementation of MGNREGA

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: I am concerned with regard to the miseries of the MGNREGA workers. Those people work and also create wealth for the country. I believe that their sorrows and livelihoods should be taken care of by this Government. There are around 2,78,342 panchayats in the country that are covered under MGNREGA. The Government is trying to kill that project. Only 60,000 crore rupees has been allocated for that scheme. That amount will not be enough to maintain this scheme for the poor people. Thousands of those workers came to the National Capital for a struggle. Their demand was to enhance the working days to 200 in a year and the minimum wage to Rs.700. Today, they are getting only Rs.217 a day. A family can not live in this meager amount. I request the Government that the working days be increased to 200 days in a year and their minimum wages should be Rs.700 per day.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Issue of Weaving Industry in Country

SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI: I wish to express the pain of the weaving society and the industry associated with it. The weaving industry is the second largest employment generator in the country after agriculture. Lakhs of families in several cities of the country are dependent on this industry for their livelihood. That industry is in pathetic condition today. The power loom industry accounts for about 60 percent of the entire textile industry, but the Government has left this industry unaided. The capital subsidy of this industry has also been stopped. GST imposed on yarn is causing fluctuation in the entire yarn market. The fluctuation in the yarn market has shown that the Government has no control over it. Due to which this industry is getting destroyed. Dumping from China via Nepal and Bangladesh has further aided in the destruction of this industry. Bhiwandi has the maximum number of power looms in the whole of Asia, but due to the Government apathy, more than two lakh power loom machines were sold as scrap. Today weavers in Banaras are forced to work in brickkilns. The Government has kept the GST limit at Rs 20 lakh. I request that the GST limit should be raised to at least Rs 50 lakh.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

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

3. Issuance of Commemorative Stamp on Centenary Celebration of HH Maharaja Rajagopala Thondaiman of Pudukottai, Who First Signed Instrument of Accession

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA: My home town Pudukkottai was the first princely State that signed the Instrument of Accession on 3rd March, 1948 after Independence. Raja Sri Rajagopala Tondaiman Bahadur was the first King who signed the Instrument of Accession with independent India. He selflessly donated his Royal Palace for the functioning of the District Collectorate at the request of the then Chief Minister. He also served as the President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, Kodaikanal Boat Club and the Rowing Club. His Highness Raja was honoured with many royal medals by the Government. He died on 16th January, 1997 at the age of 74. During the last years of his life, he shunned away marriage to serve the people and lived a saint-like life. To commemorate the Centenary of His Highness Raja Sri Rajagopala Tondaiman Bahadur and considering His legacy, magnanimity, and simplicity, I request the Government to release a commemorative postal stamp recognizing his service to the unity of our nation.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Demand for Starting Air Services from Belgavi Airport

SHRI IRANNA KADADI: Belgavi Airport was built in 1942 by the Royal Air Force. In 2018, five airlines were identified to connect Belgavi to 13 cities under 'UDAN-III'. Before the implementation of the 'UDAN' scheme, 1,176 flights operated from Belgavi with a passenger load of 74,041 per year. Belgavi Airport was also awarded with the Champion of UDAN. The period of assistance given to Belgavi airport under 'UDAN Yojana' will end in 2023. At present, many airlines may stop their services due to lack of assistance and some airlines have also stopped their services. In addition, flights were cancelled for some other reasons. Belgavi is the second largest district of Karnataka. This district is situated on the border of the three states of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. Belgavi is also very important from the administrative point of view.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Need for New and Reformed Wealth and Inheritance Tax Law on India's Richest Population

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: As per the recent reports, 5 percent of Indians own 60 percent of the wealth. The problem is that 50 percent of the people own only three percent of the wealth. When the income of people was decreasing during Corona, then the number of rich in our country was increasing. Till 1985, there was a system of wealth and inheritance tax in our country. This is the system in many economies of the world. After this small progressive tax, we will have such a huge wealth that we will not have to see the deficit. The Government would be in a position to take all the measures towards the welfare of the people. I would urge that such taxation should be arranged so that meaningful initiatives in the field of health and education could be taken.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Rising Road Accidents and Deaths Caused Due to Over Speeding and Rash Driving

SHRI BRIJLAL: I want to draw your attention to section 304A of IPC. This section is applied in the caeses of deaths caused in an accident. In the cases of accident, there is a punishment of 2 years and bail is granted from the police station itself. I request you to amend section 304A and add a section 304AA to it. If a person causes an accident while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, and while joy riding, and using electronic devices, then his responsibility increases. Therefore, the provision of punishment should also be more stringent and the fine should also be increased in such cases, which can be given to the family of the deceased. My request is that under section 304A there should be a minimum 7 years of imprisonment, the fine should be more and that fine should be given to the family of the deceased.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need to Improve Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity in Rural Areas of Odisha

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: As per the latest report of TRAI the overall tele-density of Odisha is 75.23 per cent which is within the bottom five States of India. The national average is 85.11 per cent. So you can imagine the kind of denial of digital services to the people staying in this region. Within this, the rural tele-density is only 62.73 per cent and internet density is 34.51 per cent. All these statistics give one particular picture that the rural people of Odisha have no benefit from the extension of digital revolution in the country. The KBK region has seven aspirational districts. In this region, 10,000 villages have no internet connectivity, no tele-density. 6,278 villages are still without mobile access or connectivity. In this kind of a scenario, it was envisaged to install mobile towers and there was a proposal for it, but there is no timeline given for completion of these projects. Under the Bharat-Net Project, the fund that had been demanded by the Government of Odisha has not been released. What is concerning is that the Centre's recent Budget Estimates is 26 per cent less than the Budget Estimates of last year and 37 per cent less than the Revised Estimates. I urge upon the Government to have a concerted effort in completing this project and ensure that the tele-density and internet connectivity increases in rural part of Odisha.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Poor Air Quality in Cities of Mumbai and Pune and Need for Robust Health Infrastructure to Address Problem

