

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, December 07, 2023/ Agrahayana 16, 1945 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Issue of Hate Speech in the Country

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Under Article 25 of the Constitution of India, all citizens have got a right to practice religion and belief according to their faith. But, due to the ambiguity of the law, it is being misused a lot. According to Section 295 of the Indian Penal Code, if someone's religion and belief is attacked or misused in a pre-planned manner, then a case can be filed against the accused under Section 153 of the Indian Penal Code. It is a matter of great concern that the increase in such cases every year has also been mentioned in the report of the Law Commission. In this, maximum number of cases have been registered in Uttar Pradesh. Today, we need to follow Gandhiji's principles to maintain social harmony instead of the 'Divide and Rule' policy of the British. Also, the Government should also make necessary amendments in the law to deal with these incidents.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Demand for Completion of Coastal Highway Project in Odisha

SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ: Odisha has a coastline of about 480 kilometres. It makes the infrastructural development of the coastal districts all the more important for the economy of the region. In 2015, the Central Government had announced a coastal highway project spanning 346 kilometres, connecting seven coastal districts of Odisha. However, it has been delayed. The necessary forest clearance and other things are awaited. The Government should come up with a Detailed Project Report (DPR) highlighting the status of implementation of the Project and the said projects must be completed, as soon as possible.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

**3. Need to Address the Problem of Preparing AADHAAR Card for Differently
abled Citizens**

DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI: There exists a grave situation in various parts of the country, including the Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh. Today, crores of disabled citizens are facing difficulty in making Aadhaar card due to the absence of thumb, fingers and eyes, due to which they are not able to fully avail the facilities provided by the Government, like Ayushman card, mobile connection, ration, pension, etc. Our Hon'ble Narendra Modi ji has a special affection towards the disabled people, hence he has resolved to celebrate 3rd December as 'International Disabled Day'. Therefore, I urge the

Government to give necessary directions to the Unique Identification Authority of India and by running a special campaign at every district level in the country, these disabled persons should be identified and Aadhaar cards should be issued to them.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Need to Protect Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites at the Holy Shrine Tirumala

DR. K. LAXMAN: Bharat happens to be the oldest living civilization in the world. Indian culture and traditions are closely linked to Sanatana Dharma. Its edifices, temples and monuments are spread across the nook and corner of India. The Tirumala is supposed to be the world's largest holy and spiritual place covered by seven hills. It consists of ancient monuments, temples and Mandapas constructed during the regime of Chola, Pallava, Vijayanagaram and Yadava kings. Recently, TTD has demolished an 800 years old Parveta Mandapa at Tirumala in the name of renovation. In a similar way, TTD is also trying to demolish Padala Mandapam at Alipiri in Tirupati. Even the opinion of ASI is not taken. The historical, cultural and traditional importance of these ancient temples in and around Tirumala and Tirupati is of national and international significance. Unfortunately, even the funds donated by Hindu devotees are being diverted for winning elections. The maintenance of temples is ignored, and the feelings of Sanatan Dharm followers are being hurt.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Vandalism at Sirhind Railway Station

DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL: Last month, a mob pelted stones and vandalized the station at Sirhind railway station in Punjab due to sudden cancellation of trains. A few days ago, a stampede occurred in Surat, Gujarat also. There people pelted stones at Vande Bharat and other trains. This issue is of utmost concern and puts the safety of railways and passengers at risk. According to the data, Railways has suffered a loss of property worth Rs 1,360 crore in the last 4 years. After studying the reasons for this, it is found that due to lack of facilities and chaos at the railway stations, the passengers react in such a wrong manner. Although, this is wrong. The Government of India had enacted a law in 1916 to develop accessible infrastructure for the disabled persons, on which no action has been taken till date. I request the Government to develop waiting rooms, toilets and good platforms at every station for the passengers and to run the trains on time. So that the dissatisfaction among the passengers can be prevented and the property of the Railways also remains safe.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Need to Address Challenges of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) Programme

