

## RAJYA SABHA

### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, August 06, 2024/ Sravana 15, 1946 (Saka)

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon'ble Members, I am pleased to extend birthday greetings to the hon'ble Member of Parliament, **Shri Imran Pratapgarhi**, on his birthday today. Shri Imran Pratapgarhi, a distinguished Member of this House since July 2022, also serves as the Chairman of Minority Department of Indian National Congress. Shri Imran Pratapgarhi is renowned for his impactful and emotive verses both in Urdu and Hindi. The promising young parliamentarian has also received, in his capacity as poet, prestigious Yash Bharati Award by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 2016. His poetry resonates extensively with the people, particularly the youth. This unique ability has enabled him to focus on pressing political and social issues through his poetry and shayari. Hon'ble Members, on behalf of this House and on my own, I wish him a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to his friends, family and admirers.

### MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

#### 1. Concern over misuse of Social Media in spreading disharmony in the Society

**SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:** Nowadays, social media has become a means of spreading hatred in society on the basis of religion, caste, lineage or community. There are some fringe elements who misuse the social media platforms to spread hate on the basis of caste, creed and religion. People create fake accounts on social media and use hate speech against big leaders, actors or sportspersons and no one takes responsibility for it. No one is held accountable. There is no law in this regard. The Government should bring a law in this regard and until the law is made, all accounts spreading hate speech should be closed. We have a fundamental Right to Freedom of Expression, but liberty has to be used with some discipline.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### 2. Concern over Lack of Basic Medical Facilities in Private Hospitals in Bihar

**SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:** Many private hospitals have come up at various places in the country including Patna, the capital of Bihar state, which have boards claiming to have multi super specialty, CCU and ICU facilities. But when one goes there for treatment, it is found that there is no such facility there. This sometimes leads to fights between the family members of the patients and the hospital management. I request the

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

Government to conduct an investigation of these hospitals and find out whether the facilities claimed by them are actually available here or not. And if available, then what are their standards? Along with this, the Government should also take initiative to end the nexus between ambulances and hospitals.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **3. Concern over frequent attacks and arrest of Indian Fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy**

**SHRI VAIKO:** Fishermen of Tamil Nadu are continuously attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy, some of whom get killed and the remaining fishermen are taken to Colombo and put in the prison. Even today, 83 Tamil Nadu fishermen are inside the prison. The Union Government is not taking up any steps to prevent such killings in the high sea. Last week, the Sri Lankan Navy attacked fishermen from Rameshwaram. One fisherman drowned in the sea and the other fisherman could not be traced. They have taken two fishermen into custody. Three days back, Sri Lankan Navy handed over the mortal remains of a fisherman who died in the attack and of two other fishermen. While this act was going on, another group of Sri Lankan Navy have taken into custody another four fishermen from Pudukottai district who were fishing on high sea. Fishermen Associations in Rameshwaram had announced indefinite strike since the last three days. The livelihood of fisherman is being taken away. These Tamil Nadu fishermen are also citizens of India. The Government should take an action in this regard.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **4. Concern over Vulgar Contents available on Instagram Reels**

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:** Some channels and the programmes running on them, especially Instagram Reel Play, are continuously promoting obscenity and violence in the society. This is creating many distortions in the society. Nowadays everyone is busy with the phone, due to which bonds of family and friendships are getting weakened and many unfortunate incidents are happening. Due to the prevalence of online education, now even children are not left untouched by it. I request the Government to take some steps to control this.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **5. Demand for Sanction of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

**DR. JOHN BRITTAS:** The Government of Kerala proposed a joint-venture between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology and KSIDC to set up a medical devices park at the Life Science Park in Thonnakkal. The purpose was to develop state-of-the-art facilities for medical devices including medical implants, offer comprehensive infrastructure for the designing, prototyping, testing and validation of medical devices and encourage dissemination of knowledge and setting up of modular manufacturing units. The project would have created 1,200 direct jobs and more than 5,000 additional jobs. This project has been pending with the Government of India for the last several years, and the Sree Chitra Institute which comes under the Prime Minister had sent this proposal with a favourable noting that this may be assented to. I request the Government to approve this institute.

*(Shrimati Mahua Maji, Shri Prakash Chik Baraik, Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri Saket Gokhale, and Shri Niranjana Bishi associated.)*

## **6. Need for reforms for Food Processing Industries under PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**

**\*SHRI IRANNA KADADI:** Under the PMFME scheme, the farmers can increase the value of their crop by processing the food grains in the processing centers. The scheme allows the farmers to store the food grains in the godowns/warehouses until the farmers get a good price of their produce in the market. The scheme also includes construction of these godowns, sorting and classification of food grains and providing technical support to the farmers for related agricultural activities. However, the banks, while financing these Micro Processing units and the related basic infrastructure, consider these units as Micro-Industries and insist on the conversion of these lands from agricultural category to non-agricultural category as the precondition for sanctioning the loans. This conversion is carried out in the local Panchayat records. When the agricultural land gets converted into non-agricultural land, the local Panchayat assesses the land revenue under industry category, which increases the tax liability of the farmer. The farmer is thus, again compelled to convert the land into agricultural land by frequenting the government offices. I request the Government to consider these Micro processing units under the category of agricultural activities, and allow such activities to be carried out on the agricultural land and give the requisite direction to the Banks.