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: The air quality of cities like Mumbai and Pune has dropped to very poor level. This is the result of the north-easterly and the easterly wind flow which carries pollutants and moisture with it. A more or less similar situation is there throughout the State. It has also worried the doctors about a rise in cases of respiratory tract infections, bronchial asthma and heart issues. These pollutants could either be from dust or pollen or from vehicular emissions. Therefore, a robust mechanism to combat factors that lead to air pollution must be put in place.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Need for Government Intervention to Redress Issue of Paddy Farmers in Kerala

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to the impending crisis faced by the paddy farmers in Kerala. The State Corporation had procured Rs.482 crores worth of paddy but, unfortunately, only Rs.45 crores have been paid to them. The Union Government should make the due payment of about Rs.580 crores to the paddy farmers of Kerala. This Government's priority ought to be to ensure that every one out of 140 crore people of the country should not live without food and to ensure that not a single youth stays without employment. In Kerala, the paddy farmers are facing grave injustice and if the Union Government gives this Rs.580 crore, it will be a great blessing.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need to Protect Rights of Patients in Private Hospitals in Country

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: Right to health is now considered an inseparable part of the right to life and is inherent to life with dignity. Despite constitutional provisions of the right to health care, private hospitals deal with citizens callously and violate their basic rights. Certain cases have been brought to light where patients have been tied to the bed by the hospital administration for non-payment of bills and doctors ignored the patients' health by showing negligence in their treatment. As per a court ruling, no hospital can hold a patient under any circumstances even if it is a case of non-payment of bills. Moreover, it is also unambiguously mentioned in the charter of patients' rights prepared by the NHRC that the patient has the right to be discharged and a patient can't be held by the authority of the hospital under any circumstances.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Delay in Disbursement of Funds Overdue to West Bengal

DR. SANTANU SEN: The documents of West Bengal government show that there was a due of Rs. 1,96,800 crores payable to the state by the central government. Since then, only a meagre amount has been cleared. As far as PM Awas Yojana is concerned we were supposed to get the first instalment for more than 11,33,000 houses till date. As far as MGNREGA is concerned, we have seen that there has been a reduction of budgetary allocation by 33 per cent though it is the largest social welfare project. Though West Bengal happens to be one of the best performing states, but West Bengal has been facing financial blockage from the Government of India. I urge the Government to kindly clear the dues for the social welfare projects which is due for it.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Increasing Violence against Health Workers

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Healthcare workers comprising of doctors, nurses and hospital staff are a vital part of the society and they work selflessly. But these health workers face frequent violence in their workplace. They face not only physical violence but also damage to the hospital's clinical establishments. I urge upon the Government that it should proactively work towards ensuring a safe environment for the health workers.

Additionally, these offences should be made as non-bailable. At present, these cases are dealt with only by very lenient IPC sections. Twenty one States and Union Territories already have a law in place in this regard, but we need a law at the Union level to have uniformity. The increasing frequency of cases may shatter the doctor-patient relationship. I urge the Government to introduce legislation in their favour which will instill confidence in the minds of medical fraternity.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Need to compensate farmers of Rajasthan Adversely Affected by Recent Hailstorm under Fasal Bima Yojana

SHRI RAJENDRA GEHLOT: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the loss of crops due to hailstorm in my state Rajasthan. Farmers have been hit the hardest by the hailstorm in Rajasthan. This has had a profound impact on the livelihood and economy of the farmers. Even after repeatedly demanding from the Rajasthan government to assess the extent of crop loss, they are not getting help. Therefore, I would urge the Government to take cognizance of this matter and ensure suitable compensation to the affected farmers for their crop loss under 'Prime Minister's Crop Insurance' on urgent basis to provide relief to them.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Fauzia Khan and Dr. Santanu Sen associated.)

14. Need to Ensure Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers

DR. V. SIVADASAN: The highest number of workers in India is in the agriculture sector. But, the condition of agricultural workers in our country is pathetic. They are not getting proper wages and they don't have enough employment in their villages. Some states like Kerala are introducing some welfare measures for agricultural workers. Kerala is giving Rs. 1,600 per month pension for an agricultural worker. Why is it not implemented in other states like UP, Gujarat and others? The Union Government should take the initiative to implement pension for agricultural workers. Educational and health facilities for the children of the farmers in villages are also in a very bad shape. So, for upliftment of agricultural workers, intervention of the Union Government is very necessary. In each and every village, the Government should arrange for health care centres for agricultural workers.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Need to include Lepcha Language in Eighth Schedule of Constitution

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: I would like to draw the kind attention of this august House that Lepcha is a Himalayish language spoken by the Lepcha people in Sikkim and parts of West Bengal, namely, in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. UNESCO lists Lepcha as an endangered language. Lepcha is considered to be one of the indigenous languages of the areas in which it is spoken. The Lepcha people have their own indigenous script. I humbly urge the august House to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister to include the long-pending demand of the Lepcha people to include their

language in the Eighth Schedule. This will ensure preservation and growth of this rich language.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

