

RAJYA SABHA

*** SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, February 06, 2024/ Magha 17, 1945 (Saka)

GOVERNMENT BILLS

**(iii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)
Amendment Bill, 2024 - *Contd.***

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: This Bill proposes to rationalize the criminal provisions and ensure that citizens, businesses and companies operate without the fear of imprisonment for minor technical or procedural lapses. The nature of punishment for a crime should be commensurate with the seriousness of the crime. The Bill seeks to strike a balance between the gravity of the crime and the severity of the punishment awarded for it. The instant amendment Bill provides for mild punishment for some of the offenses included in the Principal Act. Making provision for lighter punishment in the name of rationalizing criminal provisions will not have any impact on the public, entrepreneurs and other business establishments. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, Rushikonda, which is a tourist destination, has been completely demolished causing pollution to the environment. Andhra Pradesh government wants to build a CM camp office there and has invested Rs 600 crore. The public is not allowed to visit Rushikonda. Apart from that, they are harming the entire developmental activities in Visakhapatnam also. According to the provisions of this Act, section 45A of the principal Act, “if any person contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or any order or direction issued”, the penalty may be extended from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15 lakh. Also the Central Government has not made a provision for appointing an officer below the rank of Joint Secretary, for the purpose of determining penalty. Although quasi-judicial functions were assigned to the executing authority, the nature of disposal and nature of complaints has to be addressed by following the procedural aspect also. The amount of penalty imposed under the provisions of sections 41, 41A, 42 to 45 shall be in addition to the liability of the National Green Tribunal to grant relief or compensation under section 15 read with section 17. This is double punishment imposed on that. Coming to the another aspect, any person aggrieved by the order of a judicial officer under Section 49B can appeal to the National Green Tribunal under Section 3 of the National Green Tribunal Act. The National Green Tribunal is already burdened with cases related to environmental pollution. Under this Act also, appeals are given priority in the National Green Tribunal. This way it will be burdened more. Hence, it is better to constitute a separate tribunal and take appropriate steps to dispose of the cases within a stipulated time.

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

SHRI KAILASH SONI: I rise to speak in favor of the proposed amendment to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude, and appreciation to Honorable Bhupender Yadav ji and my congratulations to him. Law is the lifeline of democracy. Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has established himself as the most popular leader in India because after independence, no government in India has established such a history that so many laws of the British were repealed and so many new laws were made as per the country, time and situation. This law has been introduced with three objectives. First, the purity and quality of water should be maintained and it should be used properly, second, our vision of 'Developed India' should not be hampered because of our water, and third, 'Uniformity of Law'. In the year 1974, our Indian Parliament made a uniform law throughout the country for wide-ranging environmental problems. This Act is one of the main laws for prevention, control of water pollution and maintaining and restoring the integrity of water. The Water Act provides for the establishment of Central and State Boards for the prevention and control of water pollution and also confers upon them powers related thereto. Since water is a State subject as provided in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, the Water Act is therefore enacted in pursuance of clause 1 of Article 352 of the Constitution, namely, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, established in accordance with the resolution passed by the Houses of the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal. Various penal provisions have been made in this Act, which is inconsistent with the 1974 Act. For example, for violation of the directions issued under Sections 20, 32, 33, 33A, the violator can be punished with imprisonment up to 3 months or fine and for violation of Section 30 or 33A, imprisonment for a term may also be imposed. They may be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 1 year and 6 months but which may extend to 6 years and with fine. Additional penalties may also be imposed if the failure continues. If the failure still continues the offender will be sentenced to imprisonment if found guilty. This will create an atmosphere of fear among the industrialists working and using water in the country. Therefore, I want to tell the basic objectives of this law. Its basic objective is to eliminate the fear of imprisonment for small crimes, taking a step towards ease of doing business. The proposal would also make procedures uniform across all jurisdictions. Therefore, I request everyone through you to please pass this unanimously.

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: After the international conference of 1972, a law was passed in the Indian Parliament in 1974 to control water pollution. Under this, various state governments established Pollution Control Boards to prevent pollution in their respective states and to keep the environment pure, but the Pollution Control Boards of different states had different rules and regulations. There were different working orders, so the idea was to bring uniformity in it. Also, there was some rigidity in the 1974 law, due to which many industries had to face a lot of complexity in setting up. In this law, care has been taken to ensure that the industry is not affected and at the same time, the water is not polluted by the waste coming out of the industry. The industry should not be affected due to this law and any laxity in this should not lead to adverse impact on water and environment. This law has been brought by coordinating these two things. In this, the provision of punishment has been simplified since the penalty will be reduced and the fine collected from entrepreneurs will be used by the Pollution Control Board. Overall, its objective is to make a law which controls the environment, protects it and also prevents pollution, and at the same time, the wheel of our development does not stop. This law has been brought to create a balance between development and environment. After the enactment of this law, there will be uniformity in the laws of the entire country and at the