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: The Ayushman Bharat, the PM-JAY, is a flagship programme of the Government. This noble initiative attempts to give a comprehensive health coverage to the poor people. After five years of its introduction, this programme is suffering from several challenges like, lack of awareness, uneven distribution of empanelled hospitals, shortage of healthcare, infrastructure and equipment, shortage of doctors and other human resources. The empanelled private hospitals are facing delay in reimbursement or payments. The CAG report also said that this scheme not only had invalid names and unrealistic date of births for lakhs of beneficiaries. It also figured issuance of duplicate beneficiary cards. Overall, it costs very dearly to the Central Government. It is also found that benefit of the scheme was extended to people who are

dead. Some patients are shown as admitted in multiple hospitals at one given time. There are some cases where surgeries were shown after discharge. There are dates in the record showing discharge before admission. Also, thousand of beneficiaries are linked to single mobile number. Certain reports also point out that some of the empanelled health care centres neither fulfil the minimum criteria of support system and infrastructure, nor conform to the quality centric criteria. Despite being a well intentioned scheme, the PM-JAY is suffering from glaring irregularities and is tantamount to playing with lives of the poor. So, the wasteful expenditure and mismanagement must be addressed in a proper manner.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Demand to Organize a National Level Program on Kittur Rani Chennamma

***SHRI IRANNA KADADI:** In Karnataka, Rani Chennamma has been regarded as an inspiring military commander. She got married to the King of Kittur, Shri Mallasarja Desai and fought valiantly against British. In 1824, she killed British Army commander, John Thackeray. She also successfully defended her fort for over twelve days. Even today, the people of Kittur celebrate the festival in her memory. Our former President, Shrimati Pratibha Patil had unveiled her statue in Parliament. Also, the Belgaum airport has been named after her. I urge the Central Government that our present generation must be told about our heroes like Rani Chennamma. A commemorative postal stamp must be released, and the country wide celebrations must be held in her honour.

(Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas, Dr. Santanu Sen, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

8. Concern over Rising Coastal Erosion along Shores of Kerala

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: It is a matter of grave concern that requires immediate attention to the alarming increase of erosion in coastal area of India particularly along the shore of Kerala. This issue not only poses a threat to the environment but also to the livelihood of the coast communities. The coastline starting from Poovar to Thiruvananthapuram to Thalapadi in Kasargod is one of the most densely populated land area in the country. This coastal erosion is due to various factors such as climate change, unregulated human activities, inadequate coastal zone management, mining and tourism. In Kerala alone, with over 11 lakh fishermen belonging to the economically weaker sections, along with their families have become refugees in their own land because of coastal erosion . It is imperative that we recognize the urgency of the situation. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive scientific study into the issue of coastal erosion along India's coasts. Such a study will offer a detailed understanding of regional variations enabling the identification of high risk zones and implementation of targeted measures for coastal protection. I hope the Government will take immediate action to address this crisis.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Regularization of Local Passenger Train Nos.07380 and 07379

SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE: I want to raise an important issue affecting the residents of Collem, Kalay and surrounding villages in South Goa. The prolonged cancellation of local passenger trains, specifically Train No.7380 Vasco to Collem and Train No.7379 Collem to Vasco due to the ongoing railway doubling project from Collem to Vasco has created severe challenges for the local population. The

* Spoke in Kannada.

suspension of these trains has disproportionately impacted the daily lives of villagers, particularly students who rely on these services for commuting to educational institutions and employment opportunities. The goods trains operates seamlessly on the same route. I appeal for the regularisation of Train No.7380 Vasco to Collem and Train No.7379 Collem to Vasco without further delay.

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

10. Demand to Establish Industrial Units in Auraiya and Etawah Districts of Uttar Pradesh

SHRIMATI GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA: Auraiya and Etawah districts of Uttar Pradesh are located at a very important locations from geographical point of view. Located almost in the middle of Uttar Pradesh, these places are very close to the border of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states and can be easily reached in any part of Uttar Pradesh. Both the districts are well connected by a major rail route of the country the Howrah-Delhi rail route and national highways and many expressways. There are many possibilities for industrial development in both these districts. I urge the government to establish industrial units there so that the youth there can get employment.