16. Need to Popularise Ayurveda and Yoga in Rural Areas of Country

DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE: India is a country of villages and has the traditional medicine system, that is Ayurveda. The people across the country are following traditional Indian medical system of AYUSH. Ayurveda, which is called the science of life, plays an important role in maintaining physical well-being. In India, about 70 per cent of the rural population depends on the traditional ayurvedic system of medicine. Therefore, the Government should aim to promote ayurveda and yoga as disciplines to help lead a healthy life. I would also like to know whether the Government has prepared or is distributing authentic publicity material on ayurveda and yoga. The Ministry of AYUSH should devise mechanisms for centralized data collection and real-time monitoring with the States and UTs. I wish that more attention is paid towards this system.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

17. Undue Hardships Caused by Toll Plazas

SHRI P. WILSON: I rise to bring to the kind attention of this august House the issue relating to abolishing of toll plazas on National Highways across the country. I made a Special Mention in this august House requesting the abolition of toll plazas across the country. It is causing hardships, financial burden to people who have no choice but to use the toll roads. It is a pan India problem. There are more than 1,000 toll plazas in India. There are toll plazas where the public is compelled to pay toll for incomplete facilities at exorbitant rates. There is no independent regulatory authority that determines the toll fees. The formula adopted to justify periodical increase of toll fees is highly unscientific and is highly arbitrary. I urge the Government to look into this matter urgently.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

18. Severe Crisis Faced by Fishermen Community in the Country

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: There are about 28 million people in the country who rely on fishing for their livelihood. In Kerala itself, there are about 11 lakh fishermen. The livelihood of the fishermen community is getting hampered due to erratic weather conditions, cyclonic storms, coastal erosion, excess tourism and developmental projects which has led to large-scale displacement of the fishing community. As the tribal communities have rights over forest resources recognized by the Forest Rights Act, 2006, similarly, the fishermen community had traditional rights over marine resources. But there are no laws currently in place to protect their rights. I would urge the Government to come up with a suitable legislation in line with Forest Rights Act to recognise the rights of fishing community over marine resources.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - *Contd.*

DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE: I have got an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. A tremendous growth is happening in the country. Our heritage has been appreciated in the West for the last 50 years. There is a growing attraction towards Indian philosophy and spirituality in the West. The present Government is focussing to preserve our heritage and culture. Recently, I had been to Kashi and saw the transformation there. It was truly incredible. Today, we feel proud that our heritage is not being neglected. So many of our people in the South wonder how this transformation can happen. Today, our youngsters with modern outlook are also very proud of our past. They have television, internet connections and social media. Moreover, the Government is also encouraging them to venture into all educational fields, ranging from Engineering and Medical to common education in schools. The village schools are getting a special assistance. It is also heartening to note that our spiritual places are also preaching spirituality along with modern knowledge. To promote the national unity, 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' is the message, given by the hon'ble Prime Minister. Even the languages are not separating us; they are uniting us. Hon'ble Prime Minister has done a lot to popularise Yoga and Ayurveda at national and global level. The people have become more health conscious. Instead of preparing for pharmacy, we are preparing for a good health. A drugless society is being created. Today, natural farming is encouraged and traditional millet crops are also very much encouraged. We are into this field for the last 15 years. With adequate incentives and inspiration, our farmers are willing to grow millets. The people are being all possible facilities in cities and village alike. Presently, *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* is being celebrated in every district. At the same time, hundreds of modern Vande Bharat trains are also being launched. We are ushering into a new era of progress and development. The action oriented approach is paying rich dividends. Certainly, the future will be better and today is the best foundation for the tomorrow.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI), while replying to the discussion, said: Mr. Chairman, by participating in the ongoing discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Hon'ble President's Address, I respectfully thank and congratulate the Hon'ble President. While addressing both the Houses, Hon'ble President presented a blueprint of a developed India and a road-map for the resolution of a developed India. I express my gratitude to her for her contribution and guidance to the country and also to all the Members who participated in this discussion and tried to expand the discussion according to their imagination. Therefore, I thank all the respected Members who took part in the discussion of the House. Hon'ble Chairman, this House is the Council of States. In the past decades, many intellectuals have given direction and guided the country through this House. There are many friends present in this House who have achieved numerous feats in their personal lives. They have also great accomplishments to their credit in their personal life and that is why whatever is deliberated upon in this House, the country listens to it and takes it very seriously. But Mr. Chairman, it is also unfortunate that the behavior of some Members and expressions used by them in such an important House, have disappointed not only the House but also the country. I would only like to say to the

