

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, February 07, 2024/ Magha 18, 1945 (Saka)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Regarding extension of sittings of the Rajya Sabha

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, the Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has proposed that the sittings of the current 263rd Session of Rajya Sabha may be extended for one day upto Saturday, the 10th February, 2024 in order to complete essential Government Business.

Hon'ble Members, the matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held yesterday, the 6th February, 2024 and the Members of the Committee and Leaders of Parties present had agreed to extend the sittings of this Session of Rajya Sabha upto Saturday, the 10th February, 2024.

There will be no Zero Hour and Question Hour on that day.

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Concern over Refusal by Hospitals to Release Dead Bodies due to Pending Bills

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: The aggrieved families of the dead, already traumatized with the loss are subjected to further distress for immediate commercial recovery. The Government informed that there is no such legal provision authorising any hospital to withhold dead body in lieu of pending bills. Suggestively, penalties for the defaulting hospitals that violate the guidelines should also be incorporated for ensuring strict compliance. The patient is entitled to certain amount of protection to be ensured by physicians, healthcare providers and the State. The Government can collectively implement a few steps like spread awareness about the Patients Rights Charter and the rights that the families of the deceased have in such situations. Enforce hospitals to display the charter in important areas of the hospital so that accountability is held. Create a national corpus fund and more importantly let us incentivise the hospitals and doctor community so that they are encouraged to follow the Patients' Rights Charter.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Steady Politicisation of Religion in the Country

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Today we are witnessing a remarkable increase in the politicization of religion in our country. Our religion has taught the world

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

tolerance and universal acceptance. Nation is first, parties are secondary. It is being seen that people holding responsible positions are also using communal language to serve the interests of their party. Many people are being deprived of their rights. If people holding constitutional posts perform their constitutional responsibilities in the interest of their party, then it will undoubtedly be fatal for the country. I urge upon the Government to direct the people not to go against the Constitution and stick to secularism and not to misuse religion.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need for Amendment in MPLADS Guidelines

SHRI IRANNA KADADI: 'MPLADS' was started in 1993, through which MPs can recommend development work for creation of community assets like drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads etc. in their constituency. At present, under Chapter 5.2.11 of the guidelines of this scheme, use of this fund is not allowed for the works done inside the places of worship and premises. Under the 'MPLADS', there is a provision to provide funds for building a community centre, but due to lack of sufficient land, on many occasions the community center is not constructed. I urge the Government to repeal the MPLADS Guidelines No. 5.2.11 and the restrictions imposed on giving funds through 'MPLADS' to promote community programs in religious places should be removed immediately.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Demand for Development of Secunderabad Cantonment Area

DR. K. LAXMAN: The Secunderabad Cantonment Board covers a vast expanse of 40.13 square kilometres, located in the heart of Hyderabad. It is a prime location and is widely recognized as the 'lung space' of Hyderabad. But, recently, a demand has been raised for the merger of Secunderabad Cantonment Board into Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Over the period of time, a number of colonies and bastis have come up and nearly a population of 3 lakh people is residing in the Secunderabad Cantonment Board. The residents of cantonment area continuously express the need for improved civic amenities. The open lands and surplus lands in the cantonment area have been designated as green spaces in Hyderabad.

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

5. Demand for Investment of Around Rs. 500 Crore for Installing Infrastructure for Filtering of Sewage Water in Visakhapatnam City

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO: Visakhapatnam is one of the cleanest cities in the country. As per Swachh Sarvekshans, it has been ranking fourth continuously for the last three years. When the city was ravaged by Hud Hud Cyclone, the Government stood by the city. Visakhapatnam coastline has receded 3.5 kilometers, which is 22 per cent of the total coastal length, in the last 30 years. And there is a reduced availability of marine life for the fishermen who go for their livelihoods. This is all happening because of the development of a dead zone in the city which results in death of ocean life. The untreated sewage water is not only making some parts of the beach and some parts of the coastline ugly, it is also impinging on the health of fishermen who live on the coastline. I request the Government to assist the city of Visakhapatnam by formulating a project and also help the State Government by providing some kind of a long-term financial assistance.

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

6. Issue of Poverty Alleviation and Generation of Employment Opportunities

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: In the last ten years, 25 crore people have come above the poverty line. This is because when employment is created, poverty alleviation increases rapidly. A major contribution to this achievement has been the creation of a large number of jobs in the country. Employment exchanges have a major contribution in the employment generation programme, especially in Uttar Pradesh. The country's Universities, Degree colleges and Rural Self-employment Training Institutes established by the National Integrated Bank in every district can play an important role in this regard. Placement cells should be established compulsorily in Universities, Degree Colleges and Rural Employment Training Institutes in the country. I request the Government to organize an employment fair every month in these institutions.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Demand for E-Filing Centres in UP

DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE: An opportunity was seen in the disaster when the virtual method emerged during the Corona period. 4,20,937 cases were heard in the Supreme Court, 2.63 crore cases were heard in the High Court and District Courts. The Government made a provision of Rs. 71,00 crore in the budget for setting up e-filing centres. The High Court, Prayagraj issued orders to the District Courts to start e-filing centers from 1st November, 2023. As per an order passed on 25th October, 2023, it was decided that e-filing center in Meerut will run from 1st November, 2023. But suddenly the Registrar General Allahabad High Court postponed the order of that High Court. The Supreme Court had said that after 15 days of October 6, 2023, no court, including the High Court, will be able to refuse in this regard, hence this is injustice to the people of Uttar Pradesh.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Demand to Include the History of Rajbanshis and Kamatapur in NCERT Textbooks

SHRI NAGENDRA RAY: The Rajbanshi community has a rich heritage and culture which has been inherited from the ancient civilizations. The Rajbanshi community has their own dialects, culture and way of living. Their culture reflects the humbleness, peace, unity and harmony with nature. In December, 2015 the President of the Greater Cooch Behar People's Association had requested the Government for inclusion of glorious history of Rajbanshis and Kamatapur in the NCERT text books for the benefit of students belonging to Rajbanshi community. But till now history of Rajbanshi was not published. I request the Government to include the contribution of Rajbanshis and Kamtapur in the textbooks of NCERT.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Niranjana Bishi associated.)