*(Shri Niranjana Bishi, Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju, Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki, Shrimati Mahua Maji and Shri R. Girirajan associated.)*

## **7. Concern over Safety and Security of People's Investment Made in Various Multi State Cooperative Units in Maharashtra**

**\*SHRIMATI RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:** In our Marathwada, many multi-state cooperative banks are working in Beed, Jalna, Dharashiv, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Latur. Out of these, several banks like Shubh Kalyan, Rajasthani, Sairam, Gyanradha etc. have been closed for the last one year. Account holders and investors are facing difficulties due to this. Laborers, farmers, pensioners and working citizens have deposited their entire life's savings in these banks. The bank employees, managers and directors promised to give higher interest rates and made people deposit money. Today these investors' homes have been ruined. They are not able to marry off their daughters. Their children's education is getting affected. The banks have misled the Government and the Government has also given up. The Government should take responsibility for the safety of citizens' money. Nowadays, multi-state cooperative banks are being established indiscriminately. Action should be taken against all those responsible for this situation. There has been a scam of about 5000 crore rupees in Marathwada. I would like to request that the Central Government should intervene in this matter.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **8. Concern over Discrepancies in the Counselling Process of Under Graduate (UG) and AIIMS Medical Seats Examinations**

**SHRI BEEDHA MASTHAN RAO YADAV:** I would like to bring it to your kind attention about the injustice caused to the students belonging to Other Backward Classes by the Medical Counselling Committee of DGHS while filling up the All-India quota of undergraduate and AIIMS medical seats for OBC reserved candidates. The seats secured by the meritorious reserved category candidates belonging to OBC category are being counted

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\* Spoke in Kannada.

\* Spoke in Marathi.

under reserved quota seats during the UG counselling process for medical seats. As per the counselling procedure, the open competition seats are filled according to merit. Thereafter, the reserved category seats are to be filled by the SC, ST, OBC candidates as per the rules of reservation. In the event of a sliding meritorious reserved category, such open competition seat vacated by them has to be filled by a candidate belonging to the same reserved category in the order of merit. The above injustice is caused to the OBC students for years together. So, I request that correct counselling procedure as laid down in the Ritesh Shah case with respect to the meritorious reservation category candidates should be implemented. Further, provide the mandatory benefit of the reservation of 27 per cent to the students of the OBC community at least from the academic year 2024 onwards in all India quota medical seats, both at UG and PG level, for medical and dental courses

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **9. Demand to Increase Constitutional Benches of the Supreme Court and Regional Benches of the High Courts for Efficacious Legal Remedy**

**MS. SUSHMITA DEV:** Justice delayed is justice denied. I believe that the primary reason why justice is delayed in this country is because of the large number of cases that are pending in our Supreme Court and the High Courts. The second reason is that we do not have access to justice, either because of lack of resources or because of the distances we have to cover to reach the Supreme Court and the High Courts. In reply to a Parliamentary Question in Rajya Sabha, the Ministry of Law told that the Supreme Court judges in a full Court meeting decided that there was no need for regional benches. But, what I am demanding is a permanent Constitutional bench. We started with seven judges in Supreme Court, but today we are at thirty four, which means that the Parliament can legislate to add to the number of judges in Supreme Court. The reason that the Chief Justice of India may not want regional benches and more benches across the country is because of the paucity of the number of judges. But, if we increase the number of 34 judges to more, I am sure and I have no doubt that the Chief Justice of India will consider having a permanent Constitutional bench. The present Chief Justice of India and the former Chief Justice of India have given their opinion at different forums that they are keen to do so. But, it needs support of the Parliament. If one Constitutional Bench decides and lays down law, actually, experts say that 50 lakh cases across the country can be solved because the law is settled. That is the impact of a Constitutional Bench. With CAA and NRC, there are a plethora of cases in Assam. My people are suffering. If we set up a permanent Constitutional Bench, then the ordinary people who suffer because of delay may be able to alleviate from that grievance.

*(Shri P. Wilson , Shri Imran Pratapgarhi and Shri R. Girirajan associated.)*

#### **10. Demand for the Inclusion of Mizo Language as an Option in Online Application Form for Newspaper Title Verification**

**SHRI K. VANLALVENA:** The Mizo language is not listed as an option in the online application form for Newspaper Title verification due to which our journalists are facing serious problems while applying registration for newspaper title in Mizo language. Therefore, I humbly request the Union Government for inclusion of Mizo language as an option in the online application form to facilitate the registration process for Mizo language application.