hon'ble Members having this type of disposition and attitude that they have expressed their views and I am expressing mine. Anyway, it is good. The more mud you throw, the more lotus will bloom. That's why I express my gratitude to them for their direct or indirect contribution in making the lotus bloom. Hon'ble Chairman, yesterday our senior colleague from the opposition respected Shri Kharge Ji said that they were building a strong foundation in sixty years. He said this yesterday. His complaint was that they had laid the foundation and Modi was taking the credit for it. But when we formed the Government in 2014, I tried to observe things closely and also tried to get first hand information. Then I saw that the Congress family for 60 years, may be their intention was to build a strong foundation, I do not want to comment on that, but coming after 2014, I saw that they had made potholes all over the places. Their intention would have been to build the foundation, but they only made pits. While they were digging pits, they wasted six decades. At that time even the smallest countries of the world were touching the heights of success and moving forward. They had such a good atmosphere that time that from Panchayat to Parliament, they were calling the shots. The country also supported them blindly with many hopes and expectations. But they developed such a working style, developed such a culture, due to which they never thought of a permanent solution to a single challenge, nor they understood and nor did they ever try. There would be a lot of commotion, they would touch upon a few things, do tokenism and then go on. It was their responsibility to solve problems. The people of the country were struggling with the problems, the people of the country were seeing that the solution of the problem can bring huge benefits. But their priorities were different, their intentions were different and because of that nothing was tried for a permanent solution. The identity of our Government has been created because of our hard work. Due to the steps taken one after the other. Today, we are moving forward towards a permanent solution. We are not the type of people to run away from one issue to another. But we are moving forward by emphasizing on permanent solutions to the basic needs of the country. If I take the example of water, there was a time when a hand pump was installed in a village, then it was celebrated for a whole week. And with that tokenism, the objectives were met in the name of water facilities. Yesterday a reference was being made here about Gujarat. You will be surprised that as proud as they were of winning the maximum number of seats, a Chief Minister went to inaugurate a water tank in a city and that was the headline news on the front page. It means the country had witnessed what the culture of tokenism of problems was and how these problems were avoided. We have also adopted ways to solve the water problem. We paid attention to every aspect like water conservation and water irrigation. We connected the public with the 'Catch the Rain' campaign. Not only this, before independence till now, till our Government came, only 3 crore houses used to get tap water. In the last three-four years, today 11 crore houses are getting tap water. The water problem is a problem of many families in India. Life cannot go on without it. Keeping in view the possibilities of the future, we have chosen the way to solve it. I want to go to dwell upon one more issue as well. This subject is empowerment of common people. The banks were nationalized with an aim that the poor should get the right to banking. Such excuses were made. But more than half of the people of this country could not reach the door of the bank. We found a permanent solution and started a campaign for 'Jan Dhan Account'. We motivated the banks and took them on board. In the

last 9 years alone, 48 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts were opened. Of these, 32 crore bank accounts are opened in rural areas and towns. An attempt was made to take the example of progress to the villages of the country. Yesterday, Kharge ji was complaining that Modi ji repeatedly comes to my constituency. He was saying that Modi ji comes to Kalburgi. I just want to tell Kharge ji that I come over there. Before complaining about it, kindly see that 1 crore 70 lakh *Jan Dhan bank accounts* have been opened in Karnataka. Not only this, more than 8 lakh Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in his area, Kalburgi. Now you tell that so many bank accounts are opened, so much empowerment is done, people become so aware and if someone's account is closed after so many years, then I can understand his pain. Today, his pain is visible again and again and I am surprised that sometimes he even says that a Dalit has been defeated. The public of the same area is omnipotent, who gave victory to another Dalit. Now the public is rejecting you, removing you, closing your account and you are crying here. The Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile - this is the trinity. It has transferred Rs. 27 lakh crore directly to the bank accounts of the citizens of this country in the last few years under the 'Direct Benefit Transfer' scheme, transferred to the accounts of the stakeholders. I am happy that due to the use of 'Direct Benefit Transfer' technology, this country's wealth of more than Rs 2 lakh crores, which used to go into wrong hands in an eco-system, has been saved. It has done a great service to the country. I know that this hue and cry is very natural for the eco-system whose followers and disciples used to get such benefits to the tune of two lakh crore rupees. Earlier in our country, stalling, postponing and diverting projects had become a part of their work culture. This had become their *modus operandi*. There was a loss of hard earned money of honest taxpayers. We created a technology platform. We came up with the 'PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan' and now 1,600 layers of data are working to expedite infrastructure projects. The plans which used to take months to prepare are now taken forward within weeks as we understand the importance of infrastructure for building a modern India. We understand the importance of scale as well as the importance of speed and through technology, we are trying to realise the permanent solutions and permanent aspirations.

Whenever someone forms the government, he comes with the promise of doing something for the country, with the promise of doing something good for the people, but mere expression of feelings does not help. You can say that we want this, we want that, as it used to be called - Garibi Hatao. Four decades have passed, nothing happened, so the speed of development, the intention of development, the direction of development, the effort for development, and the result matters a lot. You just keep saying that we also used to do something, this would not help much. When we work hard for the needs of the people on the basis of their priorities, then the pressure on us also increases, we have to work harder, we have to toil harder. But as Mahatma Gandhi used to say - *shreya* and *preya*, so we have chosen the path of *shreya*. We have not chosen the path of rest. If we have to work hard, we will do it, if we have to spend day and night, we will spend, but we will not let any harm to people's aspirations. We will continue to work for their aspirations to be converted into achievements and for the country to complete the journey of development. We are the people who carry these dreams and we have done it.

The country became independent, since then till 2014 there were 14 crore LPG connections and there was a demand from the people, people used to go to the MPs to get LPG connections. At that time, the demand in 14 crore households was less, the pressure was also less, you did not have to spend for getting gas, you had to make arrangements to deliver gas. People kept waiting, but the work was not done. We came and decided that we will give LPG connection to every household. We knew we were doing this, so we had to work hard. We knew that we would have to spend money. We knew that we would have to bring gas from all over the world. Despite knowing the possibility of all this pressure, our priority was the citizens of our country. Our priority was the common people of our country, so we provided gas connections to more than 32 crore families. We had to set up new infrastructure, we had to spend money. From this one example, you can understand how hard we must have worked, but we worked with joy, with satisfaction, with pride. I am glad that the common man got his satisfaction. What can be a greater satisfaction for a government than this?