9. Concern over the Delay in Increasing Minimum Monthly Pension of EPF Pension to Rs. 9,000

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: A huge amount is lying with the Ministry of Finance as unclaimed amount as many workers shift from one company to another and their EPF contributions remain unclaimed. This is the position up to the year 2014. The Government should merge corpus fund lying with the Government Departments

and unclaimed amount to enhance pension fund under the EPF Scheme. I request that the Government should enhance immediately the minimum monthly pension under EPF Scheme to Rupees 9,000 as demanded by various trade unions. The calculation formula should be revised in favour of pensioners. I would request that the Government should call a meeting of the central trade unions for consultations, so that a viable formula may be worked out for calculating pension under the EPF Pension Scheme.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Demand to include Ho, Sambalpuri, Saora and Mundari Languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and Resolve Infrastructural Deficiencies of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in Odisha, etc.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Odisha occupies a very special position in the tribal map of India with 62 ST communities and 13 primitive tribes. They constitute 22.43 per cent of the total State population. Odisha has one of the highest percentages of tribals in India. There is a long-standing demand of the Odisha Government to include Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Kui and Saora languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The exclusion of these languages denies tribal linguistic communities access to education in their native tongues, perpetuating their marginalization. The incorporation of these languages into the Eighth Schedule will contribute significantly to their preservation and dissemination. Odisha has already taken initiatives by constituting Special Development Councils. I urge the Government to look into their interests.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Demand to Convert Agartala's Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport into an International Airport

SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB: MBB Airport Agartala (Tripura) is an important gateway for passengers visiting the North Eastern region of India. It has the capacity to handle 1000 interstate and 200 international passengers during peak hours. There are 20 check-in-counters and an annual capacity of 30 lakh passengers. Instrumental landing system and ground lighting facilities are available here. The runway length is 286 metres. The government has declared MBB airport as a customs check post and an announcement in this regard is awaited from the government.

(Dr. Santanu Sen, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. John Brittas and Shri Nirranjan Bishi associated.)

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Contd.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: The Hon'ble President in her Address made a special reference to Viksit Bharat and its four pillars – Youth power, Women power, Farmers and Poor. The Government has written-off Rs. 10.5 lakh crores for companies, but it has not waived-off farm loans. The country, in 2022, had witnessed an unprecedented farmers' movement due to which the Government was forced to withdraw three agricultural laws. The assurance given, at that time, by the Government was to take back their agitation and there will be increase in the MSP. But, the fact is that no assessment of farmers' income has been carried out by the Government since 2013. The incomes needed to grow by 10 per cent every year in order to double them by 2022. But the growth in farmers' income has been around 3.5 per cent only. India has the youngest population in

the world and youth is the future of our nation. According to the Government data available in public domain, unemployment in the age group of 20 to 30 years, is 38.67 per cent. For every 15 lakh engineering graduates, only 2.5 lakh secured jobs are there in core engineering industry. The Parliament in a Special Session passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'. But, the fact is that crimes against women have increased by 31 per cent. The crimes reported by women increased by 50 per cent. The recent brutal crime against dalit girls in a village of Uttar Pradesh is testimony of how unsafe our women are. In order to give their due share to all the sections of the society in the Government schemes, without any discrimination, it is necessary to have correct and accurate figures before the coming elections. The Government is silent on the question of Caste Census. I request the Government to hold the caste-based census before the elections and to include OBCs and minorities, especially the women in the minorities.

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister India has made a significant progress in various sectors over the past decade. The mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', epitomizes the policies of the Government. In spite of the biggest pandemic in the world, India has marched ahead. Recently, the IMF has quoted India as the 'bright spot.' The Indian economy will contribute about 16 per cent to the world's economic growth. India has succeeded in maintaining a GDP growth rate of over 7.5 per cent consistently for two quarters, showcasing its resilience and capability. On the diplomatic front, by hosting the historic G-20 Summit, India has strengthened its position on the global stage and reaffirmed its commitment to the cooperative efforts for world peace and prosperity. With a commitment to technological advancement and the digital integration, the Government has rapidly implemented 5G technology. This demonstrates a strong position in the global leadership in telecommunications, ensuring that every citizen can benefit from the digital age. A record 1,200 crore transactions have been conducted via UPI and Rs.34 lakh crores have been transferred through debit cards and digital transactions. This shift towards a cashless economy ensures inclusive financial access for all sections of society. India has become the first country to hoist its flag on the Southern Pole of the Moon. We must rise above our differences and politics, acknowledge and applaud such historic achievements. As a lifeline of our nation, the Indian Railways has undergone a significant transformation with over 25,000 kilometres of railway tracks being laid. Even the aviation sector has achieved historic milestones. The number of IITs, IIITs, IIMs and AIIMs has grown. The Government has ensured that all the social welfare schemes reach to people equitably regardless of social status or religious identity. The Schemes have ensured that people are integrated into the financial, social, economic fabric of this country which is crucial for building the idea of our nation. Hon'ble Prime Minister has instilled a sense of nationalism and patriotism among the youth. Various Campaigns like Make in India have inspired the youth to contribute towards the country's development. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also made efforts to promote Indian culture and heritage. It is imperative to acknowledge the return of Lord Shri Ram to his home, Ayodhya. I express heartfelt gratitude to the Government for fulfilling the sentiments and expectations of all the citizens. Media is the fourth pillar of our democracy and whenever the democracy has been challenged historically, it is Media which has come to the forefront to save the democracy and the values and principles of democracy. To paint and castigate Media in a particular light and showcase it in a particular manner is very unfounded.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: It is the dignity and greatness of our Indian democracy that a tribal, Scheduled Tribe woman living in a remote village got the opportunity to sit on the highest place in India and we also got the opportunity to hear her speech. Similarly, in the democracy of our country, even a common man can fulfill the responsibility of the