#### **11. Demand to Open Passport Seva Kendra in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI R. DHARMAR:** The people of Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu have to travel Madurai or Tiruchy or Coimbatore for Passport services as there is no Passport Seva

Kendra in Ramanathapuram. Hence, I request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to open a Passport Seva Kendra in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu.

*(Shri R. Girirajan, Shri Haris Beeran and Shri P. Wilson associated.)*

### **12. Demand to Change the Timings of Currently Operating Train No. 12529 from Patliputra to Lucknow**

**DR. BHIM SINGH:** Train number 12529 from Patna's Patliputra station to Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, goes via Chhapra, Siwan and Gorakhpur. Its departure time from Patliputra is 4:30 pm. This time is not useful for many people. Office goers and businessmen have to catch this train in a hurry at 4:30 pm. If they are unable to catch this train, then they have to go Hajipur, which is 20-25 km from Patna and catch the train at night from there. My request to the Government is that to increase the utility of this train, either the time of this train should be changed to 9 or 10 pm or a new train should be introduced at around 8 pm to 10 pm.

*(Shri Ramji associated.)*

### **13. Demand to Amend IT Act Pertaining to Social Media**

**SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI:** The usages of the Internet like giving messages or passing information with unbearable languages or photos, damaging the character of men and women through WhatsApp or social media or YouTube consequently leads to their suicides. In the light of the Apex Court judgment in Shreya Versus Union of India case declaring section 66A of the IT Act 2000, the Government or the police was unable to file criminal cases against such culprits. I feel that since the language of the Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 is very vague and not even attracting the Sections mentioned in the BNS; therefore, the Section needs to be re-framed by correcting the same or introducing some other section without affecting the Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution. I, therefore, submit that the matter may be referred to the Law Commission to safeguard the public interests and their privacy.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **14. Demand to Remove Criteria of Creamy Layer from the Quota of OBC**

**SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:** The Central Government has provided 27 per cent reservations to OBCs. But they have restricted it with creamy layer income ceiling. It is against the basic principles of reservation policy. There is no mention of creamy layer anywhere in Constitution. Reservation Policy is not for SC/ST/BC's economic improvement. It has two objectives. One is, to remove the social inequalities and untouchability. Second is to ensure proportionate representation for these communities. So, we request the Central Government to amend the Constitution and restriction of creamy layer should be removed. Social discrimination and economic backwardness are not interlinked. In our society, economic status is not permanent. Caste is permanent. So this is the stark reality. I request the Government to understand it and conduct a meeting with intellectuals, social philosophers and discuss it thoroughly and review the issue.

### **15. Concern over Exposure of Children to the Violent Contents of Video Games**

**DR. FAUZIA KHAN:** In the digital age, children are increasingly exposed to online video games. Many of these games contain themes unsuitable to small children, such as wanton violence, foul language, sexual content, disregard for law, etc. Online games like PUBG, GTA, Blue Whale Challenge, etc. have become immensely popular among the children. This leads to development of aggressive behavior in them as they grow up.

Excessive exposure can also cause anxiety and phobias, especially in case of gore content. In July 24, a 15-year-old boy in Pune, influenced by the Blue Whale Game, tragically committed suicide by jumping from a 14th floor building. There have been many such instances. This addiction negatively impacts academic performance, social skills and mental health. India currently lacks specific legislation for regulating video games and has limited judicial focus on the subject. While parents' role is undeniable in regulating children's access to online media, the Government must also directly regulate content for children, especially video games. A dedicated Division should be established to oversee and categorize this content, involving relevant stakeholders.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **16. Demand to Establish Heavy Industries and Provide Employment Opportunities in Bagalkote District, Karnataka**

**\*SHRI NARAYANASA K. BHANDAGE:** I want to draw the attention of this House towards the countless problems faced by the people of Bagalkote city and its nearby rural areas due to the construction of Lal Bahadur Shastri dam in the basin of Krishna river. Due to the Upper Krishna Project, the farmers of 160 villages have lost more than 4 lakh acres of the fertile land and hence, they have become landless. The families of about 2500 farmers from the district have lost their shelters, employment and vocations. In the Bagalkote city, 22,000 houses, several other buildings and shops have been submerged, and more than a lakh people have become unemployed. Bagalkote District has rich minerals and resources like limestone, dolomite and pink Granite. The District has excellent connectivity due to the broad gauge double track railway lines and National Highways. We must utilize these facilities and create employment opportunities for the families of the displaced people and encourage them to earn a decent livelihood. There is a necessity of developing industrial corridors in the district and there should be rebates also in taxation for them. The Government should declare a special scheme for Bagalkote district, thereby reducing the income tax and commercial taxes. Reservation must be given to the displaced people and the farmers of Bagalkote in the employment opportunities created by the Central Government. There should be comprehensive development of Bagalkote City under Smart City Mission and there should be establishment of more industries in the District. I want to request the Union Minister of Finance, Minister of Industry and Minister of Commerce to kindly do the needful.