same time, the Central Control Board will have more powers because if there is no adverse impact on the environment in setting up many industries and the state governments are not giving no objection to them, the Central Pollution Control Board will be able to give them the right to establish them. Overall, the Government of India is committed to providing clean water to the people. The way the work of providing tap water to every house has been done under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, it is unprecedented in itself.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; AND THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV), replying to the debate, said: Today most of the Members felt that there is a need to end the way we create technical barriers for the development of the country through some laws. Every effort has been made in this bill. Out of the 9 requests that the Honorable Prime Minister made to the people of the country in Varanasi last year, the first request he made was for every citizen in the country to be aware about water conservation and that is why on completion of 75 years of independence. Honorable Prime Minister presented the concept of 'Amrit Sarovar' to the country celebrating 'Amrit Utsav'. We are fully committed to water conservation in our country. On completion of 75 years of independence, 75 water bodies of India have been given the status of *Ramsar* sites. The Jal Shakti Ministry was constituted and Jal-Jeevan Mission was launched Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and by taking the Jal-Jeevan Mission forward clean water was made available in remote villages. 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' was launched for water conservation. In the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' provision was made to provide water to every field and save every drop of it. Water management work in the country has been done under 'Atal Ground Water Scheme' for underground water and AMRUT Scheme for water supply in urban areas. A lot of work has been done under 'Namami Gange Project'. Under the 'Water Act', there were provisions for imprisonment even for violations of such minor nature offence which did not cause any harm to humans or any significant harm to the environment. People approach the courts, the industry also keeps roaming in the courts and no solution is found. There are two subjects - one being intentional wrongdoing and the other unintentional wrongdoing. Those who commit offence intentionally, do wrong and also seek protection from the Court. Many times we say that 'Justice is delayed but never denied.' I believe that delay itself is denial. I want to say that under the proposed changes brought by us, they will have to pay fine and in case of repetition of the offence, they will have to pay the fine on day-to-day basis. Ravindra Kumar ji was talking about the provision of NGT. We have made the provision of Adjudicating Authority so that anyone can present his/her side in an easy manner, away from the normal judicial process and present his/her facts, and no one is penalized unnecessarily. If the adjudicating authority somehow makes a wrong decision, then there should definitely be an Appellate Authority and we have made the NGT as the Appellate Authority. Thambidurai ji raised the issue of Tamil Nadu. That is the case of water pollution in two states. If someone starts his industry without obtaining permission to operate, it is definitely a direct violation. As far as the issue of giving directions to the State Pollution Control Board is concerned, we all know that there were different procedures for granting permission to operate in different states. If there is unnecessary delay in setting up and operating an industrial establishment by a State Board or permission is not granted to operate it, the Central Government has been authorized to frame guidelines in such cases so that the Industries develop equally in all the states. All these works will be done in a very transparent manner. There should also be eligibility criteria including equivalence, transparency in the appointment of officers in the State Pollution Control Boards of the country. There is a provision for fine in this and the

amount coming from the fine will be kept in the Environmental Protection fund under the Environment Protection Act. 75 percent of this will be given to the states and this fund will be used for environmental protection and to fulfil the objectives of this Act. We will prepare its guidelines. We have also laid down procedure for the appointment of the officers who impose fine. Members have also given their views regarding Air pollution in the country. We have selected 131 cities in the country under the 'National Clean Air Mission Programme' and we are continuously taking action for the same. Those doing good work are being encouraged as a healthy competition. The target of achieving renewable energy capacity by 2030, India had set in the Paris Agreement, has been achieved 9 years in advance in 2021 itself. There are five great Elements in the world, Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Sky. They are being influenced the most by humans. We believe that environment and development are mutually dependent and coexisting subjects. Our environment should be safe and development should also be easy. Only with the ease of development poverty can be eliminated in the country and everyone will get the right to live a respectable and dignified life equally and in a good way. There should be so much ease that fine for wrongdoers, no unnecessary imprisonment, merit should be given importance in appointments and there should be transparency in spending the money.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., were adopted.

The Bill was passed.

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

*** MS. DOLA SEN: (Spoke in Bengali).**

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I welcome the Pollution Control Bill. It is a welcome step taken by the present Government. The issue of the Schedule Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was raised by the present Government but issue of the Kadugolla Community has not been resolved. On 12.2.2014, the Cabinet approved this proposal. It says, "In view of the above, it is recommended to include Kadugolla as a Scheduled Tribe." Ten years have passed since then. It was also recommended by the Government of Karnataka, the BJP Government in 2022 and in 2023, but the issue has not been solved. Through this House, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to see that this issue of Kadugollas is notified before the Session ends and the benefit goes to Kadugolla community. Sir, I do not want to defame anybody unnecessarily. Today, there is a big advertisement to call all of us to join their tomorrow's protest at Jantar Mantar. They are asking money for Upper Bhadra project. For that, tomorrow, they ask me to come to protest in their side. Somebody was telling that Irrigation is the State subject. The Gadgil Commission, when he was the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Indira Gandhiji was the Prime Minister, he said that irrigation is a State subject, no money could be provided to irrigation projects. Sir, I created a special fund, tax-related irrigation fund for the first time in this country. All projects, which were built during the period of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, medium and major irrigation projects, the money was provided for all projects. These people want Upper Bhadra project where the previous Government has made some promise in Karnataka. In Kerala, our hon. Chief Minister wants our other UDF

* Synopsis of speech delivered by Hon'ble Member in Bengali will be published separately as supplement.