Prime Minister of this country. In the last 10 years, the Government has started many social welfare schemes. The Prime Minister has tried through his Government to address the common needs of a citizen. This is a huge achievement, because 80 percent of the people have to struggle with these things somehow. If we talk about 'Kisan Samman Nidhi', in the last three years about Rs 2 lakh 70 thousand crores rupees have been deposited in the accounts of the farmers of this country. The amount of crop loan available to farmers has increased manifold. Our country used to import a lot of food items, today the same country exports food products and agricultural products. This is a huge achievement, which cannot be ignored. Inland fisheries and ocean fisheries have increased. Today India has become one of the largest exporters of marine products in the world. We are probably the largest exporter of prawns in the world. We are number one in the world in milk production. Talking about value-addition products, earlier we knew only the name of Amul. Today you can see Amul's model in every state of India, due to which the income of farmers has increased and a large number of people are getting additional business and additional income through it. There came a time when manufacturing activities had disappeared in our country. There did not seem to be any new industry. But in the last ten years, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, a huge amount of investment is coming in from abroad through schemes like 'Make in India', 'Self-reliant India', 'Ease of Doing Business' etc. There is a GDP growth of 7 percent. Today our economy is continuously growing. Our country is definitely going to become an economic power house and manufacturing power house of the world. All sectors of the economy are growing. There are hardly any things that we are not able to make in our country. Today, new products are being made in the field of information technology and the world's biggest companies are doing their research and development work in India. The heads of the world's largest information technology companies are Indians. In the coming days, the import quantity of oil and natural gas will gradually reduce. The use of petroleum products and coal is going to reduce. We are rapidly moving towards renewable energy which includes green hydrogen, solar energy, wind energy, ethanol and ethanol derived from grain. This is a matter of great pride for us. In the defence sector, all our weapons, instead of being imported, will be manufactured here, research and development will take place here only. Today all these things are the face of a changing, self-reliant and powerful India. Becoming self-reliant in the field of defence production is no small feat. The way our Prime Minister is developing close ties and strong partnerships with Islamic nations is commendable. We are fortunate that Ram temple has been constructed and that too in a peaceful and constitutional manner. Whatever issues have been presented in the President's address are based on truth and their reality can never be denied. I congratulate the Hon'ble President for the address she has given and also support in toto. The Prime Minister has taken rapid steps to fulfill the aspirations of 140 crore people.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: When I spoke about Sanatana Dharma, the Prime Minister intervened and said Sanatanis should join together to fight the non-Sanatans. We are not non-Sanatans. We are talking about Ram Janmbhoomi and Ayodhya Temple. It is a very great culture. But are we going to pray the sculpture in the temple or Ram? Please understand me, Ram was existing before January 22. He was there in our hearts. Today, by giving this kind of importance or publicity or projection, what you are doing is you are denigrating them. I request not to challenge the aashta of the South. The word 'anti-national' is also being used when we talk about some God. There was something about religious tinge to the Constitution and constitutional laws. But don't bring religion into politics because you are interpreting dharma in your own fashion.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Today I rise to speak in support of the Motion of Thanks on the discussion on the maiden Address of the country's first tribal President . The Prime Minister of the country laid the foundation of the politics of inclusive and comprehensive development in this country since 2014. Congress leader Pandit Nehru gave about 2,000 speeches over a period of 20 years but he did not even once speak about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. Nehru ji and Congress considered people who got jobs through reservation as second class citizens. Congress took the votes of Scheduled Caste people for a long time but never paid attention to the Panchteertha of Baba Saheb, never paid attention to their development. After formation the Modi government in 2014, the Modi government worked to develop the 'Panchteerth' of Baba Saheb, which are the places of faith of our Dalit community and Scheduled Tribe community. This is the difference in the thinking of Congress and Narendra Modi Government. The views of Narendra Modi ji are different from yours. You might not have even visited the *Panch Tirthas* dedicated to Baba Saheb, whereas the Narendra Modi ji's Government worked for the development of Baba Saheb's *Panch Tirthas*. The Congress leaders keep changing their religion, caste and gotra as per their convenience. The opposition should know that Nehru Ji himself was against the caste based census. It was his decision that there was no need for OBC list in India. After independence, three commissions were formed and the reports of those three commissions were not implemented. You had opposed the reports of 'Kalelkar Committee' and 'Mandal Commission' and you talk about OBCs now. It is fortunate that after the independence of the country, the country got its first OBC Prime Minister in the form of Shri Narendra Modi. The backward classes, scheduled castes and people living at the bottom amongst the forward castes of this country have understood that if anyone has worked for them, it has been the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi and his Government. If we talk about political participation, BJP has the highest number of OBC Members in the Lok Sabha. The BJP has the highest number of MLAs from the OBC community in the country. This Government worked to fulfill the dreams of Baba Saheb and provided representation to the backward people. You have never had such feelings. This Government only made schemes and provided financial assistance to the *Vishwakarma* community including barbers, washer men, blacksmiths, carpenters and potters. The same Government implemented health schemes like Ayushman, under which the poor and farmers have the right to get free treatment up to Rs 5 lakhs. Overall, Modi ji has ensured an all inclusive development in the country.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI), replying to the discussion, said: Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I have come here to participate in the discussion of the Hon'ble President's Address; and on my behalf, I would like to respectfully thank the Hon'ble President for her speech and also congratulate her. This 75th Republic Day is an important milestone in itself and the President's Address at this important stage in the journey of the Constitution also assumes a historical significance. In her speech, she has talked about India's self-confidence. She has expressed confidence in India's bright future and expressed the potential of millions of people of India in very few words but in a very brilliant manner, before the country, through the House. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the President for this inspiring Address and for providing guidance to the nation, and for giving strength to the resolve of a developed India. During this discussion, many hon'ble Members expressed their views and tried to enrich the discussion in their own way. I also express my heartfelt gratitude and congratulate all the respected colleagues who have tried to enrich this discussion.

For some colleagues, criticizing and speaking bitterly was their compulsion, I express my sympathy towards them also. I could not say it that day, but I express my

special gratitude to Kharge ji. I was listening to Kharge ji very attentively that day. At that time, there was such a joy, such a happiness. Such an opportunity is rarely found. Sometimes, he can be found in the Lok Sabha, but these days he is on other duty. So, there remains less entertainment, but the lack of entertainment which we are missing in the Lok Sabha, you compensated for it on that day. I was happy that Hon'ble Kharge ji was speaking for a long time, with utmost pleasure and peace. He had taken a lot of time. So, I was wondering how he got the freedom to speak at length. I was thinking about it. But later on, I realized that the two special commanders who used to be over there were not present that day and they are not there these days. Therefore, respected Kharge ji took full advantage of freedom. I think that day Kharge ji must have heard a song from the cinema, "*Aisa Mauka phir kahan milega*". Kharge ji is neither an umpire nor a commando. So he was enjoying hitting fours and sixes. It is a matter of happiness that he had blessed us for 400 seats. I gleefully accept his blessings. If you want to withdraw your blessings, you can do so, because a commando has come. I remember the incident of last year, when we used to sit in that House and every effort was made to strangle the voice of the Prime Minister of the country. We kept on listening to your every word with great patience and humility and today you have come prepared not to listen. You have come prepared not to listen. But you cannot suppress my voice.