*(Shri Manoj Kumar Jha and Shri Niranjana Bishi associated.)*

### **17. Demand for Upgradation of Poultry Disease Diagnosis and Surveillance Laboratory (PDDSL) in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu under Central Financial Assistance Scheme**

**SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:** I wish to bring to your kind attention the urgent need to upgrade the Poultry Disease Diagnosis and Surveillance Laboratory at the Veterinary College and Research Institute campus in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, to a global standard reference laboratory. This laboratory functions under the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in my constituency of Namakkal, Tamil Nadu. India's poultry industry is a significant contributor to our agricultural economy in which Tamil Nadu is a major hub where Namakkal is the country's largest poultry producing region accounting for 90 per cent of India's eggs export. The PDDSL plays a crucial role in addressing poultry diseases/ challenges by providing diagnosis, technical advice and export certification. With the increase in the demand for the poultry products, there is a risk of emerging and re-emerging

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\* Spoke in Kannada.

diseases which could result in significant economic losses. To meet the international/State standard to prevent such losses, I propose to upgrade the PDDSL with high-tech facilities. I request the hon. Minister to consider this proposal under the Central Financial Assistance Scheme and allocate the necessary funds to upgrade the PDDSL at Namakkal, Tamil Nadu.

*(Shri P. Wilson, Shri M. Shanmugam, Dr. John Brittas and Shrimati Mahua Maji associated.)*

**18. Demand to Provide Adequate Financial and Medical Assistance to the Families of Victims of Hathras Stampede in Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:** On 2 July, 123 people were killed and many were injured in a stampede during a satsang in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. The satsang organisers had sought permission for the event and the administration allowed 80 thousand people, but the number had increased beyond that. It was also the duty of the administration to see that police force is deployed in proportion to the increased number and facilities are increased. There was no arrangement for any special services. Post-mortem of all the people was not done and the injured are getting treatment at their homes with their own money. This is a very serious matter. The Prime Minister had also announced that we will help the people. But neither the treatment of the people is being done properly nor the families of the deceased are being helped. It is very important that the victims of this stampede should be given lease of agricultural panchayat land and residential land. The innocent people arrested should be released after review.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

**19. Demand for Train from Lakhimpur to Delhi, Mumbai, Amritsar and Include Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Park in National Tourist List**

**SHRI RAMJI:** I am standing in front of you with two demands on behalf of Lakhimpur Kheri. Lakhimpur is one of the districts having the largest area in Uttar Pradesh and has a population of 50 lakhs. The main occupation of the people there is agriculture and due to the ten rivers there, the Terai region is a biodiversity area. I request the Government to arrange for developing this backward area. I also want to add that no train goes to Delhi, Mumbai or Chennai from Lakhimpur. People have to come to Lucknow to catch the train. Therefore, it is requested to the government that it should also make arrangements for running trains to these places from here.

*(Shri Niranjana Bishi and Dr. V. Sivadasan associated.)*

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**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Situation in Bangladesh**

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. JAISHANKAR):** I rise to apprise this august House of certain recent developments pertaining to Bangladesh. As hon. Members are aware, India-Bangladesh relations have been exceptionally close for many decades over many Governments. Concerns about recent violence and instability there have been shared across the political spectrum. Since the Election in January, 2024, there has been considerable tension, deep divides, and growing polarisation in Bangladesh politics. This underlying foundation aggravated a student agitation that started in June this year. There was growing violence, including attacks on public buildings and infrastructure as well as traffic and rail obstruction. The violence continued through the month of July. Throughout this period, we repeatedly counselled restraint and urged that the situation be

diffused through dialogue. Similar urgings were made to various political forces with whom we were in touch. Despite the Supreme Court judgment on 21st July, there was no let up in the public agitation. Various decisions and actions taken thereafter only exacerbated the situation. The agitation, at this stage, coalesced around a one-point agenda, namely, that the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, should step down. On 4th August, events took a very serious turn. Attacks on the police, including police stations and Government installations, intensified even as overall levels of violence greatly escalated. Properties of individuals associated with the regime were torched across the country. What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations. The full extent of this is still not clear. On 5th August, demonstrators converged in Dhaka, despite the curfew. Our understanding is that after a meeting with leaders of the security establishment, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, apparently, made the decision to resign. At a very short notice, she requested approval to come, for the moment, to India. We simultaneously received a request for flight clearance from Bangladesh authorities. She arrived yesterday evening in Delhi. The situation in Bangladesh is still evolving. The Army Chief, General Waker-Uz Zaman, addressed the nation on 5th August. He spoke about assuming responsibility and constituting an interim Government. We are in continuous touch with the Indian community in Bangladesh through our Diplomatic Missions. There are an estimated 19,000 Indian nationals there, of which about 9,000 are students. The bulk of the students, however, have already returned to India in the month of July on the advice of the High Commission. In terms of our diplomatic presence, in addition to the High Commission in Dhaka, we have Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, and Sylhet. It is our expectation that the host Government will provide the required security protection for these establishments. We look forward to the normal functioning once the situation stabilizes. We are also monitoring the situation with regard to the status of minorities. There are reports of initiatives by various groups and organizations to ensure their protection and well-being. We welcome that, but will, naturally, remain deeply concerned till law and order is visibly restored. Our border guarding forces have also been instructed to be exceptionally alert in view of this complex situation. In the last 24 hours, we have also been in regular touch with the authorities in Dhaka. This is the situation as of now. I seek the understanding and support of the House in regard to sensitive issues regarding an important neighbour, on which there has always been strong national consensus.