Members to participate but they are saying 'No'. Kerala's Chief Minister is also going to have a protest here where he has requested the UDF Members and they said 'No'.

There are several programmes which everybody should appreciate. In ten years, several programmes what he has done, I must not only appreciate but the country will appreciate it. I am not coming here to make an election campaign but the country will appreciate. The facts and figures are here. This is about water. The only thing is that the drinking water problem in Karnataka is a major problem. I appeal to our Tamil Nadu friends to have the permission by the Union Government to construct the Mekedatu dam. It is a small one. We store about 30 TMC of water. A senior-most advocate who appears for Tamil Nadu has made it clear to Karnataka to build a dam above Mettur. I fought this battle for 60 years and I am 91 years old. In ten years, only four years has been the problem. The facts and figures are there. I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to solve the drinking water problem of Karnataka. That is all I would like to pray and appeal to all the Members of this House.

SHRIMATI MAMATA MOHANTA: I belong to Mayurbhanj district, a tribal dominated area of Odisha, which is known as Bhanj-Bhoomi. I am fortunate that Her Excellency Madam President is also the daughter of this Mayurbhanj soil. George Bernard Shaw has written - 'Freedom is a responsibility, that is why most people are afraid of it', but in the Government's current regime, all Indians are taking responsibility in the development of the country. India is moving forward a lot. There are four sub-divisions at Her Excellency the President's place, but till date the rail service has not reached there. The residents of Mayurbhanj district are deprived of rail service. People from Rairangpur and Karanjia sub divisions depend on the same National Highway 49 to reach Baripada headquarter. Every month at least 20 to 25 accidents occur and many people lose their lives. This road needs to be repaired.

***SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: (Spoke in Nepali).**

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI: I am grateful and thankful to the hon. President of India for her historical Address in the *Amrit Kaal* in the new Parliament House. In her address hon. President has mentioned development of SC/ST, empowerment of poor, farmers, women and youth, *Vikasit Bharat, Sab-ka-Saath-Sab-ka-Vikas-Sab-ka-Prayas*. The Government of Odisha extends reservation to STs and SCs according to the population. Government of India should also increase the percentage of reservation for the development of SCs and STs. STs depends on *zamin, jal, jungle, jeeva jantu* for their livelihood. All these should be well protected. Tribes like Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Saura, Gondi, Sambhalpuri and Kui should be included under the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. I would like to request the Government of India to establish Eklavya Residential Model Schools, PM-SHRI Schools, Central Schools for educational development, quality education, higher education, professional and occasional education for SC/ST people.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. In the whole speech, I did not find any mention on inflation, unemployment and suffering of the masses in the rural India. Corporate sectors are being encouraged by dolling through banking systems and insurance tools. In the last ten years the per capita loan has increased by unimaginable proportion. The speech has no mention about the promise made in 2022 of doubling the farmer's income and providing pucca house. Issues related to tribals, dalits and other vulnerable

* Synopsis of speech delivered by Hon'ble Member in Nepali will be published separately as supplement.

groups have been ignored completely. A commitment was given to the long-pending Naga Peace Solution way back in 2015 at the highest level. Its status has not been spoken of. A commitment was made to accord tribal status to six major ethnic groups and to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord, what is the status of these commitments. Since the last eight months, my neighbouring State, Manipur is burning. But there is mention no about it. I am very sorry to say that the constitutional institution has been very vulnerable in the last ten years. The federalism is the soul of the Indian Constitution, and democracy cannot survive if that spirit is bulldozed. I have a high level of confidence in the wisdom of the Indian masses and they will certainly protect democracy, the Constitution and Fundamental Rights by electing the party and political ideology that believes in the core values of the Constitution.

DR. DINESH SHARMA: Despite the unanimity of different views, the mutual harmony of the parties in the Rajya Sabha has been shown in a unique way. Here different parties were seen in agreement despite not having any alliance among themselves. Various parties seemed to be unanimous here only on the kind of conduct to oppose BJP. All I have to say about them is that reheated tea and a compromised relationship never have the same sweetness as before. Your sweetness has now turned into bitterness. Today, under the leadership of Modi ji, the government has reached its final destination in its 10-year journey with unprecedented and revolutionary changes, be it health, internal security, defense or family welfare. If we want to analyze that entire process, the feeling of progress that has arisen in the last 10 years, definitely includes ideas based on the principles of Deendayal Upadhyay and Mahatma Gandhi. In the field of health, perhaps during one of the most overwhelming situations in the world and in India, greatest concern was for the poor as to what they would do if they fell ill. The work of addressing this concern has been done by the Honorable Prime Minister through a far-reaching scheme like Ayushman Bharat. This health revolution of India has come as the biggest revolution in the world. If we start analyzing the savings that the Prime Minister has achieved indirectly through his schemes, then not just Rs 15 lakh, but many times more money has gone into people's accounts. Today, the government has done a unique job of upliftment of the poor by indirectly saving the people's overhead expenses. Free treatment facility saved Rs. 3.5 lakh crore. 28 thousand rupees have been saved from 10 thousand Jan Aushadhi centres. Today, medicines are available for diseases like cancer and knee implant. Dialysis facility is also available for free. There has been a 16 percent reduction in cases of diseases like TB and 18 percent reduction in deaths. More than 1 crore women have benefited from the 'Janani Suraksha Yojana' which is run for women for safe delivery.