The people of the country have given strength to this voice. This voice is coming out with the blessings of the people of the country and that is why I have also come this time with full preparation. I thought at that time that maybe if a person like you has come to the House, then he would follow the decorum. But for one and a half to two hours, you people tortured me. Even after that, I did not violate the sanctity of words. I have also made a prayer. We can pray and I keep on praying. The challenge that has come to you is from West Bengal. The challenge that has come from West Bengal is that Congress will not be able to cross the mark of 40 seats. I pray you can save those 40 seats. We have been told a lot and we have also listened. In democracy, you have the right to say and we have the responsibility to listen. Whatever things have happened today, I should put them before the country and hence I will try that. I heard it in that House as well as in this House. So my belief has gone stronger that this party has become outdated in terms of thinking. When the thinking has become outdated, they have also outsourced their work. In no time, such a big party, the party that ruled the country for many decades, has seen such a decline. Such a decline, which we are not happy to see. We have sympathy for you. What will the doctor do when the patient itself is not willing. Now what should I say next? It is a fact that many big things are being said today. They have lost the power to even listen. But, I will definitely put forward my point before the country. The Congress which had openly strangled democracy in its greed for power; the Congress which had dissolved and dismissed the democratically elected Governments dozens of times overnight; the Congress which had violated the country's constitution and democracy; the Congress which had put the dignity behind the bars; which had even tried to freeze the circulation of the newspapers; which had developed a new hobby of setting the narrative of breaking the country. They divided the country so much, it is no small thing. Now, the statements are being made to cause a divide between the North and South. This Congress is lecturing us on democracy and federalism.

The Congress which left no stone unturned in dividing the country in the name of language; the Congress which allowed terrorism and separatism to flourish in its own interest; the Congress which pushed the North-East into violence, isolation and backwardness; the Congress which encouraged Naxalism and left it as a major challenge for the country; the Congress which gifted away a huge land mass of the country to the enemies; the Congress which halted the modernization of the country's armed forces is

preaching us on national security and internal security. The Congress which remained confused since independence whether industry was necessary or agriculture was necessary. They lived in the same confusion. The Congress which could not decide whether to go for nationalization or privatization, kept itself entangled. During a tenure of 10 years, Congress was able to bring the financial system ranking from 12th to 11th position. It does not take much hard work to move from 12th to 11th position. As you make progress, it needs even greater efforts. We brought it to number 5 in 10 years. This Congress is giving us long speeches on economic policies here. The Congress which did not give adequate reservation to OBCs; which never offered reservation to the poor from amongst the general category, which did not consider Baba Saheb a worthy person to confer with Bharat Ratna and kept awarding Bharat Ratna to their own family members. The Congress which has installed the name plates of its own family on the streets, roads, squares and intersections of the country, is preaching us. They are giving us the lesson on social justice. The Congress, which has no guarantee of its leader and no guarantee of its policy, is questioning Modi's Guarantee.

There was a complaint here and they feel like why do we say this, why are we seeing this? Why did the country and the world view their ten-year tenure like this, why did the country get angry, why did the country get so angry? All this has not happened because of our statements. These are the results of one's own actions and now they remain in front. These do not happen in any other life, everything happens in this life. We don't say bad things to anyone. Why should we say bad things? When people have said a lot about them, what do I need to say? I want to make a statement before the House. I am reading the first quote. The quote is, "*Members are aware that our growth has slowed down and the fiscal deficit has widened. The Inflation has been rising steadily for the past two years, and the current account deficit has exceeded our expectations.*" I have read this quote. This is not a quote from any BJP leader nor is this quote is mine. This was said by the then Prime Minister, respected PM, Shri Manmohan Singh Ji during the ten years of the UPA Government and during his own tenure. This was the condition then. He had described it like this. Now, I read the second quote. It reads, "*There is a widespread anger in the country, huge anger over misuses of public office.*" I am not saying how the institutions were misused at that time. Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was the Prime Minister at that time, was saying this. At that time, the whole country was on the streets about corruption. The agitations were going on in every street. Now, I will read the third quote. There are some lines of an amendment, listen to this also. It is like this, "*There is a corruption in tax collection. For this GST should be introduced. There is a leakage in the ration scheme, due to which the poorest of the poor in the country suffer the most. The solutions have to be found to prevent this. It creates a suspicion, the way Government contracts are being awarded.*" This was also said by the then Prime Minister, respected Manmohan Singh Ji.

Before him, another Prime Minister had said that one Rupee goes from Delhi but only 15 paise reach the destination. In the ten year history of the Congress, the Indian economy has been one of the five fragile economies, whereas our ten years have been one of the five top economies. We have brought the country out of that difficult period by working very hard and thinking thoughtfully. The British were remembered here in the House. Who was inspired by the British? Who promoted the mentality of slavery in the country even after independence? If you were not influenced by the British, then why did you not change the penal code made by the British, why did this red light culture continue even after so many decades, why did India's budget come at five in the evening, why were symbols of slavery on the insignia of our armies still there? We are removing them one by one. If you were not

inspired by the British, then why did Raj Path have to wait for Modi to become the Kartavya Path? You could not even build a war memorial in honor of the country's soldiers. I can give hundreds of examples of under whose influence they used to work.