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

11. Demand for a Flyover on NH-31 in Begusarai

SHRI RAKESH SINHA: A flyover is being built on National Highway 31 passing through Begusarai in Bihar, which comes only to a traffic intersection. If it is extended till Khatopur, i.e. a few meters further, the chances of accidents will be reduced. If a flyover is built from Power House in Balia to Janipur on the same NH 31, the people will be safe. In this context, while demanding these two flyovers, I say in a general context that wherever there is widening and expansion of the road, the localness of that area should be protected i.e. it is our duty to protect the rights of those who travel through conventional methods like foot, bullock cart, gig or horse cart etc.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Sandosh Kumar P., Dr. Santanu Sen, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated)

12. Demand to Start Medical Coach Facility for Serious Patients in Trains

DR. PRASHANTA NANDA: I am talking about the trains that continuously run for more than 18 hours from one end to another end. I want to tell you that it was my first experience, while I was coming to Delhi by Rajdhani Express, after passing Kanpur there is only one stoppage, which is at Delhi. At that time a 38 year old man suffered a stroke. We also found a doctor but he could not help, he said that if there was a cylinder of oxygen, I would have kept him alive. I want to say one more thing that after Corona, almost all the children are suffering from lack of oxygen. They also bring nebulizer, but that nebulizer does not work because of the 110 DC current in the bogies. This is mostly happening after Corona that the body immediately becomes deficient in sodium and it needs a saline, so that it can stay alive, but it suffocates even before that saline arrives. All these trains which are running for more than 18 hours should have a special coach/ medical van where there should be at least two ICUs, one ventilator, oxygen cylinder and other things along with doctors and nurses.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Concern over Negative Impact of Cinema on our Youth

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: These days some such films are coming out in which extreme violence is being shown and the disrespect towards women is justified. This is a very sad topic. In these films, due to the portrayal of such violence and wrong and negative roles as heroes, our children, especially those of class 11th and 12th, have started considering them as role models. We are seeing many such types of violence in the society. This also hurts religious faith a lot. How is the Censor Board promoting such films and how are such films passed which are a disease for our society? Such films should have no place in our society.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Shortage of Emergency Beds in AIIMS, Delhi

SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: AIIMS is a hospital towards which people have great faith and suffering patients from far and wide come to AIIMS because it is less expensive, whereas private hospitals in this country are very expensive. Every day around 250 people go to the emergency of AIIMS, and these are very sick people. Out of these, only 82 beds are available in emergency. I want to say two more things. You have provided online facility for emergency registration. Now through online, you cannot tell them the seriousness, so even the doctors do not have a clue as to whom to choose among all these patients. This is very inhumane. We have to make this entire process humane and people friendly. The doctors at AIIMS are the best in India. The proposal to increase their retirement age from 65 years to 70 years has been pending in the PMO for a long time. I would request the government to increase this age.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Harassment due to SPAM Calls and SMSs despite TRAI Regulations

DR. KANIMOSHI NVN SOMU: In spite of the TRAI regulations, there has been an increase in spam phone calls and SMS on a massive scale. The Government's role in regulating measures to curb these calls has not been effective. The issue of unregistered telemarketers is rampant and unyielding. Around 74 per cent of the people registered in the regulator TRAI's 'Do Not Disturb (DND)' list receive unwanted SMS. Access to customer contacts is a breach of privacy. There is a pressing need to have a preventive framework other than just filing complaints through TRAI. I urge the Telecom Department to manage the operations of unregistered telemarketers by introducing block chain-based technology and take steps to address the existing errors in the complaints mechanism of TRAI

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

16. Demand for Rescue Operation and Financial Assistance to Cyclone-affected Farmers and Other Victims

***SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR :**Due to Cyclone Michaung crops on thousands of acres have been totally damaged in the districts stretching between Srikakulam and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh. Crops in the districts of Eluru, Anakapalli, Bapatla, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Guntur, Palnadu, Krishna, NTR and some other districts have been totally damaged because of heavy rains. The Central Government was requested to provide assistance against the loss caused by cyclone Michaung. There is a primary need to release Rs. 2500 crore for giving compensation to the farmers. In the present circumstances, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the present Government is not providing

* Spoke in Telugu.

basic facilities and rehabilitation centers. If this situation continues, they will not have houses to live in and fodder to feed the cattle. I request the Central Government to take necessary actions and also provide financial assistance to the victims, particularly farmers, and setup rehabilitation centres.