Today, medicines for treatment are available even in CHCs and PHCs in villages. Today, facilities like covid vaccination, telemedicine, hospital registration, health records are easily available to the people. The shortage of doctors has also been addressed. 262 medical colleges have been established. A unique cexperiment of 'One District-One Medical College' is being done in Uttar Pradesh, that is why people say that '*Modi hai to mumkin hai*' The sensitivity shown by the Modi government in fighting Covid, the most serious epidemic of this century, is incredible. Now, people take the name of India as a country which can make even the impossible possible. For the first time during the time of Covid, not one but three vaccines were made in our country. Today the opposition cannot see its progress in its own country, it is a misfortune. It has supported all 120 countries. The government has helped 25 crore people to come out of the poverty line. The process of taking far reaching decisions started from August 15, 2014, when 'Jan-Dhan Yojana' was launched under which today more than 48 crore people have joined formal banking. And on an average, Rs 4,000 is deposited in those accounts today. Modi ji uses the opportunity whenever he gets it. Intelligent people create more opportunities than they get. He made

arrangements to provide free ration to 80 crore poor people of the country and through various types of schemes like construction of free toilets as well as houses, a different kind of revolution has been seen in the entire country today. Everyone and surveys says about Modi ji that at present he is the greatest leader in the world, but the leader of the opposition gave this statement that the people of the country vote only for Modi.

We have also done exemplary work in the field of defence. Today, defense corridors are being built in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Be it Jewar Airport in Noida or various religious places, like Kashi-Vishwanath Corridor, Shri Ram Temple of Ayodhya has been built. If its economic analysis is done, it will be revealed that through religious tourism it is going to become a huge means of strengthening the economy. The Prime Minister has respected religious faith and also worked in the field of strengthening the economy. The Army, Air and Navy have undergone significant modernization with upgrades to weapons, surveillance systems and combat capabilities. An excellent measure of 'Make in India' has also been done along with making these defence deals. In the area of internal security, terrorism, especially in Kashmir and the North-East, situation is under control. There has been a decline in incidents of violence today. Today, the government has a policy of zero tolerance on terrorism. During the tenure of Amit Shah ji, while Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill and Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill were passed, many other important bills were also passed. Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita, Bhartiya Nyay Samhita and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam- these three are going to emerge as a panacea for the internal security of India. In support of the address of Honorable President, I would like to say that today the entire country is safe under the leadership of Modi ji and this country will definitely move towards becoming a world leader.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: On the coming February 13, our Prime Minister is going to Abu Dhabi to inaugurate a temple. The President of United Arab Emirates has, as per his request and as per their Ministry of Tolerance, agreed for giving 25 acres of land for making temple. He is inaugurating it on 14th February. For Modi ji, he has given a permission for assembly of 1,00,000 people. After coming back from there, leave issues like *Gyanvapi* mosque, any other mosque and all that. Considering that kind of tolerance, do not go beneath and beneath, for survey, survey and survey. Please ask the Prime Minister not to do all these things and not allow other people to do these things. It is heard that things done in the last ten years were better than all the other things done in 65 years. Even the five years rule by Vajpayee ji has been forgotten. All the focus is on these ten years and on the next 25 years. We hope in the hundredth year of Independence, India will definitely be number one, not number three in the world in terms of finance, in terms of military and other aspects.

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA: I would like to submit that the address of the Hon'ble President is a summary of the achievements of ten years, which reflects the thinking of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the quality of the exchequer. We never made any populist promises in the address or budget. This is a confident address which shows that 'Modi ji Hai To Mumkin hai, Guarantee of Modi ji is for all. This is truly a living example of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas' beyond any kind of discrimination and casticism. I am basically from Rajasthan and we feel happy to see you sitting here. My work place has been Karnataka and when Shri Nijalingappa of Karnataka became the President of Congress, it was a matter of great pride for us, although I was in Jan Sangh at that time. When Shri Deve Gowda ji became the Prime Minister, he did very good work in his very short tenure and worked to unite the country. But Congress does not follow him. He has never been accused of corruption of even a single rupee. There was no laxity in his

administration, there were no riots and law and order was also running smoothly. I don't know what has happened to this family. When someone from Karnataka comes to the highest position, we feel very proud. Sir, the way Deve Gowda ji was removed. He was removed because the Finance Department had given a notice to Karnataka Congress Party that you had not given income tax details. This was the conduct of Congress. Sir, I am not able to understand for what he was punishment. Kharge ji is also being mistreated. When Doordarshan came, Atal ji and LK Advani ji used to sit in front of the Red Fort and Doordarshan people used to show them, then we were very proud that the Prime Minister was speaking from the Red Fort and our Advani ji and our leaders were sitting in the audience. Has happened. We like it when Modi ji gives a speech from the Red Fort and if Kharge ji was sitting there, the hearts of us 6 crore people of Karnataka would have been happy. When the new Parliament was inaugurated, I was thinking that Kharge ji will come now, he will come now, but he did not come. I think that Congress should improve its governance and should not continue insulting the leaders of Karnataka. I understand that they will not misbehave with Kharge ji and will allow him to work comfortably.