I want to give another example. Congress made such narrative that people who believed in Indian culture and values were looked upon with great inferiority. In this way injustice was done to our past. If you abuse your beliefs, abuse your good traditions, then are you progressive? This type of narrative started in the country and the world knows very well from where it was lead. A situation was created where they felt proud of things imported from other countries, but if there was anything from India, it was regarded second grade. Something that came from outside was made a status symbol. Even today, these people are avoiding saying 'vocal for local'. Today, work is being done for the welfare of the poor of my country. They don't like to say anything about Atmanirbhar Bharat. Today, when someone says 'Make in India', they feel pain. The country has seen all this and also understands. You are also suffering the consequences of the same. In her address, the President had addressed all of us in detail about the four biggest castes – youth, women, poor and our farmers. We know that their problems are mostly similar, their dreams are also similar and if their solutions are to be found, there will be a slight difference, but the solutions for all four classes are also the same. Therefore, she has very appropriately guided the nation that if these four pillars are strengthened, then the country will move forward at a fast pace towards a developed India. If we are in the 21st century and we want to fulfill the dreams of a developed India in this century by 2047, then the thinking of the 20th century cannot work. The selfish agenda of the 20th century, the game of me and mine, cannot make the country a prosperous, developed India in the 21st century. These days, once again there is a lot of talk about caste. I don't know why they felt the need to do this. But if they feel the need, then first they need to introspect. Then will they know what they have done. Congress has been the biggest opponent of Dalits, backward people and tribals right from the beginning. I sometimes think that if Baba Saheb had not been there, whether SCs and STs would have got reservation or not. I am saying this, I have evidence behind it. Their thinking is like this not from today, but from that time. If they have raised the issues, then they should have come prepared. My introduction has already been given for the last ten years.

I remember Nehru ji respectfully more these days, because there is an expectation from our colleagues that we should say something about him, so I am saying it. Now see, once Nehru ji had written a letter and this letter was written to the Chief Ministers. I am reading it's translation. "I do not like any reservation and especially reservation in jobs at all. I am against any such step which promotes inefficiency, which leads to second-class status." This is a letter written by Pandit Nehru to the Chief Ministers. Then I say that are opposed to them right from the beginning. Nehru ji used to say, if SC, ST, OBC get reservation in jobs, then the standard of government work will fall. Today, the statistics they show that so many are here, so many are there, have their origin here, because at that time they had stopped. If they had been recruited in the government jobs at that time and had progressed by getting promotions, they would have reached here today. You can verify, I am reading Pandit Nehru's quote. Whatever Nehru ji said is always a final word for the Congress. You may pretend to say anything else, but your thinking is proved by many such examples. I can give countless examples, but I want to give the example of Jammu and Kashmir. Congress deprived the SC-ST-OBCs of Jammu and Kashmir of their rights for 7 decades. Article 370 was abrogated, only then, after so many decades, SC-ST-OBCs got those rights which the people of the country had

been getting for years, which had been withheld for them till now. They did not have forest rights in Jammu and Kashmir. There was no 'Prevention of Atrocities Act' in Jammu and Kashmir. We gave them these rights by removing Article 370. Even among our SC community, if anyone lagged behind and suffered, it was our Valmiki community. But our Valmiki families, who have been living in Jammu and Kashmir for 7 decades and serving the people, were not given the right of domicile. Today, I also want to inform the country that the Bill for reservation of OBCs in local bodies has also been passed in the Lok Sabha yesterday, on 6th February.

The Congress and its allies have always had difficulty in giving greater participation to SC, ST and OBCs. They had left no stone unturned to destroy Baba Saheb's politics and Baba Saheb's ideas. Statements are available, whatever was said in the elections is also available. There was no intention even to confer him with 'Bharat Ratna'. It was only when the government was formed with the support of BJP that Baba Saheb received 'Bharat Ratna'. Not only this, Sitaram Kesari belonged to a very backward caste. He was the President of the Congress Party. He was discarded and thrown on the footpath. That video is available. The country saw what happened to Sitaram Kesari. One of their guides is sitting in America who became famous for 'hua to hua' in the last elections. Congress is very close to this family. He just tried his best to belittle the contribution of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the founder of the Constitution. For the first time in the country, NDA proposed to make a tribal daughter the President. We made her the candidate. If there was ideological opposition to us and you had fielded a candidate, I would have understood. But you made the person, who left our party, a candidate. Therefore, it was not an ideological opposition, your opposition was for a tribal daughter. So when Sangma ji was contesting elections, he was also a tribal from North-East, the same was done to him. There are many incidents of insulting the President. Such words have come out of the mouths of their responsible people that one would bow his head in shame. Such language has been used for the President. The pain that is there in the mind keeps coming out somewhere like this. We got a chance to work in NDA for 10 years. First we made a Dalit and now a Tribal the President. We have always shown what our priority is.

When I talk about the performance of our government and the poor welfare policies of the NDA, then let us try to know the society to find out which society is its beneficiary. Who is spending life in slums? To which society these people belong? They have had to go through troubles and have been deprived of facilities. Who is this society? All the work we have done is for the SC, ST, OBCs and tribal communities. If people living in slums have got permanent houses, they are my friends from this community. They had to suffer from diseases all the time due to lack of cleanliness. They have got the benefit of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' under our schemes, so that they get the opportunity to live a better life. Our mothers and sisters from these families were facing health problems by cooking food in smoke. We gave them Ujjwala gas connection. We gave it to these families only. Be it free ration, free treatment - its beneficiaries are my these families, my family members of this section of the society, for whom all our schemes are working. Who will be benefited by denying these facts? You are also losing your credibility by doing this.

The misleading statistics of education were presented here. An attempt has been made to mislead. There has been an increase in the scholarships given to SC, ST students in the last 10 years. In these 10 years, enrollment in schools and higher education has also increased significantly and the school dropout rate has decreased

rapidly. 10 years ago there were 120 Eklavya Model Schools and today their number is 400. I don't understand why you deny these things. Earlier there was one Central Tribal University, today there are 2 Central Tribal Universities. It is also true that for a long time dalit, backward and tribal sons and daughters could not even see the doors of colleges. I remember, when I became the CM of Gujarat, I came across a shocking analysis. The entire belt from Umargam to Ambaji in Gujarat is a tribal dominated area. There was not a single school of science stream in that entire area. Now, if there will be no science stream school for my tribal children in that area, then there can be no question of engineering and medical studies! Even such minimal things were not there and they are giving speeches here!

You are sitting in that House, where such government is talking with you, such government is leading, where a huge change has taken place. You should increase the confidence of that society and boost their morale. We should make collective efforts to make them move forward rapidly in the mainstream of the country. I want to keep some statistics regarding the enrollment of students of SC, ST community. Enrollment of SC students in higher education has increased by 44 percent. Enrollment of ST students in higher education has increased by 65 percent. There has been an increase of 45 percent in the enrollment of students from OBC community in higher education. When my children from poor, dalit, backward, tribal and deprived families go to higher education, become doctors and engineers, a new environment will be created within the society. Our effort in that direction is that it may take some time to solve the basic problems, but we work vigorously and that is why we have worked with such emphasis on education. If there is lack of information then please tell us, we will give you the information, but do not spread such false propaganda so that your reputation gets diminished and the power of your words gets lost. Sometimes, I feel pity for you. '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*' is not mere a slogan, it is Modi's guarantee. When there is so much work being done, someone had written a poem and sent it to me. That poem is very long, but it contains one sentence:

"The era of Modi's guarantee is the dawn of new India,

Shops running out of warranty should look for new location."