(Dr John Brittas , Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas, Dr. Santanu Sen and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated)

17. Rising Atrocities against Dalits

DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: The NCRB report reveals the disturbing truth of a 13 per cent rise in the cases of atrocities on dalits in one year. This increasing trend shows how we are treating our fellow brothers in this country. The top three States here are Uttar Pradesh , Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The women are the worst hit. Among dalits, women are vulnerable and they are succumbed to atrocities like rape, naked parade, destruction of their self-respect and modesty. Even today, I have read in newspaper that in Tirunelveli district a Scheduled Caste boy was murdered because he was in love with an upper caste girl. It is not his mistake, but it is called by the Press and other media as maryada hatya. This maryada hatya is going on across the country. I request the Government to take it seriously and come out with concrete steps to stop this massacre.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

18. Need to Stop Deaths due to Hazardous Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: Recently four migrant workers from Bihar died while cleaning a septic tank in Surat, Gujarat. The Union Government has stated that there have been no deaths due to manual scavenging in the country. Manual scavenging has been prohibited in India since 2013. However, dalits and tribals are forced to take up these jobs mainly due to poverty and lack of employment elsewhere. The Government need to take urgent measures to ensure that no person should have to demean himself by cleaning sewers and septic tanks manually. The technological solutions need to be enhanced and mechanical desludging and the use of robots should become the norms. Self-employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers need to be revived. Besides one-time cash component, the emphasis needs to be put on skilling and providing them soft loans to enable them to carve out alternative means of earning, livelihood or other career.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

19. Need to prohibit the Use of all Bannable Pesticides immediately by Prohibiting its Production, Import, Export, Marketing and Use in India

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE: I want to speak on an important issue 'Need for prohibiting the use of all bannable pesticides immediately by prohibiting their production, import, export, marketing and the use in India'. There are enough research reports about the havoc being caused by herbicides world-over. I welcome the hon. Prime Minister's stand urging the farmers to give up toxic chemicals and save the Mother Earth. But it is unfortunate that deadly chemicals, like mono-crotophos, etc., are not being banned by the Minister of Agriculture.

(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shrimati Vandana Chavan, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas associated)

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Economic Situation in the Country- *Contd.*

DR. V. SIVADASAN: The assets and income of the corporate families, the big corporate families, are increasing. That is not the development of the economy. Thirteen thousand students have been dropped-out from the higher educational institutions. Thousands of posts are lying vacant. Everywhere, we are seeing a ban on recruitment. Why is the Government not disbursing the pending amount of MGNREGA? Thousands of crores rupees are lying pending. The Anganwadi workers are not getting the minimum wages; the ASHA workers are not getting the minimum wages. The workers are struggling in HECL; NTC and BEML. It is because of the policies of the Government. If the Government is rich, if the economy is growing, then why Government is not giving proper wages to workers in the companies? The WHO says that there should be a minimum of one doctor for one thousand people, but what is the condition in India? The WHO says that there should be a minimum of three nurses for one thousand people, but what is the condition in India? In India, the number of nurses is very less, but at the same time, thousands of nurses are going abroad because they do not get proper salaries here. The Government is not ready to invest money in different sectors.