Even after several decades of independence, there were more than 18,000 villages in this country which did not have access to electricity. These villages were mostly villages of our tribal settlements, villages of people living on our mountains, tribal villages, villages of North-East, but it did not fit into their electoral calculus, hence it was not their priority. .

We knew that they had given up these difficult tasks. We said, we are not the ones who make way on smooth surface, we are the ones who make ways on stones, we will take up this challenge as well. We took a pledge to electrify every village and within the time-limit, we electrified 18,000 villages. By doing that challenging work, there was a feeling of a new life in the villages. They developed, but the biggest thing was that their faith in the system of the country increased and faith is a great power. When the faith of the citizens of the country is built, then it turns into a power which is millions and millions more times. We have won that trust. We worked hard, we had to work hard, but I am happy that after so many years of independence, a new ray of hope has appeared in those remote villages, a sense of satisfaction has manifested and today we are getting those blessings.

During earlier governments, electricity was available for a few hours only. It used to appear that electricity is there. If a pillar was put in the middle of the village, they used to celebrate its anniversary every year that the pillar was put up on this date. Today, not only the electricity is available there, but we have also been successful in our effort to provide electricity for an average of 22 hours in the country. We had to install new transmission lines for this purpose. We had to work for new energy production. We had to go towards solar energy. We had to find many areas of renewable energy. We did not leave people to their fate. We didn't think about political gains or losses. We chose the path to make the future of the country bright. We increased the pressure on ourselves. People's demand started increasing, pressure started increasing. We chose the path of hard work and today the country is seeing its results. The country is achieving heights of progress in the field of energy.

We have taken a very courageous step in the *Amrit Kaal*. I know it is not easy, we will have to work hard and we have chosen the path of saturation, so that 100 per cent benefits reach the beneficiaries of each scheme, without any hindrance. I say that if there is true secularism then this is it, and the government has started walking on that path with great sincerity. We have taken the resolution of saturation in the *Amrit Kaal*. This is the resolution of the BJP-NDA government to reach 100 per cent beneficiaries. This 100 per cent thing, this saturation thing is the solution to many problems of the country, it is not only the solution to the problems of the citizen, but it is also the solution to the country's problems. We are coming up with such a new work culture, which is the way to remove all these differences between mine-yours, ours-theirs in the country and this is the path of saturation that we have come up with.

Reaching saturation means eliminating all scope for discrimination. When there is discrimination, there is a possibility of corruption. If someone tells someone to hurry up, then he says that if you give me this much, I will do it quickly. But if you want to reach 100 per cent, then he believes that even if it does not reach him this month, it will reach him after three months, but will definitely reach. This builds confidence. It ends the fears of appeasement, like so-and-so caste will get it, so-and-so family will get it, so-and-so village will get it, so-and-so community will get it, so-and-so religious community will get it, it ends all the apprehensions of appeasement. It completely destroys the tendency to give benefits on the basis of selfishness. And the protection of the rights of the last person in the society, who is standing in the last line, whom Mahatma Gandhiji always advocated, is included in it and we ensure that. The meaning of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is that 100 per cent of their rights should reach them.

When the government machinery aims to reach every eligible person, then discrimination, favoritism etc. cannot survive. That's why this 100 per cent service campaign of ours is a very powerful medium of social justice. This is the real guarantee of social justice, this is true secularism. We are giving the country a model of development in which all the stakeholders get their due. The country is with us. The country is repeatedly rejecting the Congress, but the Congress and its allies do not desist from their conspiracies. The public is watching this and has been punishing them at every opportunity. Pick up any decade from the year 1857 till the freedom struggle of our country, pick up any land of India and see, the contribution of tribals of my country in the freedom struggle of my country is full of golden pages. The country is proud that my tribal brothers had understood the greatness of freedom, but for decades my tribal brothers were deprived of development and the bridge of faith was never built, systems full of apprehensions were created and in the minds of those youth, questions kept arising about the governments again and again. If they had worked with the right intention, had worked with good intention, had worked with dedication towards the welfare of the tribals, then today in the third decade of 21st century, I would not have to work so hard, but they did not work hard.

During Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's government, for the first time in this country, a separate ministry was formed for the development of tribals, for the first time a separate budget was allocated for the welfare and development of tribals. We have identified 110

districts as aspirational districts. It is equally necessary to provide justice to those who have been left behind in development, those who have been left behind in social justice and geographically. More than half of these 110 aspirational districts are areas where majority of the population is tribal, where my tribal brothers and sisters live.

Today, more than three crore tribal brothers have got direct benefit from this and there has been a change in their lives. There has been unprecedented improvement in education, health, infrastructure in these areas because we have specially focused on 110 districts and we are monitoring them regularly. Here, some of our hon'ble members had mentioned about the Tribal Sub Plan. I request such friends to spare some time and take the help of an educated person, who can study the budget, explain a little, then you will come to know that there has been an increase of five times more in the budget allocation for the Scheduled Tribes Component Fund as compared to 2014. Before the year 2014, when they were in power, the allocation used to be around 20-25 thousand crore rupees. It is not very old. It was only 20-25 thousand crore rupees. Today, they are coming here and making noise. We have made a provision of Rs. 1 lakh, 20 thousand crore this year. We have sanctioned 500 new Eklavya Model Schools in the last nine years for the bright future of our tribal brothers and sisters, for the bright future of their children and this is a four times increase. Not only this, this time we have made a provision in this budget for the recruitment of 38 thousand new teachers staff in schools. I just want to draw your attention towards the Forest Rights Act. From the time the country became independent and before our arrival in 2014, 14 lakh land leases were given to the tribal families. In the last seven-eight years, we have given 7 lakh new leases. This is an extraordinary work done. Before we arrived, 23,000 community leases were given. More than 80,000 community leases have been given since we arrived. If they had done something instead of playing with the sentiments of the tribals by showing lip sympathy, I would not have to work so hard today. This work would have been done comfortably earlier, but it was not in their priorities.