Today, the efforts are being made to spread despair in the country. I understand that the people who have sunk into such despair no longer have the ability to spread despair. They cannot spread hope because hope cannot be expected from those who are immersed in despair. But wherever they sit in the country, by playing the game of spreading despair and denying the truth, they will neither be able to do any good to themselves nor to the country. The same song is sung every time. Such sentences are uttered without any basis to provoke certain sections of the society. I want to present some realities before the country. I believe that the media should debate on such topics so that we can know the truth. Here we faced various types of allegations regarding government companies. What allegations have been levelled! Now see, the country remembers what game was going on with Maruti's shares. At that time, it used to be a headline that what was happening with Maruti's shares. I don't want to go deep into it, otherwise water won't reach there, maybe shock will be felt here, so I don't want to go in details. It is important for the country to know. I was born in free India, my thoughts are free and my dreams are also free. Those who live with the mentality of slavery do not have anything else, they keep roaming around with the same old papers.

The Congress said that we sold these PSUs, sank these PSUs. Various things were said here and I was hearing it from senior members. Remember, who were the

ones who ruined BSNL-MTNL? Which period was that when BSNL, MTNL were ruined? People, who ruined HAL, were making speeches at its gate. The agenda for contesting elections in the year 2019 was being set in the name of HAL. Who ruined Air India, who brought about this situation? Congress Party and UPA cannot turn a blind eye to their 10 years of destruction. The country knows very well. Now I want to tell about the successes of our tenure. The same BSNL which you left after destroying it, is today moving towards Made in India 4G, 5G and is attracting the attention of the world. So many misconceptions were spread for HAL, today HAL is doing record manufacturing and revenue generation. HAL became Asia's largest helicopter manufacturing company in Karnataka. Where had you left it and where have we taken it.

Many misinformations have been spread regarding LIC. If someone wants to ruin something then rumours and lies are spread about it. This is a trend. If someone has a big bungalow in the village and some other persons want to buy it, but cannot get it, then they spread the word that it is a haunted bungalow, and no one buys it, then they themselves go and grab it. Today, I would like to say with pride that LIC shares are trading at record levels. It is also being propagated that PSUs have been closed and sold. It is said just for the sake of speaking. After the UPA period, in the year 2014, there were 234 PSUs, which today are 254. Don't know what mathematics they know. Today most of the PSUs are earning record profits and investor confidence in them is increasing. Anyone who knows even a little about the stock market understands this. If someone does not understand, then he should ask about it. The BSE, PSU index has almost doubled in last one year. Ten years ago, i.e. between 2004 and 2014, net profit of PSUs was approximately Rs 1.25 lakh crore and in these ten years after 2014, it is Rs 2.5 lakh crore. Net worth of PSUs has increased from Rs 9.5 lakh crore to Rs 17 lakh crore in our Government's last ten years. Whatever they touch, is destined to sink and this was the condition of the PSU sector also. We worked hard to bring it out of that sinking position and now their reputation has increased. You should be happy. You should not spread such misinformation in the market that the common investor of the country gets confused. The dignity of these people is so much that they have given their crown prince a startup. Right now he is a non-starter. The start up is neither being lifted nor launched. It would have been better if you had showed such simplicity last time also. I was fortunate that I got the opportunity to serve the country and its people as the Chief Minister of a state for a long time. Therefore, I understand the regional aspirations very well because I have come through this process. People like Digvijay ji, Sharad Pawar ji, Devegowda ji are also aware of all these things. We understand its importance. We don't learn from books, we have our own experience. It is also true that for ten years the entire power of UPA was engaged in not allowing Gujarat to do anything, you cannot imagine that situation, but I do not make a hue and cry on such things. I did my work despite facing all kinds of troubles. I could not even get an appointment with a Minister. They used to say that as a friend, they could talk on the phone, but were afraid of getting photographed with me somewhere. Even the Ministers were afraid. Well, I can understand their problems. Once my state faced a huge natural calamity. At that time I requested the Prime Minister to come and inspect the situation. An inspection programme was made. There was an advisory committee, some order came and the Prime Minister said that he was changing the programme and going to some other state and would not come to Gujarat and would see it from above by aeroplane. I can still understand aerial surveillance from helicopters. I had reached Surat, they were about to come, I know what would have happened in the end! You can imagine that I

have faced such troubles even during natural disasters. Despite that, at that time and even today, my mantra is that for the development of the country, development of the state is necessary, for the development of India, development of Gujarat is necessary. I assure you that if the state takes one step, the Centre is ready to give it the power to take two steps. What is cooperative federalism? Today the country needs competitive cooperative federalism. There should be healthy competition among our states so that the country can progress rapidly. We need to move forward with a positive thinking. Covid is an example. At the time of such a huge global crisis, I held 20 meetings with the Chief Ministers of the states. I discussed every single thing and worked with everyone. With the cooperation of all the states, the Center and the states worked as a team and together we faced the crisis which the world could not cope with. I will never give credit to any one person for this, everyone together did whatever they could to save this country. We could have organized G20 in Delhi, this has happened earlier, but we did not do so. We gave all the glory of G20 to the states, we held one meeting in Delhi and held 200 in the states. This was done so that each state got exposure to the world. This did not happen by mistake, it was planned in advance. I do not run the country on the basis of whose government is in which state. The Government has worked with this thinking that we all want to take the country forward. Earlier also, guests from foreign countries used to come to our country. But now, when foreign guests come, I insist that they should visit some state one day. I take them to the states, so that they know that my country is not only in Delhi but in Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and Guwahati also. We try to ensure that the whole world gets exposure to every corner of my country. Everyone knows that there is so much work on 26th January, but despite that, on 25th, I took the President of France around in the streets of Rajasthan, so that the world could know that our Rajasthan is like this. We have started a huge programme of Aspirational Districts which is talked about as a model in the world. 80 percent role in the success of aspirational districts is played by the cooperation of the states.