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**DISCUSSION ON WORKING OF MINISTRY OF NEW AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGY - *Contd.***

**SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA, continuing his unfinished speech dated 05.08.2024, said:** The hon'ble Prime Minister focused on very small steps. In the same vision, those small steps give very big results. When the scheme of giving LED bulbs to crores of families was started, 45 billion units of energy were saved through those LED bulbs. He took up a campaign - 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (one tree in the name of mother) in which the whole country is participating today. In the coming times, it will be successful in a big way, due to which a new source will be developed in the field of wind energy. After independence, the country needed nature-centric development, but the Governments of that time showed the dream of making India like America and England, while India was settled in

remote rural areas. There was a need to think in the direction of the farmers, labourers and youth living in those villages. But they did not pay attention to this, because, the poor, farmers and the youth of the villages were not in their vision. Prime Minister launched the 'PM Surya Ghar Yojana' on the day of inauguration of Shri Ram Mandir, as per the vision of all-round development, because his vision included the farmer, the poor and the youth. Modi ji's goal is - Green India, Healthy India, Clean India, Prosperous India, Developed India.

**DR. FAUZIA KHAN:** India made five commitments at COP26. But India still remains significantly behind its COP26 goals. The budget of the Ministry has been raised to Rs.19,100 crores, which is an 87 percent boost and correctly so. But the issue is implementation. Similarly, the PM-KUSUM Scheme intended to promote solar power projects in the farmlands has underperformed significantly with gross under-utilisation of funds and minimal progress towards set targets. Once again, implementation is the question. If we talk about 'PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme', it can definitely be beneficial. There is no doubt about it, because today the people of the villages in our country are suffering from irregular electricity supply. As far as the name of this scheme is concerned, there is the word 'free' only in the name, but there is nothing free in the scheme. The scheme is a subsidized scheme. This means that the farmer will have to go to the bank, apply for a loan, if his subsidy is approved, only then he can get the benefit of this scheme. Today it has become very difficult for the farmer to go to the bank and take a loan. Because when the loan waiver was given, there was a lot of delay in the updating that should have been done through the administration and the result was that the civil score of the farmers has totally deteriorated. No bank is ready to give them a loan. The Government should pay attention to this, direct the banks to give loans. If this does not happen, the farmer will not be able to take advantage of this scheme and this scheme will also remain on paper. I would like to speak additionally about the DISCOM Center, which faces significant losses in many States. It could be integrated into the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana through the RESCO model.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** I would like to raise some important issues for the consideration of the Government. Tamil Nadu has a long coastline in the country. The coastline of Tamil Nadu is best suited for producing maximum wind energy. May, I know whether the Government has set any target for generating wind energy and enhancing the wind energy capacity, so that the dependence on the conventional forms of energy comes down. Regarding hydro power, there is a need to retain the rainwater during the monsoon. Interlinking of rivers may help retain and restore water. We have also requested many times that we need to construct one dam at Anekal, Podur, Venniyode, which is a place in Krishnagiri district. If that dam is constructed, we can produce hydroelectric power and also take care of the water problems of the dry area, especially the villages of Krishnagiri district, like Vepanapalli, Maharajakadai, Mekalachinnampalli, Vardanapalli, Bargur and Mattoor. Regarding solar energy, there is an impression that incentives given do not commensurate with the targets of production of solar energy. The Government should come forward to give more incentives, more subsidies on maintenance of panels. Now, coming to the nuclear energy, In India, some States are not coming forward to establish that nuclear energy plants. My request to the Government is not to share electricity with States, which are not interested and which do not allow establishment of such nuclear energy plants. I would conclude by making a mention about the rooftop panel. You have to give it to reputed companies. These companies must maintain and help the people because maintenance part of these panels will be very difficult for the poor people.