SHRI. SANDOSH KUMAR P: My Party CPI has a very special regards for the post of President of India. But preidential address is a campaign material for the NDA, I mean, the anti-India alliance to deceive once again the people of this country. Hence, I oppose the Motion of Thanks. The country and it's polity is passing through a very difficult period. We are at crossroads. In the month of December, our Parliament was attacked. The parliamentary democracy and the system is under tremendous attack. It is continuing. So, I take this opportunity to appeal to all the political leaders and the learned MPs, who are associated with NDA and other parties, to understand the gravity of the situation and to raise their voice against this. So, we have to put an end to this regime. The Presidential Address lasted for one hour and twenty minutes. Surprisingly or intentionally, it missed two important terms and words. One is 'Manipur' and the second one is 'Mahatma Gandhi'. Manipur, as we all know, how the President of the country can deliver a speech which lasted for one hour and twenty minutes without mentioning the term 'Manipur' even a single time. On page number 2 of the Presidential Address, there is a reference. "A Museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of the country was inaugurated in Delhi, the National Capital." Sir, it was the renaming only. It was to erase the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru. On Page No. 6, they say, "The Achievements of ten years, 25 crore countrymen have been lifted out of poverty." From where do they get all these data?

SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Due to the positive efforts of the government, today the deprived sections of the country are getting many rights. Based on these principles of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, these policies have become an example of social justice in the country. For 75 years of the country's independence, no one has done any work of telling about the tribal unsung heroes of the country, their biographies and achievements, who played an important role in the freedom struggle. Sir, our government has done a lot of work for them, whereas the earlier government only used the votes of the tribals. In 75 years, no one has visited Lord Birsa Munda ji's village, on his land, but our illustrious Prime Minister has gone to Lord Birsa Munda ji's village Ulihatu, Jharkhand, and applied tilak of the soil there, to develop our tribes. The primitive tribes of our PVTG group became the benchmark for the development of these people. They live in villages, in forests. On the basis of their population, it was decided that only if there would be so much population here, a road would be built. By removing all these parameters, in order to develop the villages of PVTG Group, by canceling everything else, schemes have been started for their development by starting Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana. In Rajasthan, which is our Mangarh Dham, thousands of Bhil tribes fought with the British in the fight for freedom and many were martyred in it, but no one paid any attention to them. Our

Prime Minister is working to declare Mangarh as a national monument. Ten new tribal museums are being constructed by the government to promote tribal culture and preserve their cultural heritage, so that the new people of our new generation can know about our unsung heroes by reading their biographies and achievements. There was a dream of a house for the tribal community of the country, but our Prime Minister made this dream come true. Due to the positive efforts of the government, the country's idol Shri Ram ji has also got his house. Today the country is blessed with Ram. Various schemes of the government are today providing benefits to the tribal families of the country. Sir, under the Swachh Bharat Mission, 1.5 crore toilets have been constructed for tribal families and about 20 lakh tribals have also received the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Gujarat to Arunachal, the government is working equally for every caste, every religion without any discrimination. Today the cultural heritages of the country are regaining their lost dignity. The development work being done from Kedarnath to Baba Mahakal is attracting the devotees today. Along with the construction of the temple in Ayodhya, the mosque that is going to be built at some distance in Ayodhya is a living example of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas". Many programs are being run by the government to develop the tourism sector of the country. Vibrant Village Program has been launched by the government for the development of villages adjacent to the borders. Modern facilities are being provided in our island groups like Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep. For the development of tourism at these places, other facilities including road, air transport are also being developed. Tourism sector is a big sector in providing employment. Due to the efforts of the government, along with the increase in the number of domestic tourists in India, the number of foreign tourists visiting India has also increased. A record number of tourists are arriving in the North-East today. Due to these efforts, today the world is also getting attracted towards heritage tourism in India. Today lakhs of people are coming from India and abroad to see the Statue of Unity which has been developed in the tribal dominated area of Gujarat. Clearly, in this golden period, during my tenure, I will take away as memory many historical occasions including the abolition of Article 370, construction of Ram Temple, Nari Shakti Vandan Bill for women's rights.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the hon. President's Address. I would also like to say that it is not a criticism here, but just to say that there are certain needs also of States like Odisha, like the National Highway projects of Cuttack-Sambalpur, Odisha Capital Region Ring Road and Coastal Highway. I would also like to humbly state that 7 lakh houses of PMAY are required for Odisha. There are few proposals that have been accepted in the ST List. There are few more proposals expected. I would request the inclusion of Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Saora and Kui languages, withdrawal of GST on Kendu Leaves.