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY: The GST was the reform of reforms, and the Government did pull it off with great success. The taxpayer base has nearly doubled since its launch and collections too have risen. A majority of the large States have reported a 20 per cent-plus growth in GST collection over the same period last year. Government's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has revolutionized India's economy by facilitating digital payments even in villages. The core idea behind India Stack is to lower the cost of transaction so that 1.3 billion people get access to socially and economically important services and that those services can be delivered by the private as well as public sector. The UPI has helped private sector companies to rely on business models based on digital payments. So far as the National Logistics Policy is concerned, the logistics cost in India is 13 per cent of the GDP as compared with 8 per cent in developed economies. The Government is working towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. The IMF has projected India to become a USD 5 trillion economy with the third largest GDP in 2027-28. Digitization has given a strong boost to entrepreneurship in the country. India has a thriving IT industry that is a major contributor to the country's GDP, employment and exports. In 2022, the Indian IT industry generated \$227 billion in revenue. In 2023, India's IT industry is estimated to register an 8.4 per cent rise in total revenue to reach to \$245 billion.

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL: Today India has become the fastest growing economy in the entire world. No sector of India has remained untouched by this development. Be it the field of health, railways, waterways or airways, today the country is making all-round development. Respected Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji's thinking was - Antyodaya, that is, until the last person of the society is not developed, the development of that nation is not possible. For the social and economic upliftment of Other Backward Classes, under Article 340(i) of the Constitution in 1953, the then President Dr. Rajendra Prasad had constituted a Backward Classes Commission under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar. In 1955, the Commission submitted its report along with recommendations to the Government of India, but the Backward Classes Commission was not given constitutional status, due to which the economic survey of the backward classes or their social development could not be done properly. India has today become the fastest growing economy in the world. Today the whole world is looking at India as an emerging economic power. While Corona, the global pandemic that came after 100 years, exposed the health

system of the entire world, India not only made the Corona vaccine, but also administered 220 crore doses to Indians. These doses were given to Indians free of cost and after getting the vaccine, the health department also provided vaccination certificates to the people. India provided free vaccines and medicines to many countries during the Corona period. The Government has also taken forward the scheme of providing free grains. While in 2014 we were the 10th largest economy in the world, today we are the 5th largest economy in the world. Before the year 2014, there were 74 airports in the country, today about 148 airports are ready. Earlier there were 7 AIIMS in the country, today there are about 23 AIIMS in the country. The benefit of 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' has been given to approximately 12.5 crore people. About 10 thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened through the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra. 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' is an example in the whole world, under which you can get free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh, no matter what the poor class is, no barrier of caste, religion or creed has been imposed on it. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana', 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana', 'Ujjwala Yojana', 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana', 'Swachh Bharat Mission', taking care of the women of backward and Dalit society, taking care of their dignity and respect crores of toilets were built by the government. Now the day is not far when India will become the largest economy in the world.

SHRI ADITYA PRASAD: India has moved up from its position as the 10th largest economy in the world in 2014 to the fifth largest global economy today. Every country in the world is facing economic challenges and even in this adverse situation, our country is continuously moving forward. Today India ranks second in the field of mobile production, third in the field of automobile manufacturing and fourth in the stock exchange. India's GDP growth rate for fiscal year 2023 is 7.2 percent, the fastest growing among the world's major economies. When the whole world was in a state of collapse due to its economic system, then people all over the world were looking at India with very hopeful eyes, what would be the condition of India, because it is a very big democratic country, is a country with such a large population. More than two billion Covid vaccines have been administered. These vaccines were not only administered in the country, but they also saved people in other countries. In October 2023, our total exports, if seen on a ten-year basis, increased from USD 9.43 billion to USD 62.26 billion. There has been an increase in goods exports and services exports. UPI transactions have reached an all-time high. It is due to the continuous efforts of the honest government led by Modi ji that we have seen positive changes in the banking sector, such as transparent appointment of senior bank management through BBB. Banks are handing over record dividend checks to the government and those funds are being used for the welfare of poor. The debt-ridden public sector banks have been transformed into pillars of public welfare. Bank deposits have reached a six-year high on a year-on-year basis. Due to the efforts of Modi ji, today farmers are successfully doing farming respectfully without taking loans. Today, farmers are given Rs 2,000 every four months through DBT.