**SHRIMATI DARSHNA SINGH:** We are the second country after Russia to have the capability of Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR). PFBR is a milestone for India's nuclear energy program. On behalf of the entire country, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the hon'ble Prime Minister for this vision. Under the guidance of hon'ble Prime Minister, many projects have been initiated to promote solar rooftop, solar parks and other solar energy projects. Today many private companies are investing in the solar energy sector. Wind energy is expanding rapidly in India. A target has been set to produce 500 giga watts of non-fossil fuel to meet 50 percent of the electricity needs by 2030. Today the country is also exporting wind turbines and other related equipments. Fossil fuels are also harmful for climate change and human life. India imports 85 percent of its crude oil and 54 percent of its natural gas requirement for its own use. Energy security has been described as one of the nine priorities of the Government in the Union Budget 2024-25. Renewable energy will play an important role in fulfilling the resolve of hon'ble Prime Minister Modi ji to develop India by 2047.

**SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:** We have to slowly shift from conventional energy. This is the reason why new and renewable energy sector becomes important. Share of coal in our power basket is already 50 per cent. We are now adding capacity to our coal plants. It means that we are promoting coal. In addition to this, we are starting new coal plants in our country. At the same time, we are talking about new and renewable energy. This contradictory approach must be revisited. We had aimed to achieve 40 gw of solar capacity by the end of 2022. But we could achieve only 10.4 gw by the end of the year 2022. There is no need to explain erratic rains and climate change further. What would be the impact of climate change on renewable power sector? It must be examined and studied properly by the Department. In Kerala, we have hundreds of houseboats which are main attractions of Kerala tourism. The Government can propose a project whereby these houseboats can have solar panels. Finally, all our local body offices throughout the country must be transformed through solar panel system. That will create a model which will boost new and renewable energy sector in our country.

**SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:** Under the citizen-oriented PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme, rooftop solar will be installed in one crore houses. The Government has also made a provision of subsidy for installing solar panels in homes. Subsidy is being given for the installation of plants ranging from one kilowatt to five kilowatt. Rs. 30,000 is being given by the Central Government and Rs. 15,000 by the Uttar Pradesh Government on a one-kilowatt plant. The estimated cost of the plant will be Rs. 60,000 per kilowatt and the working capacity period of the solar panel will be about 25 years. The subsidy after the installation of the solar plant will be deposited directly into the account of the concerned person through DBT. A three-kilowatt solar plant can be installed on an EMI of just Rs. 1,800, for which a bank loan will be available at an interest rate of only seven percent. This scheme will create more profits, lower electricity bills and new dimensions of employment for the people. Today, with a solar module production capacity of about 60 GW per annum, India is fully self-sufficient in meeting its annual demand of solar modules. If we talk about 10 years ago, then the solar module production capacity in the country was only 2.3 GW per annum, but in the last 10 years, the solar module production capacity has increased by about 26 times. By the time all the production capacities approved under the Solar PLI scheme are operational, an investment of more than Rs 1 lakh crore is expected in the country. PM-KUSUM Yojana has transformed the Indian agriculture sector by promoting solarization of irrigation. There

are many crops like paddy and sugarcane which require a lot of water. When paddy is planted, the field has to be irrigated for 24 hours, but power cut happens frequently, and diesel is very expensive. Since 2017, solar pumps have been provided to more than 69,665 farmers under the PM KUSUM Yojana. This will not only reduce the cost of farming but will also reduce carbon emissions in terms of climate change. I would like to request the Government to put more emphasis on solar systems to increase the income of farmers. To fulfill the resolution of a developed India, it is very important to have a clean environment in our country.

**SHRI HARIS BEERAN:** Cochin airport is the only airport in the country which is fully powered by solar energy. This has to be emulated in other parts of the country because both environmentally as well as on the economical aspect, this is one of the best models which we can provide for the country. Kerala boasts of a good solar energy State but it all depends upon the policy and the help provided by the Union Government. For an ordinary household, when a solar plant of, at least, 3 kw is to be installed, the cost comes to around Rs. 3 lakhs and the subsidy given on this account is very minimal. This needs to be increased to, at least, 50 per cent so that more and more people are motivated to switch over to this alternate form of energy. Renewable energy, as we all know, is pollution-free and zero carbon emission. Therefore, non-renewable energy sources, which are very dangerous, have to be excluded, step-by-step. Kerala is a State which has got 54 hydro-electric projects. Because of the change in the course of rain and change in the course of rivers, we have seen the natural disasters which are happening in various parts of the country. Of the approximately 4,000 solar mini-grids installed in India, 3,300 are Government financed and only five per cent of these are operational as of July, 2023. Atmanirbhar Bharat will be possible only when the development takes place in villages.