SHRI. KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: The Speech highlighted various achievements of the Government during the last ten years. Some achievements are also required in the State of Andhra Pradesh and it is my duty to bring it to the notice of this House. The then hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh gave an assurance to grant a special category status which has not been considered by the Central Government till now. An interesting news 'Thieves in Election Commission office' has been published in a newspaper today. Two thieves entered the Office and collected the data as an outsourcing agency and they have almost stolen the entire data. Also, a total of 30 lakh voters were removed unauthorisedly, out of which ten lakh voters were only scrutinized. This is a serious issue. Finally, for free and fair elections, the Central Government has to intervene through the Election Commission of India and order a CBI inquiry. I have been

raising issue in the House with regard to the Railway zones, special status, Polavaram and particularly Amaravati Capital. I request the Government of India to take up these issues and implement all provisions of the Andhra Pradesh (Reorganisation) Act, 2014.

SHRI BRIJ LAL: The Prime Minister has said that there are only four castes in this country – poor, farmers, women and youth. All the schemes of the NDA government are based on these four castes. Opposition parties promise caste census. Modi ji tried to develop them and because of this development India is going to become the third economy today. The aim of a poor laborer, who works hard all day long, is to feed himself and his family. He never thinks that he will have a permanent house. Today Modi ji has fulfilled the dream of that poor man and poor tribal by giving them a permanent house. The toilet is called 'Izzat Ghar' because the houses of poor weaker castes did not have toilets, due to which the women and girls there used to wait in the evening, wait for the sun to set. This has not only provided them convenience, but has also given them respect and their respect has increased. As far as Dalits and tribals are concerned, the Prime Minister not only empowered them, but he also arranged for their food, arranged for medicine, arranged for the education of their children and also made arrangements for their dignity and their security. The SC-ST Act was made in 1989 during the time of Congress, but it was superficial and did not provide justice. Modi ji realized this and he amended the SC-ST Act in late 2015. 25 more sections were added in the interest of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Our hon. President expressed a vision of 'Vikasit Bharat', which would be erected on four powerful pillars -- women, youth, the poor and farmers. But, isn't this vision present in India since 1947? 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' was passed. Is women power really being worshipped? Why did we put the condition of census and delimitation, why are we afraid of paying the political price? Why does NCRB report say that child rapes are soaring high by 96 percent from 2016 to 2022? Why crimes against women have increased by 4 percent? NCRB report says that 13 thousand students have committed suicide. Some youth entered the Parliament during the last session. In the affidavit given by these youth in the court, they have said that pressure is being put on them, signatures are being taken from us on blank papers to take someone's name. Is this youth power? Our food provider is a farmer. I ask why Annadata is committing suicide, 27 percent of Annadata have committed suicide. These figures are from NCRB.

DR. K. LAXMAN: Hon'ble President made it very clear that landmark legislations have taken place by the Modi Government. Not only that, the emphasis was laid on most of the development programmes and, more particularly, on the pilgrimage destinations and historical sites in India. Ram Temple in Ayodhya has become a reality. Modiji always wanted agriculture to be made profit-oriented. He wants the youth of this country, who are educated and qualified, to enter into agriculture fields. So, in spite of all odds, Modiji has given a lot of sops for encouraging agriculture. Under PM-Kisan Nidhi, farmers have been provided with Rs.2.8 lakh crores, so far benefiting 11.8 crore farmers of this country. Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers received Rs.1.5 lakh crores in his tenure of ten years. Farmers have received Rs.18 lakh crore in the past decade as MSP for paddy and wheat, which is two-and-half times higher than the amount paid in ten years preceding 2014 during the UPA regime. Farmers producing oilseeds and pulses have received Rs.1.25 lakh crore as MSP. In ten years, Rs.11 lakh crore have been spent to provide affordable fertilizers to farmers. In Telangana, Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals, which had been closed down during the Congress regime, has been resumed by spending not less than Rs.6,300 crore. It is not only serving the farmers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, but also the entire south Indian farmers, who are now getting the

fertilizers at affordable prices, and more than 3,000 local youth have got employment from this. In spite of all these odds, Modiji's Government is working for the poor. Along with development, *vikas* and *virasat* is being taken care of under Modiji's Government. As has been rightly mentioned in the President's Address, Viksit Bharat is being erected on four pillars, namely, youth power, woman power, farmers and the poor. Today, thousands of OBC children are getting MBBS and MD degrees due to the reservation given by Modi ji's government for the first time in the MBBS and MD examinations conducted through NEET. Not only this, Modi ji's government has given ten percent reservation under EWS for the first time to those who are economically poor upper caste people. Hence when we talk about Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, then we also prove it through performance. Be it SC, ST or OBC, along with them, upper caste people are also being given reservation on economic basis.

SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Nowhere in the Address did the two words 'employment' and 'price rise' have been mentioned. The President explained how the income tax returns have increased. It has increased from three and a quarter crores to eight and a quarter crores. This is a good thing, but returns have increased, taxes have not increased, the taxable income has not increased. The number of taxpayers has decreased in 2019 and 2020. Only 6.23 percent of India's population pays taxes. Only 3.2 lakh people come under gross taxable income of Rs 50 lakh. This is the reality of the country. When it comes to women's rights, Olympic winners have not been heard. Every day, 30 farmers commit suicide. The President was saying that women's participation in the workforce has also increased; it has increased because of rural distress.