Their economic policy, their social policy, their politics continued on the basis of vote bank and because of that, the basic strength of the society, the potential which increases the economic activity of the country due to self-employment, they always ignored it.

To them, they seemed so small, so scattered that they had no value to them. Those who are engaged in small work and contribute something or the other to the society through self-employment without becoming a burden on the society, were neglected. These crores of people engaged in small work were forgotten. I am proud that my government has taken care of the street vendors and people doing business on the footpath. We have taken care of those poor people, whose lives were destroyed due to interest payment, they had to pay the whole day's earning by going to the house of usurer, we worried about those street vendors, carts and street vendors. Not only this, our Vishwakarma community who play a role in building the society, who keep on creating something or the other with the help of their hand tools, fulfill the needs of the society in a huge way, whether it is our Banjara community, our nomadic castes, we have taken care of

them. Whether it is 'PM Swanidhi Yojana' or 'PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana', through these we have worked for the strength of these people of the society and have worked to increase their potential.

What has happened to the farmers of this country. The process of taking care of some upper class and running their politics with them continued. The true strength of this country's agriculture lies in the small farmers. 80-85 percent of people with one acre or two acres of land belong to this class. These small farmers were neglected, there was no one to listen to their voice. Our government focused on small farmers. We linked small farmers with formal banking. Today, thrice a year, 'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi' is directly deposited in the account of the small farmer. Not only this, we also linked cattle keepers with banks. We have also linked fishermen with banks and increased their economic capability by giving them interest subvention, so that they can develop their business, change their crop pattern, stop their produced goods and take them to the market after getting a fair price. We have worked in this direction.

We know that there are many farmers in our country who have to depend on rain water. Previous governments have not made arrangements for irrigation. These small farmers, who depend on rain water, cultivate coarse grains and there is no water. We have given special place to these farmers who cultivate coarse grains. We wrote to the UN to celebrate Millet Year. We want that there should be a branding of India's millets in the world, marketing should be done and in a well thought out way now the millets should be known as 'Shri Anna', and just like the glory of Shrifal, Shri Anna should be glorified, and the small farmers who produce them get fair prices, get global market, a change occur in crop pattern in the country. Not only this, this millet is a super food, a great powerhouse of nutrition. This will also be useful in solving the problem of nutrition for the new generation of our country, and will also strengthen our small farmers.

We have also developed many new options in fertilizers also, and we are also getting their benefits. I believe that when there is an increase in the involvement of mothers and sisters in the decision-making process, the results are better, quicker and more achievable. That's why for the increased participation of mothers and sisters, for including them in the decision making process with us, our government has given priority to the development of women's leadership regarding women empowerment. One of our hon'ble members said in the House that by providing toilets, will the development of women take place? May be, their attention is only on the toilet, it could be their problem, but I want to tell and I feel proud, because I have come from the State, I have lived in the village. I am proud that I have given respect to my mothers and sisters by building 11 crore toilets, I am proud of it. Now let us look at the life cycle of our mothers, sisters and daughters. I would also like to draw attention to how sensitive our government is for the empowerment of mothers and sisters, and those who were stuck thinking only about the toilet, they should listen with an open ear, so that it will be convenient for them to tell this later. To ensure that the child gets nutritious food during pregnancy, we have started the "Matritva Vandana Yojana", so that money goes directly to the bank account of the woman during pregnancy, so that her nutrition benefits the health of the child in her womb. Institutional

delivery is a solution to get rid of the serious problem of maternal mortality and infant mortality. We have decided to spend money for institutional delivery of the poorest of the poor mother, for the birth of the child in the hospital, and for this we also launched a comprehensive campaign and its results are also visible. We know that due to one or the other psychological reason, the tendency to kill daughters in the mother's womb itself had increased. It was a stigma for the society. We started 'Beti Bachao Abhiyan' and today I am happy that the number of daughters is increasing as compared to the number of sons born. This is a matter of satisfaction for us because we have done the work of protecting the daughters. When the daughter grows up, she goes to school and due to lack of toilets, she leaves the school in fifth, sixth grade. We removed that concern as well and made separate toilets for girls in the schools, so that my girls do not have to leave the school, we addressed this concern. To ensure that the education of the daughter continues, we have made arrangements for ensured education for the daughters by giving more interest in "Sukanya Samridhi Yojana", so that the family also encourages them. When the daughter grows up to earn a living, to become independent she can take a loan from Mudra Yojana without any guarantee. We have done this. I am happy that 70 per cent of the beneficiaries of "Mudra Yojana" are our mothers and daughters.