**SHRI SANJAY SETH:** We have grown from the eleventh largest economy to the fifth largest economy today and energy has played a huge role in this growth story. Today India is the fourth largest consumer of electricity and the third largest producer of renewable energy. India's renewable energy capacity is 195 GW, of which solar energy contributes 85.47 GW, wind energy 46.65 GW and hydropower 46.92 GW. India's non-fossil fuel has grown by 396 percent in the last 10 years, and it is 203.99 GW, which is 45.5 percent of India's total capacity. We are also fourth in the world in wind energy and our installed capacity is 46.65 GW. We are fifth in the world in hydro power and our installed capacity is 46.92 GW. We have also set a target of producing 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030. The Government has launched '*PM Surya Ghar Muft Yojana*' by spending Rs 75,201 crore for solar energy on the roofs of one crore houses. These works done by the Government are also opening the way for about 17 lakh direct and indirect jobs. We will complete 50 percent of the energy through renewable energy by 2030. At present, the Government is generating 28 GW of renewable energy in UP. In Uttar Pradesh, the Government is focusing more on bio power and solar power. These days electricity is being supplied 24 hours a day in cities and 18 hours a day in villages. The Government is providing solar pumps to farmers, which reduces their expenses and gives them a means of irrigation. Many electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) are running at a loss. For this, the Government has emphasized on installing rooftop solar power plants on houses, which reduces the loss of DISCOMs, and people are also becoming self-reliant. The Government has made it mandatory for all housing societies to install solar power plants. Many industries have installed their own solar parks, from

which they use the electricity as per their need and also earn money by putting the remaining electricity into the grid.

**SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:** It is the need of the hour to give importance to new and renewable energy. More power generation with less environmental impact and less carbon emission is the need of the hour. Rs. 19,104 crores have been proposed for renewable energy sector in this Budget. The weather remains sunny throughout the year in Ladakh. So, I request the Government to look into this aspect and give priority to Ladakh. As regards the solar energy, Ladakh is the best source. Similarly, Arunachal Pradesh is the Sun rising State. So, I would like to request the Government to give priority to Arunachal Pradesh also for solar energy.

**SHRIMATI PRYANKA CHATURVEDI:** In Maharashtra, the wind energy production is only 5 percent of the estimates. The production of small hydro power projects is 48 percent of the estimates. Solar energy production is only 7 percent of the estimated capacity. Under PM-KUSUM, it was said that 20 lakh off-grid solar water pumps would be installed but only 27 percent of the target has been achieved. There was talk of running the existing 15 lakh grid-connected agricultural pumps and feeders with solar energy, but no work was done in this regard. Agricultural feeder solarization was sanctioned but till now no installation has been done. The Government should take the initiative to reduce the import of solar panels and manufacture them in the country, only then the country will be able to become truly self-reliant.

**SHRIMATI MAHUA MAJI:** India is the fourth largest consumer of electricity in the world. In view of the increasing need for energy these days, it's good to develop various alternatives for energy production. Renewable energy includes solar energy, hydro power energy, wind energy, geothermal energy etc. All of these have their advantages, but they also have many disadvantages. Disposal of solar panel waste can become a big problem in the future. This creates a lot of e-waste. Their use in large quantities should be started only after making a plan to protect human health and the environment from dangerous substances like lead and cadmium present in this waste. Dams have to be built for hydro power energy, which creates a serious problem of displacement. Wind energy harms birds. We should produce energy while maintaining the balance of nature and environment. Since India follows America in many areas and has been following the capitalist model of development. I would like to caution the Government not to create environmental problems for future generations by building nuclear power plants indiscriminately to meet energy needs in this blind phase of development. The fuel waste from nuclear reactor plants is extremely dangerous, so nuclear energy should be promoted keeping this in mind.

**SHRI BRIJ LAL:** We need green energy. We are focusing on green energy and producing it. There is immense potential for solar energy in the tropical and subtropical regions of the country. The Government has set a target of generating 300 watts of energy by installing rooftop solar panels on houses in villages. This will generate 300 units of electricity which will be sufficient for household consumption. I thank Modi ji for this. Solar energy will be very beneficial for farmers, because the Government will install solar pumps and farmers will be able to irrigate their fields directly with them. Solar energy can be generated by installing solar panels on any wasteland or barren land. Now the farmers of our country who were not able to produce anything, will now generate electricity by installing solar panels and will sell it.

**DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:** I deeply appreciate the provision made in the budget for renewable energy. We have to achieve carbon neutrality by 2070 for which the most important step is to replace the fossil fuel and boost the production and use of clean sources of energy. Today, we are seeing an increase in air pollution and environmental degradation. Therefore, new and renewable energy is important for us. Regarding this new and renewable energy, I would like to inform this House with pleasure that the production of our renewable energy has exceeded 200 gigawatts. Today, we produce 45 percent of the total power capacity in the country from non-fossil. Solar power is the most important in this, because we are a tropical country. Our solar power has also increased by 30 times and we have produced 85 GW of solar power. These figures of the power sector show that in the last 3 years, we are moving very well towards renewable energy as compared to the traditional sector. The important step that the Government has taken for the poor in rural areas is giving free houses to 4.5 crore people and has started the '*PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme*' to provide free electricity to the poor people. And this objective is being fulfilled through renewable energy. I congratulate and welcome the provision of adequate funds for it in this budget.

**SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:** While on one hand there is a goal to meet the energy needs of the country by developing clean energy like new and renewable energy, hon'ble Prime Minister has also taken a resolution to face the urgent challenges posed by climate change and to make India pollution-free. India is capable of augmenting its entire renewable energy capacity in light of the Paris Agreement and stands firmly in the global effort against climate change. There are two main methods of electricity generation in India - one is the conventional method of power generation by using coal as source and second is by using renewable sources of energy such as air, water, solar power, etc. We all know that provision has been made in this budget to accelerate the pace of India's development by producing alternative energy through nuclear capacity. Energy security through effective energy transition is an important step for the Indian economy. It is Narendra Modi's resolve that not only India should become pollution free, but the entire world should become pollution free. Therefore, India is ready to play a leading role in the form of '*National Hydrogen Mission*' promoting the ambition of net-zero emissions.

**SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:** Today our country needs a revolution in the energy sector. This is the time when we should move away from conventional energy sources and adopt green, new and renewable sources of energy. This will not only protect the environment but will also ensure energy security. First of all, talking about solar energy, our government has set a target to double the capacity of solar energy in the next five years. For this, we are investing in the construction of solar power plants and incentivising the installation of solar panels in rural areas. The government is promoting new projects to boost power generation through wind energy. Apart from this, wind power plants will be set up in those areas where the potential of wind energy is high. Moreover, we will also promote the production and use of biofuels. For this, biogas and biodiesel production will be promoted using agricultural residues. This will provide an additional source of income to the farmers and will also benefit the environment. A late entrant to the global renewable energy scene, India began according the sector top priority at the national level under Prime Minister Modi since 2014, building on the successful model he developed as chief minister in Gujarat. This has resulted in rapid growth in India's wind and solar power capacity, increasing from a mere 25 GW in 2014 to 130 GW by 2024. The share of renewable energy in India's total electricity generation has tripled to 22 per cent in the same period. This means that the

challenging target of annual capacity addition will be achieved. For this, a target of green hydrogen manufacturing including pump storage projects has been set in the 2024-25 Budget for smooth integration of new and renewable energy. The government is committed to achieving this target. The government has also planned to build a green energy corridor between Gujarat and Punjab and now many major cities of Rajasthan have also been included in it. Our government is going to make Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts power hubs, which will provide great relief to the local people. I thank the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister for these works.

**SHRI RAMJI:** The new and renewable energy is of special importance for India because 65 percent of the people are dependent on agriculture. If climate change occurs, it directly affects agriculture and farmers. Due to this, abnormal temperature rise and drought conditions are seen in the country. In the past, we were dependent on coal and fossil fuels. Due to this, trees were felled on a large scale. Apart from this, flora and fauna are also harmed. Pollution problem is also arising due to carbon emission. Today we are moving towards new and renewable energy. But, the cost of its production is very high. We have to make its production economical and the elements like silicon available in the country will have to be processed with indigenous technology. We will have to make indigenous solar panels. Similarly, we will also have to focus on wind energy and small hydropower projects. We will have to provide more training to our youth in this field. Today, even a developed country like America is moving towards new and renewable energy in place of fossil fuels.

**SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:** The solar energy led renewable energy model being adopted at Cochin airport must be emulated at all airports in India. Kerala Government is promoting solar energy in a huge way. The solar power generation should be more affordable, and investment must be promoted to enhance its share in our energy basket. At global level, we have Uruguay, where 98 per cent of its electricity or the power is generated by renewable energy. The Uruguay offers lessons in energy sovereignty and the importance of community engagement in lowering greenhouse gas emissions. That country has a regulatory environment involving the public and private sectors to provide affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to promote an overall socio-economic development. So, we can learn and adopt good practices from around the world.

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:** New and renewable energy is a very useful option for us. There is no risk of grid failure in this. I just want to say that the companies making solar panels are not paying proper attention to quality. They should be monitored. Today the process of getting connection for irrigation and schools is very complicated. It should be simplified. The government should play its role, and it is not right to put all the responsibility on the private sector. This sector needs to be made more regulated and transparent. The help of experts can be taken for this work. Overall, this scheme and initiative should be made practical.

**SHRIMATI SANGEETA YADAV:** We have been running a program on new and renewable energy since 2014 as a continuous process. This will make India the third largest economy and a developed nation. Our Government has formulated a strategy for green development under which focus is being laid on increasing the generation of new and renewable energy as well as reducing the use of fossil fuels and involving various stakeholders in it. Under this, initiatives will be taken towards ethanol blending, solar panels, coal gasification, and battery storage. India has set a deadline of 20 percent ethanol blending to be achieved by 2025-26 instead of 2030. While making certain constructive reforms, a

national grid has been established to ensure proper distribution and stability of energy. In the last 10 years, our Government has taken many other important steps in the energy sector. We have made extensive investments in energy infrastructure. Today, we are also working on providing training and employment to people in the green energy generation sector. The provision has also been made for *Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme*, under which solar panels will be installed in one crore houses. Under our *Kusum* scheme, the meaningful efforts are on to transform the farmers into energy producers.

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