SHRI NABAM REBIA: Prime Minister is taking the country to the status of Vishwa Guru. I think we should accept and agree on the good things that he is doing. Hopefully, in another five-ten years, Modi *ji* will change the face of India. He has already changed it. And he will change it further and India will emerge as a superpower. The feeling of isolation is ending in the North-East and people are considering themselves included in the mainstream. The youth there are worried about the demographical pattern which should not change. The Government will have to take care that the residents here do not become a minority. The inter-state border dispute has not yet been completely resolved. The two laws of the British era - the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873 and the Chin Hills Regulation of 1896 - should not be removed because the Inner Line System still operates there. Arunachal Pradesh should be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India and Article 371H has to be strengthened because Arunachal Pradesh has 100 per cent tribal population. The special constitutional guarantee, which has been given to the State of Mizoram and Nagaland, should also be given to the Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI RAMJI: It has been said in the President's address, 'Now for the first time in our lifetime, we are seeing poverty being eradicated on a large scale', whereas the truth is something else. Today the poor man has been deprived of education and jobs, the main reason for which is the commercialization of education. Because of this the poor have become poorer. Today poverty is not going to go away just by giving 5 kg ration to a poor man. Many big things were said about the economy. Today the Indian Rupee lags behind the Afghan Rupee against the Dollar. The statistics of suicides of Indian farmers shows that the condition of Indian farmers is not good. Developing five places associated with Baba Saheb Ambedkar as Panchtirtha is a commendable step.

Even today the government has failed to stop atrocities against dalit community and tribal community. The government is not taking any special steps regarding the

education of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes' children. Children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lagging behind the mainstream of the country. The system of their free admission and scholarship has also been almost discontinued. Baba Saheb's dream was to make the country a developed nation. India cannot develop just by saying developed India repeatedly here and there. The talk of a developed India is incomplete unless social justice is given to the deprived and the oppressed. Unless these weaker sections are given equal opportunities in every field, the talk of a developed India is incomplete. Therefore, the government should make arrangements for reservation for the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category at least in the private sector so that this class also could connect with the mainstream of the country. If the birth anniversary of Bahun Hero Hon'ble Shri Kanshi Ram ji is also declared as the birth anniversary at the national level, it will send a big message to the deprived class.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: I wish to draw the attention to the need for introduction of a separate pay scale and other service benefits to ASHA workers. ASHA workers who are the backbone of rural health infrastructure have been tirelessly striving to bridge the gap between the communities and the healthcare system. Their crucial role is often undervalued with meagre remuneration, lack of benefits and challenging work conditions. ASHA workers are currently paid fixed honorariums, often amounting to just Rs. 6,000 per month. This is highly inadequate as there is no benefit of social security ,EPF, healthcare and pensions.I urge upon the Government to appoint a high-level Commission to study the factual position and implement the same.

DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI: There is a clear difference between the India that was 10 years ago and the India of today. Our Government under the able leadership of Hon'ble Modi ji, has worked to change the lives of the poor, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, youth, farmers and women by improving their lives. The Prime Minister of the country declared Tribal Pride Day and made the tribal brothers and sisters proud. If anyone has benefited the most from Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Kisan Samman Nidhi, then it is our tribal society, poor society and the scheduled caste society. This Ganges of development is flowing from the day the Narendra Modi Government was formed and is now also flowing till the end towards the villages to renovate the huts of the poor. With the change in the education policy our poor brothers and sisters of the country have benefited the most from the construction of 740 Eklavya Vidyalayas, more than 14,000 PM Shri Schools. If the facility of medical education in Hindi by translating it into local language and Hindi language has been made available for the first time in this country, then it happened in my Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. Our government does whatever it says. This is Modi ji's guarantee. When Ramlala ji was consecrated, a wave of happiness ran among the approximately 12 crore tribal brothers and sisters of the country. Four crore pucca houses have been built, 53 crore Ayushman cards have been made. The work of changing the history of India will continue under the leadership of Modi ji.

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE: I thank the Prime Minister that he gave Bharat Ratna to Jananayak Karpuri Thakurji and Shri Lal Krishna Advani, gave women reservation in Parliament and Legislature, implemented Jal-Jeevan Mission and gave constitutional status to Other Backward Classes Commission. It has been told in the President's address that the sales of Khadi have increased four times. I came into politics in 1984. At that time, separatism, insurgency and rebellion were at their peak in Assam, Punjab, Kashmir and North-East. At that time, my party leaders used to say that a person does not do wrong just because he is born in a particular religion, but unemployment is the

root of all evils. To stop migration of workers, District Industries Centers were created in 300 districts. Dr. Keshav Kranti, a scientist at Nagpur's Cotton Research Center for 40 years, tells from his experience that in 1790, the British tried to plant Egyptian cotton seeds in India. In 2002, BT cotton seeds came stealthily. Mahyco Monsanto Company heavily promoted its patented BT cotton that it would yield more crops and does not require pesticides. But later it was found that huge quantities of pesticides and water were required. Now there is a monopoly of BT cotton seed in the country and only 2 percent indigenous seed is left. Keeping in mind the danger of patenting seeds by foreign companies, George Fernandes started an aggressive campaign in the 90s against signing the WTO. We talk about eradicating unemployment, women empowerment, minority empowerment etc. We do not buy eco-friendly products made by them. The schemes for 50 lakh beedi workers of the country, which used to provide Rs. 40 thousand, have now been increased by Rs. 1 lakh. I have been to 38 districts of Bihar, many districts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Solapur of Maharashtra, where 10 thousand houses have been built for beedi workers. The work of beedi making is primarily carried out by workers having socio-economic status like Scheduled Castes and Muslim OBCs who lost their traditional source of livelihood in weaving etc. due to cheap industrial substitutes and changing consumer preference.