SHRI BRIJ LAL: Terrorists targeted our pilgrimage sites, our tourist destinations and our economic centres. Their aim was to send a message to the world that our country is not safe. But now there is peace and security in this country, investments are coming and that is why we are going to become the third economy of the world. Investment worth crores of rupees has come to Uttar Pradesh and the reason for this is the law and order situation there. In short, the law and order of the country is related to it, hence people from abroad are attracted and that is why the economy of the country is growing by leaps and bounds.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: In 2023, the Indian economy is facing high inflation and income inequality. High inflation is not the product of market forces alone, but the governmental interventions that prioritize one section over the other section. The reduction in price of LPG is a drop in the ocean. High inflation has been a constant alongside high unemployment and tepid growth. The rich is getting richer and the poor is getting poorer. This is the major characteristic of this economy. 5 per cent Indians now own 60 per cent of the country's wealth and whereas the bottom 50 per cent of Indians own only 3 per cent of the wealth. The absolute number of poor in India has risen by 76 million. Banks have written off loans worth crores. In the last financial year alone, Rs. 2.09 lakh crore were written off.

SHRI SAKALDEEP RAJBHAR: Under the leadership of Modi ji, India is moving on the path of progress in the economic sector by leap and bounds. There is a network of national highways in India. We are moving towards progress in the railways sector. AIIMS are being opened in all the states and we have progressed a lot in the field of health. New IIMs and IITs are being established in the country. All basic facilities are being provided to the poor all over the country. All this progress is due to economic policy being in capable hands. The GDP growth rate is higher than all the countries in the world. Farmers' income has also increased in the field of agriculture and our country is self-sufficient in food. Foreign trade has been increased. Apart from this, special attention is also being given to agricultural reforms and labor reforms under the expansion policy. The country is in a very strong position in the field of security. In the field of science, the country has reached the south pole of the moon. Our country ranks first in this field. The number of people living below the poverty line in India has decreased to 22 per cent. Our Prime Minister is determined to completely improve the economy and the people of the country have full faith in the guarantee of the Honorable Prime Minister.

SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE: The thumping victory in some of largest States is not only an appreciative stamp on Modiji's Guarantee of all-inclusive social and massive infrastructure sector development but, it also reflects the trust the common people have placed on India's growing economic outlook. Modiji's dream to transform India into a digital economy has got good results. India's growth will be propelled by digitization and revolutionising every segment of the economy. The digital revolution will contribute 20 per cent of GDP over the next four years and the digital economy will play a pivotal role in narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas. Start-ups, innovations and institutional research have received a big boost in the changing Bharat. The country has the third-largest Start-up ecosystem, creating close to a million jobs. The total number of tech Start-ups in Bharat is estimated to grow almost three times. The country now has a thriving IT industry that is a major contributor to the country's GDP, employment and exports. The country's investment to inflation ratio is at its lowest, making it easy to expand and diversify the businesses. The country's GDP growth has far exceeded the negative outlook projected by economists. The country's economy is poised to grow at over 6 per cent in the current financial year ranking among the world's fastest-growing economies. The country is set to become the third largest economy by 2030 and is expected to be the fastest growing major economy in the next three years. The country is now becoming a gateway for setting up global manufacturing capacity, continuing to grow services and industry alongside the growth of infrastructure. Thanks to the resilient quality of the Indian industry under the leadership of global leaders like Modiji for doing all that is good the industry and the economy.

SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: If a poor person is given a pucca house, if Ujjwala gas, electricity and drinking water facility is available in his house then it is

available under Narendra Modi ji's government. The change that came in the lives of the poor, which we call the basis of prosperity, which we consider the standard of progress, that has happened during the tenure of Narendra Modi. The poor man today is the most appropriate and correct judge on this subject, which reflects the economic condition of India. We should remember that India is a welfare state. We have provided all the facilities and convenience to the poor people to make their life easy because we are a welfare state. Through such measures, a change has been brought about in India. India's future is bright and under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, India is moving on the right path.