To enable women to continue working even after becoming a mother, we have increased the period of maternity leave, which is more than some of the developed countries. We have opened Sainik schools for girls. Not only this, our daughters are not weak, they are strong, they want to join the army, they want to become officers, so we have opened the doors of the army for women. Today I feel proud when a daughter of my country is deployed in Siachen to protect Mother India. To increase employment opportunities for women in villages, we encouraged women self-help groups and increased the amount received from banks. Mothers, daughters and sisters were given gas connections through 'Ujjwala Yojana' so that they do not suffer from wood smoke. We started a campaign to provide water from taps to their homes, so that they do not have to travel many kilometres to get drinking water. Through 'Saubhagya Yojana', electricity was provided to poor families. Women often do not tell their problems fearing that their family will be in debt for their treatment. By giving Ayushman card to them, we have opened a way for the treatment of their serious disease in the hospitals. Daughters should have right of property, for it, the right of a daughter in the accommodation given by the Government was ensured. Jan Dhan accounts were opened for women empowerment so that they can keep their small savings safe in banks. It is a matter of pride that this budget session was commenced by woman President and the budget session was formally started with the speech of the woman Finance Minister. The country have never seen such a coincidence before, and it will be our endeavour to see such auspicious opportunities in the future as well. If the country has to be modern, then we cannot deny the power of science and technology to fulfil new resolutions. But we do not believe in tokenism. We are making efforts in every direction and taking many initiatives to take the country forward in the field of science and technology. We made Atal Tinkering Labs for the development of scientific temperament in childhood, in which we give opportunity to the children of school level. If the child makes some progress, then we have set up Atal

Incubation centres to give him the right environment, so that his invention can be used to convert into technology. Policies were changed to get results in the progress of science. We have fulfilled the dream of private participation in the space sector and I am happy that, today the youth of my country have the strength to launch a private satellite. In the world of start-ups, which is basically related to science and technology only, we have reached at the third number in the world in terms of number of unicorns. Today the youth of my country are coming forward in registering maximum number of patents. Our government has shown the power of Aadhaar. Experts associated with Aadhaar have also said that the importance of Aadhaar was understood after 2014 and that hard work is now paying off. We have seen that in the Covid era, 200 crore vaccinations certificates were issued from the Covin platform and the certificate of Covin comes on your mobile in a second. The world was surprised when India came with its vaccine for Covid. People of the World were putting many types of pressure to sell their vaccines, because we have a huge market here. Articles were written, T.V. Interviews were given, seminars were conducted. Not only this, efforts were made till yesterday to defame the scientists of my country. Today, people in the world have got protection with this vaccine due to the efforts of the scientists of my own country. We have worked to cater to the needs of not only our countrymen, but to the needs of the people of 150 countries.

These people are against science and technology. Our country is emerging as a force in the world of pharmacy. Our youth are making new inventions, but these people are finding ways to defame them. They are not worried about the country, rather they are worried about their political ups and downs. This is the misfortune of the country. When I was in Bali, the G-20 countries were eager to understand Digital India. Its success has impressed the entire world. India is leading the world in digital transactions today. We are happy that the countrymen today have more than 100 crore mobile phones. Earlier we used to import mobiles, but today mobiles are being exported. Today the country is adopting and expanding all kinds of technologies like 5G, AI, IoT at a very fast pace. We have changed the policy so that the drones can be used in daily life and for the benefit of common citizens. Today, medicines are being delivered to remote areas of the country through drones, farmers, after taking training, are using drones in the fields. We have opened the doors of the geospatial sector. We have provided an opportunity for the development and expansion of the possibilities of using drones. Today it is being discussed in the United Nations that people in the world do not have ownership rights of land and houses. We, in India have given villagers, the maps and ownership rights of their lands and houses with the help of drones, through the 'Svmitva scheme'. People have been given protection from the fear of court action or illegal occupation, if the house is closed. The world's only Forensic Science university is in our country. We have taken a new initiative in the field of infrastructure by setting up Gati Shakti University. We have created Energy University for new developments in the field of renewable energy. From now on, we are working towards preparing the youth in this field. Congress has left no stone unturned during its rule in hating Technocrats, Engineers and Science and we have left no stone unturned in honouring them during our tenure. This is our way.

Employment was also discussed here. I am surprised that those claiming to be in public life for a long time do not know that there is a difference between 'job' and 'employment'. In order to create new narratives, efforts are being made to spread lies by holding on to half-baked and incomplete things. Due to the expansion of the economies in the last 9 years, new possibilities of employment have increased in new sectors. The country is moving forward in the green economy, due to which many possibilities of green employment have come to the fore. The expansion of Digital India has also opened up a new sector of the digital economy, which has created many new employment opportunities. In the Service Sector, Digital India is on a new high. 5,00,000 common service centres have been opened in the villages. Two to five people earn their livelihood in each of these. Even in the common service centres of small villages in remote forests, all arrangements are made so that all the necessary facilities are available to the villagers at the click of a button. 90,000 registered start-ups have also opened new doors of employment. During the period of April to November, 2022, more than one crore people have been added to the EPFO payroll. More than 60,00,000 new employees have been benefited through 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana'. We have opened many sectors like space, defence, drones, mining, coal for our entrepreneurs under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission', which has created a new momentum in employment prospects. Our youth have come forward and taken advantage of all these opportunities. It is very important that our country becomes self-reliant in the field of defence. Today more than 350 private companies have come forward in the field of defence and the country have made exports of about one lakh crore rupees in this field. Unprecedented employment opportunities have also been created in this sector. From retail to tourism, every sector has expanded. The Khadi village industry associated with Mahatma Gandhi was also destroyed. After independence, the highest record sale in Khadi village industry has happened during the tenure of our government. There has been a record investment in infrastructure sector and employment opportunities have increased in all related sectors such as railways, roads, ports, airports, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and industries related to raw materials in these sectors. Everywhere new employment opportunities have been created for labourers, mechanics, engineers in construction work. This is the reason why today the youth is rejecting the people who had adopted anti-youth policy. Today the country is accepting the policies implemented by us for the welfare of the youth. Objection was also raised by some people regarding the names of the schemes of the government that Sanskrit is used in the names. People have a problem with this too! I had read in some newspaper, though I did not confirm it, that about 600 government schemes are named only after the Gandhi-Nehru family. If Nehru ji's name is not mentioned in any programme, some feel very offended. I am very surprised by this. If we ever miss Nehru ji's name, we will correct it because he was the first Prime Minister of the country. But I don't understand why anyone of his next generation is afraid of having the surname Nehru? What's the shame in it? Such a great person is not acceptable to you, is not acceptable to the family and you keep asking for our account!