SHRIMATI RAMILABEN BECHARBHAI BARA: From 2014 till today, the Government has done a lot of work for our tribal community with a population of 12 crores from Gujarat to Assam, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Our Prime Minister has a deep affection for the tribal people. This Government has increased the budget every year for the welfare of the tribal society. He enhanced the pride of the entire tribal society by declaring 15th November as the birthday of Lord Birsa Munda. Our tribal community made many sacrifices for the independence of the country. But, this was not mentioned in history. When Modi ji's Government was formed, out of the museums built for freedom fighters in India, 10 museums were built to highlight the contribution of tribals. Today, a Central Tribal University is being established in Telangana in the name of Samakka Sarakka. This is also a matter of pride for our tribal society. Under the leadership of Modi ji, the border area villages are counted among the first villages of the country. More attention is being given to the development of backward areas. The Government is running many schemes for women's education, health and welfare. Today, women are working on sea, land, sky and space. We also have the example of Gujarat where co-operative societies are being exclusively run by women. The coming generations will remember Modi ji with respect.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): During the last 10 years, the Narendra Modi Government has worked for the development and welfare of the entire society including Dalits, tribals, farmers, youth and poor. Shri Ramnath Kovind ji and respected Draupadi Murmu ji got the opportunity to hold the post of President. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh is from the tribal community, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh is from the OBC community, the Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh is from the Dalit community and the Chief Minister of Rajasthan is from the Brahmin community. Overall, our Government works to provide justice to all castes and classes. Still, if allegations are made then the answer will be given by the public in the upcoming elections. Their allegation is that this Government will change the Constitution. In fact, this Government will strengthen Baba Saheb's Constitution and every section of the country. The NDA will again get a bigger majority on the basis of the Government's

performance. The Government has built a new Parliament building. This is also a matter of great pride for the Country.

The old Parliament building has been named 'Samvidhan Sadan'. Everyone has contributed in the making of the Constitution but the major contribution is of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and that is why our first Prime Minister Pandit Nehru called him the architect of the Constitution. The previous Governments did not do enough for the development of the country. Corruption increased tremendously during their time. But the present Government is a strong Government and it has curbed the corruption of the previous Governments. My party supports the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR: In his address, Hon'ble President has not only highlighted the achievements of the Government but also taken us through the glorious saga of the last ten years woven around the principles of reform, perform and transform. A powerful and diverse country like India has always needed a strong leader who could ensure its overall development. The present Prime Minister meets this criterion. The Opposition is always planning to topple his government and making fun of his good intentions and efforts. But the citizens of this country have consistently expressed their confidence in him. Today, women, youth, poor, farmers and minorities of India are getting equal opportunities to fulfill their dreams. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has connected more than 99 percent of eligible and viable settlements. Under PM Awas Yojana, 70 percent of the houses are either registered entirely in the names of women or jointly in the names of women. The present Government believes that financial empowerment of women is very important for the development of the country. Many programs have been started to provide livelihood opportunities to women, such as Self Help Groups, National Rural Livelihood Mission, etc. The achievements made in the field of digital transformation of Panchayats are commendable. The Government has resolved to clean and revive the river Ganga. The 'Khelo India' program is also giving priority to specific areas like promotion of sports for women and disabled people and promotion of rural and indigenous tribal sports. Many 'Khelo India' centres have been established to nurture future talents.

1,000 District Centres have been set up across the country under the 'Khelo India' scheme by the Government of India and the establishment of India's first National Sports University in Manipur at a cost of 800 crores is an important step taken in this direction. The grand consecration of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya has ended 500 years of wait and struggle of several crore people. Considering the achievements made by our Government, it is not a distant dream to envision the achievement of the goal of Ram Rajya.

SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: I am very happy that there has been a meaningful and long discussion on the President's Address. We have always welcomed the views of the opposition. The Address has mention of Ram temple. 22nd January is a historic date. I participated in almost all the movements for Ram Mandir in my youth. Today when Ram temple is completed, we feel a sense of pride in ourselves. We have a history of thousands of years. Various temples were demolished during these thousand years. In this *Amrit Kaal* from the year 2023 to the year 2047, Modi ji has set the target of making India a developed nation. Development of four classes has been envisioned to create a developed nation. Various schemes have been implemented for those classes through which their lives are changing. Their life is getting easier. Infrastructure is improving in villages. Women are becoming economically strong. The feeling of self-respect is increasing among women. Financial inclusion is happening among our youth. The youth are getting inspiration to get

employment and set up self-employment. By following this right course of action, India will become a developed nation by the year 2047.

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