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Listening to the opposition parties, it appears that the situation is not as it is being presented, but if we look at the reality, India has strongly moved forward under the leadership of the hon'ble Prime Minister by surmounting such a daunting challenge, i.e. Covid. Even in the face of two ongoing wars in the world, India is the fastest growing economy. I will definitely talk about defense. In the year 2013, the defense budget was Rs 2.5 lakh crore, whereas today the defense budget is Rs 6 lakh crore. Not only this, today we make aircraft and also land Chandrayan on the south pole of the Moon, which is a huge achievement. We are the largest exporter of medicines. Also, we are a big exporter of vaccines. It seems that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the glorious past of Takshashila and Nalanda will definitely return.

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: If we look at this decade from 2014 to 2023 after the independence of the country, then I think all points of view, be it economic, strategic or otherwise, this decade will be considered as a golden period of India. In these ten years, the country has progressed in every field. Even in the field of social services, the responsibility of the government towards the society is also being discharged at a great pace. Following the clarion call given by our hon'ble Prime Minister, all sectors including the toys which used to be imported from other countries, are focusing on manufacturing their products in the country itself. We used to import defence equipment worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore from other countries but they are now being manufactured in the country. Our HAL is making airplanes to helicopters like Prachand. When corona broke out, many poor people such as laborers had lost their jobs and people were facing food crisis. In such a situation, our government, our hon'ble Prime Minister said that we would work to provide free ration to the 80 crore poor people of the country. Ever since this process started in 2020, it has been ensured that till 2028, we will work to provide free ration to the poor. 80 crore people will be benefitted by this. Concrete houses have been provided to the poor people under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna; the prices of genetic medicines have been reduced significantly and in the agriculture sector, fund is being provided to the farmers under Kisan Samman Yojna. The pace of construction of highways is happening at a great pace and in railways, railway stations are being revamped and new trains are being introduced such as Vande Bharat, Rapid rail, bullet trains and so on. Metro train facility is being developed in cities. Were these developmental works possible without achieving economic prosperity? We will be the world's third strongest economy in the next five years. In the health sector, new AIIMS are being set up. Medical colleges are being built in every district. We will need qualified doctors to serve the population of 140 crores and to ensure availability of those qualified doctors, the target has been set by the government that there will be a medical college in every district.

SHRI RAM CHANDER JANGRA : India was indeed a golden bird and even today it is on way to becoming a golden bird. All the invaders who came to this country, took away huge amount of gold and other valuable items but this country still remained a golden bird. The British not only looted the country's wealth, but also robbed the country's of resources. Look at the facilities we have put in place, be it the hospitals, or colleges, universities, road infrastructure, or, for that matter, Vande Bharat trains. The visionary policies of the hon'ble Prime Minister will definitely make India the third largest economy in the world.

DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE: The biggest proof of the resilience of Indian economy is the fact that while the banks even of America went bankrupt, none of the banks of India became lame duck. Foreign direct investment in India has increased from US\$ 45.15 million in 2014-15 to US\$ 83.6 billion by 2021-22. During the UPA Government, in Ease of Doing

Business, we were at 192nd position and today we are at 63rd position. In 2023-24, capital expenditure is five times that of the UPA Government. Sensex and Nifty have touched the figure of 69,000 and 20,000 respectively. During the UPA Government, the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$304.2 billion which is now \$609 billion. In 2013-14, there were digital transactions worth Rs 127 crore and now under the Modi Government, digital transactions are worth Rs 12,735 crore. In 2015, there were only 10 unicorns in the country which have now increased to 111. This is an example of the current strong economy of Modi Government.