The spirit of 'Aspirational Districts' is getting strength from the states and district level officials and the states which were last in the average of the states have today started competing with the national average. We also want to give every state its full rights, but today I want to express my pain on an important issue. Nation is not just a piece of land for us, but an inspiring unit for all of us. If there is pain in any corner of India, then everyone should feel this pain. If one part of the body does not work, the entire body is considered disabled, in the same way if any corner of the country, any area of the country is deprived of development, then the country cannot develop. Therefore, we should look at India as a whole and not in pieces. New narratives are being created for political selfishness to break the country. Nothing can be a bigger misfortune for the country than this. If a tribal child from Jharkhand wins a medal in the Olympic Games, do we think that he is a child from Jharkhand? The whole country says that he is the child of our country. When we see talent in a child from Jharkhand and the country spends thousands and lakhs of rupees and sends him to any country in the world to get good coaching, will we think that this expenditure is being made for Jharkhand? Can we say that the vaccine was made in that corner, hence the right is theirs, the country cannot get it. What has happened to our thinking and such thoughts are coming from within a national party - this is a very sad thing. I want to ask that if the Himalayas start saying tomorrow that the rivers flow from my place, I will not give you water, the right to water is mine, then what will happen to the country? If the states which have coal say that coal will not be available, it is our property, go and live in darkness, then how will the country run? Talking about

oxygen, at the time of Covid, entire country needed oxygen, but if at that time the people of the East had said that we could not provide oxygen, our people need it, the country would not get anything, then what would have happened to the country? Despite facing the crisis, they delivered oxygen. What are these efforts, which are being made to break this sentiment within the country? This is a language that poses a new threat to the future of the country.

The Government's policy making in the last ten years is meant to show the new direction of the new India. In the last decade, our focus has been on ensuring that everyone gets basic facilities. The standard of living of every family should rise and it should have ease of living. Now the need of the hour is to improve their quality of life. We want to work in this direction with all our strength and capability in the coming days. In the next five years, we are going to make every effort to empower the neo- middle class that has come out of poverty and take it to new heights. Therefore, we are going to further strengthen Modi's armor of social justice. Nowadays, when we say that 25 crore people have come out of poverty, then the fallacy given is that if 25 crore have come out, then why are 80 crore people given food grains? We know that even when a sick person comes out of the hospital, the doctors ask to take care of him for a few days and take precautions so that he does not get into trouble again. Similarly, a person who has come out of poverty should be taken better care of, so that he does not become poor again due to any crisis. We give five lakh rupees in Ayushman Bharat scheme, so there is an intention behind that also. It does not take long for a middle class person to become poor when a disease occurs in the family, hence as important as it is to get out of poverty, it is equally important that he does not slip back towards poverty even by mistake. That's why we give grains and will keep giving, whether anyone feels bad or not. I understand these situations because I have seen that world. They need more, so our scheme will continue. The country knows this and that is why I have given the guarantee. My guarantee is that the poor will continue to get treatment facilities up to Rs 5 lakh in future also. The middle class and the poor are getting the benefit and will continue to benefit from the medicines available at 80 percent discount. Modi's guarantee is that the *Samman Nidhi* which the farmers are getting will continue, so that they can join the journey of development with strength. My campaign is to provide permanent houses to the poor. If the family grows, new families are formed -- my programme of providing permanent houses will continue.

The work of '*Nal Se Jal Yojana*' and construction of new toilets will proceed rapidly, because we do not want to let the pace of development slow down under any circumstances. The third term of our Government is not far. Some people call it Modi 3.0. Modi 3.0 will put full force into strengthening the foundation of developed India. In the next five years, the number of doctors in India will increase many fold as compared to before, the number of medical colleges will increase, treatment in this country will become very cheap and accessible. In the next five years, every poor person will have a tap water connection in his house. It will be ensured that no poor is deprived of the benefits of PM Awas in the coming five years. In the next five years, the electricity bill of crores of citizens of the country will become zero due to solar energy and if planned properly, people will be able to generate electricity at their home and earn money by selling it. In the next five years, every effort will be made to create a network of piped gas connections across the country. In the coming five years, the number of our young startups, youth unicorns, is going to be in lakhs. Not only this, a new identity is going to be created in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities with new startups. The impact of increased investment in research will be that there will be a record number of more patents in the next five years than there have been in the last seven

decades. Today lakhs of middle class children go abroad to study. I want to make it possible to have the best universities in the country itself so that the dreams of the middle class may be fulfilled here only, and children may get the highest education in the country itself and the money of my children and their families is saved. In the coming five years, there will be no such international sports competition in which the Indian flag will not be seen flying everywhere. I will see that in the next five years, India's youth power will have its own identity in the world of sports. India's public transport system is going to be completely transformed in the coming five years. In the next five years, the poor and middle class are going to get fast and luxurious travel facilities very easily and quickly. In the next five years, the country will also see Bullet Train and the expansion of Vande Bharat Train. In the next five years, the campaign of self-reliant India will reach new heights. In the coming five years, we will be known in the world with Made in India Semiconductors. Every electronic product will have a chip which contains the sweat of some Indian.