Some people have to understand that this age-old country took a shape with the sweat and efforts of common men, it is a country built through the tradition of

generations of people, this country is not a property of any family. We have declared Khel Ratna award in the name of Major Dhyan Chand ji. We named the islands in Andaman after Netaji, Subhash Chandra Bose, after 'Swarajya', we are proud of it. The country is proud of the contribution of Netaji. Some people never miss a chance to humiliate our country's army, and we have named these islands after the Paramveer Chakra awardees. A peak in the Himalayas became Mount Everest for centuries to come, after a man named Everest! We have named our islands after our Param Vir Chakra awardees, the fighters of our country, this is our reverence. It hurts you and your pain is also being expressed, everyone will have different ways of expressing their pain, but our way is positive.

In a way, this House represents the glory of the states. We are also accused of causing trouble to the states. Having been the Chief Minister of the state for a long time, I understand the importance of federalism very well. That's why we have emphasized on cooperative competitive federalism. Let us compete and move forward, let us cooperate and move in that direction. In our policies, we have taken both national progress and regional aspirations into account. Together, we are on our way to fulfil the dream of a developed India by 2047. But those who are sitting in the opposition today, they had torn the rights of the states to shreds. Read the history and see which was the party which misused Article 356 the most. Elected governments were toppled 90 times. Not only this, a Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi used Article 356, 50 times. Those who are standing with them in Kerala today, just remember that the first leftist government was elected in Kerala, which Pandit Nehru did not like. Within no time, that first elected government was sent back to home.

Friends from DMK should also pay attention. In Tamil Nadu, the Governments of stalwarts like MGR and Karunanidhi were also dismissed by these same Congressmen. A senior member of this House is sitting behind, whom I always consider a respected leader – Mr. Sharad Pawar. In 1980 when the Young Chief Minister Sharad Pawar of 35-40 years of age wanted to serve Maharashtra, his government was also toppled. They harassed every regional leader. Some people here today must have changed their clothes, their names must have been changed in consultation with the astrologers, but once they were also with them. An attempt was made to topple NTR's government when he was gone to America for his treatment. This was the reality of the politics of the Congress. At that time, every newspaper used to write that the Raj Bhavans have become Congress offices. In 2005, the NDA had more seats in Jharkhand, but the Governor called the UPA for oath. In 1982, there was a pre-poll agreement between the BJP and Devi Lal in Haryana, despite that the governor sent an invitation to Congress to make government. These are the sins of the Congress and today they are talking about misleading the nation.

Now, I would like to pay attention to a serious matter. Today in the country, those who do not understand the economic policies and do not think about anything except politics round the clock, who think public life is only for playing the games of power, have converted economic policy into disaster policy. I want to warn them and I seriously ask them to explain to their respective state governments that they should not go on the wrong path. We are seeing the condition of our neighbouring countries. How countries have been

destroyed by taking unnecessary loans. Some states in our country also have adopted this policy to take loans for their immediate benefit and think that the future generations will pay.

They will destroy themselves, they will also destroy the country. They are getting buried under the debt. Today no one in the world is ready to provide them loan. They are going through troubles. There may be political and ideological differences, there can be comments about the parties, but do not play with the economic health of the country. Do not commit any such sin, which takes away the rights of your children. Enjoy yourself today and go away leaving the children in trouble- don't do like this. You might have found it politically convenient today. I have seen that a Chief Minister gave a statement that it is okay, I do take decisions, where will I face trouble now. It will be faced after 2030-32. Whoever comes later on will suffer. Does any country run like this? This attitude is a matter of great concern. For the economic health of the country, the states will also have to choose the path of discipline regarding their economic health. Only then those states will also be able to take advantage of this journey of development and we will also be able to do good to the citizens of their states. We want to benefit them. India should become a developed country by 2047 - this is the resolution of all of us, the resolution of 140 crore countrymen. Now the country is not ready to look back. The country is ready to take a long leap. You didn't pay attention to those who had the dream of two-time bread, we have paid attention to them. You didn't pay attention to the one who needed social justice, we paid attention to him. We have taken several steps to provide him those opportunities which he was looking for. We moved ahead with determination to fulfill the dream of independent India. The country is watching, one alone, is overshadowing so many. They have to be changed even for raising slogans. That too is a rule, but I have been withstanding the pressure of their uproar for an hour. I have a conviction. I live for the country, I have set out to do something for the country. That's why the people playing political games do not have that courage, they are searching for it and looking for the way to escape. Congratulating and thanking the President for her excellent, guiding and inspiring Address in this House, I conclude by expressing my gratitude to you too.

All the amendments were negatived.

The Motion of Thanks was adopted.

UNION BUDGET 2023-24

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: While referring to the Budget I wish to tell about the economic system as mentioned in Arthashastra written by Chanakya. (*speech unfinished*)

Discussion not concluded.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

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