SHRI NARESH BANSAL: Today the economic situation of the country is being discussed and today also happens to be the Armed Forces Day. Among the scams due to which the country went into deep trouble in the last 70 years, the first scam was related to the Army in which the Defence Minister had to resign. Many scams happened after that. During these 10 years, development is visible all around. Some people say that we are giving free foodgrains to 80 crore people. Yes, we are giving, because we want to change the condition of the poor. You could have done this during your Government also, but you did not. Today there has been an increase in road connectivity, rail connectivity and air connectivity. Consumption of petrol and diesel has also decreased. There has been no scam in 10 years. For the first time, the poor man has been provided with an insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh for Rs. 12. Banks were nationalized in the name of 'poverty eradication', but poverty was not eradication. This Government provided roofs to four crore people who could never build a house in their life. During your regime the poor could never enter the bank. Our Government organized camps and opened Jan Dhan accounts of 50 crore such people. Also, a security insurance of one lakh rupees was also provided. Hon'ble Prime Minister started 'Atal Pension Yojana' for Rs 330 to provide security cover to the poor man to further empower him. Due to lack of clean fuel, our mothers and sisters in the villages looked old before time. Their eyesight used to get damaged, and they also used to become asthma patients. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided them relief from this problem by distributing 9.5 crore connections through 'Ujjwala Yojana'. Today the poor are included in all economic policies. This country remained poor because of the policies of the Governments which were based on the policies of the Communist Party. There is a lot of potential within this country. Now work is being done for each and every section of the society. Today, India is shining in the field of sports also because the players have been given encouragement. The youth have been provided an opportunity to serve the country through the Agniveer scheme. Even after independence, our mothers and sisters in rural areas had to go to the forests for defecation for 70 years. To empower such women, their honor has been protected by building 14 crore Izzatghars. Our Government has provided clean tap water to 12.5 crore households. We have emerged stronger in the field of defence. I want to present before you a comparative description of inflation. In the year 2004, when Atal ji's government left and UPA government came, flour was priced at Rs 8 per kg. When you left the government in 2014, flour was priced at Rs 24 per kg. Today, after ten years, flour is available for Rs 30 per kg, that is, one-fourth increase and three times increase in your ten years. Similarly, our government reduced the excise duty on petrol twice and also reduced the excise duty on diesel by Rs 15-20. State governments of our party reduced VAT on it and none of your governments reduced it. In 2004, petrol was Rs 33.70 per liter and in 2014 it was Rs 72.26 per liter. Today it is Rs 96.70. It has increased by only Rs 24 in ten years. Unemployment has decreased in our time. The new EPFI figures confirm this. Today, 1.25 lakh start-ups have been registered, in which lakhs of people are getting employment. Today we are exporting mobiles. Today we are exporting goods worth rupees twenty thousand crores in the defence sector. Under the

leadership of Modi ji, ten thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been inaugurated where the poor will get medicines at 50 to 90 percent cheaper rates.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM : For economic development, higher GDP and boosting economy, labour is one important factor and without the cooperation of skilled workers, the result cannot be achieved. From 1940 onwards, every year, the Labour Conference was held. But after the BJP Government came to power, it was in 2015 that the last conference was held by this Government which Prime Minister also attended. All the recognized central trade unions in India are fighting for the poor working class. We placed twelve demands and asked the Government to discuss those items. But so far, the Government has not come forward to discuss those things. The Union Government passed the labour codes hurriedly during the Covid time. But their implementation is not happening because the rules are yet to be notified. Labour is a Concurrent List subject. Even though you have passed the codes, the respective States should also pass the rules. It is very difficult to implement the four Codes. So, I would urge upon the Government to repeal these Codes and a fresh legislation can be brought after due consultations with our trade unions. There was no pension provision prior to 1971 in the Employees Provident Fund Act. The family pension and pension scheme were introduced subsequently. The pension scheme of one thousand rupees which we were once demanding was given by the UPA Government. Now, we are demanding nine thousand rupees. So far, it has not been acceded to. Another thing is that some public sector and private organizations are giving 30 per cent of terminal benefit to the workers. But after closing of these private sectors, where will the workers go to request for payment of this amount? For that, the Government should bring a scheme. Our Finance Minister is very liberal to give the loan to the MSME. What is the benefit? The PSU and the Government sectors are not procuring the products. The Government is reluctant to recruit C and D Group posts. For that also, we request the Government to come forward. In the last ten years, there has been no increase in the bonus ceiling. The BSNL has not provided the benefit of wage revision so far. So, we request the Government to look into these things. It has become a fashion for the Government Departments to engage more and more employees on contract basis. If the work is not of permanent nature, then they can engage contract workers but they should be given the benefits at par with the permanent employees.

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