The country will see the potential of a new momentum in the world's electronic market in the coming 5 years. Today the country imports oil worth lakhs crores of rupees. We will work towards becoming more and more self-reliant for our energy needs and I am confident that we will be successful in reducing our dependence on energy needs. Not only this, through the Green Hydrogen campaign we are moving towards attracting the world market. Our green hydrogen will have the potential to meet our energy needs. We are progressing rapidly in the world of ethanol. By achieving the target of 20 percent, arrangements will be made to ensure that our people get cheaper transportation. When I talk about 20 percent ethanol, it is going to directly benefit the farmers of my country. The farmer will be in a new situation. Thousands of crores of rupees of the country are spent on edible oil. We call our country an agrarian country, but even today we have to bring edible oil worth thousands of crores of rupees from outside. I have faith in the farmers of our country. With the policies we are pursuing, my country will become very self-sufficient in edible oil in 5 years. The money saved on this account will go into the pockets of the farmers of my country, which today goes to the foreign market. Our mother earth is suffering a lot due to use of chemicals in farming. In the coming 5 years, we will move forward successfully in taking the farmers of the country towards natural farming. This will create a new awakening and our mother earth will also be protected. With increase in natural farming, the strength of our products is going to increase in the world market also. Through the United Nations, I launched a campaign on millets. Today we have given them recognition as Shri Anna. I do not see the day far when in the coming 5 years the millets produced by the small farmers of villages will have a reputation as a super food in the world market. Drones are going to emerge as a new strength for farmers in the fields. We have already launched the programme of 15 thousand Drone Didis. This is just the beginning, a lot of success is visible ahead. We have so far been successful in using nanotechnology in agriculture. We have achieved great success in Nano Urea, we have achieved success in the direction of Nano DAP. Today, a farmer moving around with a sack of fertilizer will be able to manage with just one bottle of fertilizer, that day is not far. We have created a new ministry in the cooperative sector. The intention behind it is that a whole mass movement of co-operation should emerge with new strength and according to the needs of the 21st century. The greatest benefit of this will be to the people of our country. When the work of 2 lakh storage units that we have undertaken is completed within 5 years, even small farmers will get space to store their produce. Then the farmer will decide at what price to sell or not sell his produce in the market. The fear of being ruined will be eliminated and the financial strength of the farmer will increase. I am sure that new records are going to be made in animal husbandry and fisheries. Today we have a

large number of animals, but milk production is low. We will change this situation. I have full faith that we will see very rapid growth in fish production in the world. I also believe that the experience of the formation of FPO that we have undertaken has been very good. Within 5 years, there will be seen a new organizational strength of farmers, there will be strength of value in agricultural production. The farmers of my country are definitely going to get this benefit. The success of G20 has made it clear and the greatest benefit of the openness that has come in the world after Covid, is that we have seen that India has attracted the world's attention . Therefore, in the coming days, tourism is going to be a very big sector, which is going to provide the maximum employment. Today there are many countries in the world whose entire economy is dependent on tourism. In India too, there can be many states where tourism will be the biggest part of their entire economy. With the policies we are pursuing, the day is not far when India is going to become a huge tourist destination. We used to be made fun of, when I used to talk about 'Digital India', when I used to talk about Financial Technology (Fintech), people felt that I was talking a little out of the box. There was a lack of capability for people with outdated thinking, but I have full faith that in the coming 5 years, India is going to make a name for itself in the world of digital economy and digital systems are going to increase India's capability. The world recognizes that if any country has the potential to use AI the most, it will be India. My country will use the ultra latest technology. India's glory is shining in the world of space. The acumen of our scientists is visible and the programme for the next 5 years, I do not want to express it in words today, but to the utter surprise of the world, our scientists will take India to the world of space, this is my firm belief. The grassroots level economy has undergone a major transformation. Our mothers and sisters are associated with 10 crore self-help groups and there are 3 crore Lakhpati Didis, they themselves are writing the story of the progress of our daughters. There are several areas in which I clearly foresee significant changes in the coming 5 years - We used to hear that India had a golden age. I do not see those days far when that strong foundation will be laid in 5 years and by the time we reach 2047, the country will start living that golden era again. I believe this. 'Viksit Bharat' - This is not a game of words, it is our commitment and we are dedicated to it. Our every breath is for that work, our every moment is for that work, our every thought is dedicated to that work. I assure you that we have moved forward, are moving forward, will continue to move forward with this spirit and the country will continue to move forward. The coming centuries will mark this golden period in history. I am confident in this regard because I understand the mood of the people of the country very well. The country has witnessed 10 years of transformation. The transformation that the country has witnessed in every field is going to lead to new heights, new dimensions, new strength in every spheres of life and taking every resolution to accomplishment - this is a part of our working style. I would like to say once again that because of the views expressed by all of you in this House, I got the opportunity to present the truth before the country and that too very firmly and openly and amidst the sanctity of the House while fully keeping the Constitution in mind. I am confident that the country can not listen to those whose warranty has expired. The country will move forward reposing faith in the ideas of someone the power of whose guarantee it has seen. Respected Chairman Sir, once again I express my heartfelt gratitude to you and my respectful greetings and thanks to the respected President for her Address.

All the amendments were negatived.

The Motion of Thanks was adopted.

**THE INTERIM UNION BUDGET, 2024-25 AND THE INTERIM BUDGET of
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 2024-25**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: On behalf of my YSR Congress Party I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting the Interim Union Budget for 2024-25. There are a few positive developments. The Government proposed to spend 6 per cent higher than last year. Secondly, the Government is tightening the monetary belt and planning to lower the fiscal deficit which is good for economy. Thirdly, Rs. 70,449 crores have been allocated to the Department of Economic Affairs for the new scheme. I would like to bring to your kind notice some points in so far as the Budget is concerned and I would like to compare the present interim Budget with that of the Budgets presented by the present Opposition and the earlier party which had ruled this country for a decade. In the past two decades, we have had 10 years i.e., from 2004 to 2014 of gross mismanagement by the Congress Party. The data and the facts indicate that the Congress' misrule from 2004 to 2014 had poisoned the Indian economy. India was the tenth-largest economy during this period. Now it has become the fifth-largest economy in the world, surpassing the countries like United Kingdom, France, and Canada. The GDP growth has already exceeded 7 per cent, as against 5 per cent expectation of the Congress-supported Raghuram Rajanji. The income inequality increased during the Congress' rule. When the non-Congress Government is in power, about 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty. India's performance on Human Development Index has risen under the non-Congress Government rule. Whenever the Congress Party is in power, Inflation in India is at the peak. During UPA-I regime the inflation was 5.8 per cent and during UPA-II regime it was 10.4 per cent. Now, from 2014 onwards, it has, on an average, been 4.8 per cent. Even in the States, the highest inflation was recorded in the States ruled by the Congress Party. Congress and corruption have become synonyms. The Congress has always treated public money as their own personal ATM. The list of Government scams happened during the UPA rule is never ending. Coming to the infrastructure, during the UPA Government roads and highways grew at a rate of 5.3 per cent. In contrast, the current growth rate for roads and highways is 8.25 per cent. The current Government has spent closely three times more than what has been spent by UPA Government to build new assets. In 2014, India ranked 142nd on Ease of Doing Business Index, presently, it stands at 63rd. They have made false promises, looted the public coffers and put Indian economy in a regressive mode.

* * * * *
* * * * *

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

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