

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, July 24, 2024/ Sravana 02, 1946 (Saka)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Concern over Natural Calamities in Karnataka, its Neighbouring States and Other Parts of our Country

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I would like to mention about the natural calamities occurred in Karnataka and other parts of our country. In a particular incident, nine people died in Shirur village in Ankola Taluk in Karnataka last week. It blocked the entire highway. Nobody from the State Government went there for six days. The Heavy Industries and Steel Minister of the Union Government went there. After his visit, the Military, Indian Navy, fire brigade, teams of SDRF and NDRF were sent there. I thank the Union Government for sending all the NDRF, Indian Navy, fire brigade, etc. and taking necessary steps for the people who were suffering and to have the dead bodies removed.

2. Demand for Unified Law on Industrial Accidents in India

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: Industrial workers are the backbone of industrialized India, and their safety must be a top priority. The consequences of industrial accidents are devastating, including loss of life, environmental damage, economic disruptions and psychological trauma. Incidents like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and the recent Thane explosion that claimed eleven lives underscore the need for a comprehensive regulatory reform. Currently, industrial safety is governed by 15 acts and 19 rules, leading to overlapping jurisdictions and weak enforcement. This fragmented approach results in significant gaps in oversight and safety measures. Moreover, the absence of a comprehensive chemical risk database hampers effective hazard assessment and the development of safety protocols. Insufficient worker training and poor investment in safety infrastructure, often due to cost-cutting measures, further exacerbate the problem. I urge upon the Government to create a unified law on industrial accidents which should cover all these aspects.

3. Demand for Increasing Amount of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme i.e. 'MPLAD'

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: This subject is important for all the members. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was introduced in 1993 at the request of Members of Parliament from all parties with an amount of Rs. 5 lakh per Member to enable them to recommend development works in their constituencies. This

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amount was increased to Rs. 2 crores in 1998-99 and to Rs. 5 crore per year in 2011-12. This amount has not been increased so far since 2011-12. About 8 to 10 Assembly constituencies come under one Parliamentary constituency. In States like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab etc., the amount under the MLA Local Area Development Scheme has been Rs. 5 crore or more for many years. In Delhi, the amount is Rs. 10 crore per MLA. The amount of 'MLA Local Area Development Scheme' and 'MP Local Area Development Scheme' has become almost the same, whereas proportionately this amount should be about 8 to 10 times. At the same time, the MP Local Area Development Fund of Rs 5 crore is not sufficient for any Rajya Sabha MP for development schemes in the entire state. Hence, it is requested that the amount of MPLAD should be increased to Rs 15 crore.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Government to Intervene in the recent hike of import duty for exporters of Oranges from Vidarbha region in Maharashtra to Bangladesh

DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE: In Maharashtra State, Amravati and Nagpur Division is recognized as Vidarbha. It is also the highest orange-fruit producer and exporter in the country. The farmers and producer company exporters of this Division have yearly been exporting around 1.25 to 1.50 lakh metric tonnes of Oranges to Bangladesh. But, due to hike in Import Duty by Bangladesh Government, the orange export to Bangladesh has totally been stopped this season. Due to multiple-time hikes in Import Duty and devaluation of currency of Bangladesh, total orange export from Vidarbha has suffered. I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and impress upon the Government of Bangladesh to reduce the Import Duty or support orange exporters by providing 25 to 30 per cent subsidy to continue orange export to Bangladesh.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand for Tribal Circuit for Western Odisha under Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Kalahandi - Rayagada - Koraput – Kandhamal)

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Odisha has the third highest concentration of tribals in India who have highly developed artistic skills. The Swadesh Darshan Scheme underlines the possibility of a huge potential for better livelihood opportunities and improved quality of life of the tribals. The Majhighariani Temple in Rayagada; Gupteshwar Temple in Koraput etc. are some notable tourist attractions that can form a successful tribal circuit. The tribes in these areas face various development challenges and have extremely low annual incomes. The establishment of a tribal circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme would enhance the livelihood of the people around these tourist sites by generating local employment opportunities. It would also improve tourist infrastructure. I urge the Central government to enhance the implementation of this provision under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Issue of reconstitution of Marathwada Statutory Development Board

DR. BHAGWAT KARAD: The Constitution of India has appreciated the need for targeted development activities in various regions of India. Article 371 provided various States with the mandate to establish Statutory Development Boards. Through the hon. Governor, the State of Maharashtra has received the special responsibility of establishing the Marathwada, Vidharbha and Rest of Maharashtra Development Boards, respectively. Established in 1994, these Boards undertook significant contribution towards development of the regions. However, unfortunately, these Boards have not been functioning since June

2020. Thus, I seek to stress upon the urgency with which these Boards must be reconstituted to benefit the people of Marathwada, Vidharbha and other regions.

(Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

7. Concern over Abuse of Elders

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Cases of mistreatment and abandonment of elderly people are increasing rapidly in the country forcing elderly people to live in old age homes. Elderly people are like an asset to the society. A few years ago, a Delhi-based NGO conducted a survey on 10,000 elderly people from 20 states of the country. According to the report, one in every four elderly people in the country is forced to live alone. This evil is not limited to cities only. This is the reason why the United Nations is also trying to stop it through awareness. I demand from the Government that a positive provision should be brought to protect the elderly and parents from being abandoned and beaten up and the social and economic interests of the elderly should be ensured.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Demand for Making Tourism Management Simple and Effective by Using Technology

SHRIMATI SUMITRA BALMIK: Through real time data analytics, crowds at various tourist destinations can be predicted and crowd control measures can be taken. Mobile apps and websites can help in informing tourists about the current situation and help them plan their trip better. Digital ticketing systems and online booking platforms can reduce long queues at tourist destinations. Entry process can be streamlined using QR code scanning and e-tickets, which will save time and make the experience of tourists enjoyable. Security of tourist destinations can be enhanced using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. Suspicious activities can be identified through surveillance cameras and sensors and immediate action can be taken. Finally, various tourist destinations can be promoted globally using social media and digital marketing, thereby boosting the local economy and increasing the number of international tourists. Therefore, I request the Government to implement such a system, which will make things easier for tourists and also free the tourist spots from population pressure.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Demand for Reservation of Seats for Limboo and Tamang Scheduled Tribe Communities in Sikkim Legislative Assembly

SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA: Limboo and Tamang Communities are constitutionally entitled to reservation in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in terms of Article 332 read with Article 371F (f) of the Constitution. Recently, the Supreme Court in case of Public Interest Committee for Scheduling Specific Areas Vs UoI 2023 has clearly said that Parliament is competent to provide necessary reservation to the Limboo and Tamang communities by amending the Representation of the People Act, 1950. I urge the Government to look into the matter.

(Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Shri P. Wilson, Shri Mohamed Abdulla and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

10. Demand for Holistic Development of Kozhikode International Airport

SHRI P.P. SUNEER: The Kozhikode International Airport is an international airport serving the Malabar region, consisting of Kozhikode, Malappuram, Wayanad and Palakkad in Kerala. This Airport is country's 21st busiest airport in terms of passenger

traffic. It will see growth both in terms of passengers and cargo volume in future. Despite its importance in serving the people of Malabar region, many facilities are lacking. The AAI should focus on providing modern and passenger friendly services in both the terminals to make travel hassle free. I urge upon the Government to look into the matter.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Demand for Conserving Shaniwar Wada Architecture of Pune

Dr. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI: I would like to draw your attention to the important historical site of Pune, Shaniwar Wada, which is currently in a very bad condition. This Grade A heritage structure is under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India. Established in the year 1736 as a heritage of the Maratha Empire, this structure is an important part of Indian history. Shaniwar Wada has become dilapidated due to lack of proper care and maintenance. Most of its parts have become weak and are at risk of collapse anytime. The Central Government has directed to improve the deteriorating condition of the monument, but no work has been done. I request the Government to get the repair and maintenance work of this palace done soon.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra , Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu , Shri P. Wilson , Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik associated)

12. The Issue of Life and Medical Insurance and Public Sector Insurance Companies

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: I urge the Government to remove GST on Life and Medical Insurance Premiums. Presently, both life and medical insurance premiums attract a GST rate of 18 percentage, which is beyond any rational. Second is about re-introduction of Income tax deduction for health insurance premium. Health insurance has become an imperative today in view of the progressively increasing cost of hospitalization. Third is about consolidation of Public Sector general insurance companies. The Public Sector general insurance companies have been recording reasonably good performance in spite of myriad challenges confronting them. They hold a market share of over 30 per cent. These companies should be merged into a single entity to form a single corporation.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Demand to increase in the Number of Beds in Emergency Ward of AIIMS, Patna

DR. BHIM SINGH: AIIMS Patna is ready to serve the public, but every day we get information from the general public that the number of beds in the emergency department of AIIMS, Patna is much less than the demand. Therefore, needy patients are not able to get admitted there and they lose their lives and property by getting trapped in the clutches of private hospitals. I demand the Government that along with increasing the number of beds in the emergency department of AIIMS Patna, other facilities there should also be increased.

(Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, Shri P. Wilson and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

14. Demand for Nipah Viral Testing Facilities in Kerala

SHRI HARIS BEERAN: Outbreak of Nipah virus in Kerala has been declared as health emergency. This deadly virus resulted in the death of a 14-year-old boy last Sunday. Nipah virus outbreaks have haunted Kerala on four occasions in the past. The biggest impediment being faced in such disease's outbreaks, is the inadequacy of virus

testing facilities in the country. It is a matter of grave concern that there is only one advanced centre for virology testing catering to 140 million population of the country. I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to provide funding support to develop viral testing facilities in National Institute of Virology in Alappuzha and Institute of Advance Virology in Trivandrum.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. The Need to ensure Efficient Implementation of MNREGS

SHRIMATI SAGARIKA GHOSE: The Budget Estimate for the MNREGS was Rs. 60,000 crores for Financial Year, 2023-24. This had to be increased to Rs. 89,000 crores. The Government has been claiming that availability of funds shall not hinder the implementation of the NREGA. The Government is considering distributing excess rice for part-payment of the wages. Since most workers are PDS-beneficiaries, receiving rice during high inflation offers less purchasing power than cash wages. As of January 1, 2024, Aadhar Based Payment System has been mandated within the framework of NREGA. More than 1.5 crore workers are yet to be ABPS enabled. The opacity of the ABPS architecture makes it impossible for workers to track which account their payment has been deposited in, leading to diverted and misdirected payments. Any deviations or inaccuracies could lead to a situation wherein rural workers may be deprived of their rightfully-earned wages, especially, people from marginalised backgrounds. I urge the Government to urgently address these issues to ensure efficient implementation of the MNREGS.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

16. Concern over Access to Washrooms, Sanitation Facilities like Toilets in Educational Institutions And Workplaces for Women across the Country

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: It is disheartening to see India's Nari Shakti being troubled due to the inadequate toilets and sanitation facilities at educational institutions and workplaces. Although the number of women in the spheres of education and workforce is on the rise, the provision of sufficient and adequate toilet facilities for them is still sadly lacking. Unfortunately, most workplaces and work activities in the informal sectors lack basic sanitation facilities and toilets. Improving access to toilets and clean water and ensuring adequate hygiene facilities in workplaces would help to empower women and promote gender equality. I urge the Government to address this very sensitive women issue immediately in all the educational institutions and workplaces across the country.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

17. Demand for Change in Timing of Ranchi-Patna Jan Shatabdi Express

SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH: At present, there is a need to operate Jan Shatabdi Express from Ranchi to Patna in the morning. Because there is no express train from Ranchi to Patna in the morning. If Jan Shatabdi Express is operated from Ranchi to Patna in the morning, then not only will the movement of people be facilitated, but the income of the railways will also increase. I urge the Government to look into this matter.

(Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Dr. John Brittas, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

18. Demand for Reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Goa Legislative Assembly

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE: I would like to draw the attention of this august House to an urgent and significant issue pertaining to the political representation of Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly. Goa is home to several Scheduled Tribes that have been integral to the social and economic fabric of the state. Despite their contributions, the Scheduled Tribes in Goa have not been adequately represented in the State's Legislative Assembly. The Indian Constitution guarantees political reservations for Scheduled Tribes to ensure their meaningful participation in the democratic process and to address their unique social, economic, and cultural challenges. However, there is currently no political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the State Assembly of Goa. This lack of representation impedes the empowerment and development of the Scheduled Tribes in Goa. I urge the Government to provide political reservations for Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly. This measure is essential to uphold the constitutional rights of Scheduled Tribes and to promote their active participation in the democratic process.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

19. Demand for inclusion of Languages spoken in Odisha into Eighth Schedule of Constitution

DR. SASMIT PATRA: The Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Kui, Saora and Kosli/Sambalpuri languages spoken in Odisha are rich with their respective history, legacy, heritage, culture and literature. There are long-standing demands from the people of Odisha speaking these languages, for their inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Despite several letters by then Chief Minister of Odisha and several demands placed in both Houses of Parliament, these languages have not yet been included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution by the Union Government. The Odisha Cabinet has also resolved several times, through unanimous resolutions, for the inclusion of some of these languages in the 8th Schedule. The Kosli/Sambalpuri language spoken by the brothers and sisters of western Odisha is rich in literature, culture, history and heritage but that has also been kept waiting outside the 8th Schedule. I urge the Government to take necessary steps to ensure that Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Kui, Saora and Kosli/Sambalpuri are included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. The official recognition of these languages by the Government will go a long way in their development.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

20. Demand of Awareness Campaign of Central Government Schemes through Banks

SHRI SANJAY SETH: The Government has started many schemes for the development of every section of the society with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. In Budget 2024, a package of five schemes of the Prime Minister for employment and skill training has also been announced, which will benefit crores of youth of the country. The implementation of these schemes will lead to financial inclusion and economic development. The Government is making every effort to implement the schemes, but to ensure that the benefits reach the ground level, it is important to make the beneficiaries aware about it. Our banks can play the most important role in this awareness campaign. I demand from the Government that a dedicated Help Desk should be established in all bank branches, which should publicize our schemes and make the beneficiaries aware of the schemes. With the formation of these Hhelp Ddesks, every citizen will get his rights.

(Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Sujeet Kumar associated)

21. Demand for Expediting Projects under Bharatmala in State of Bihar

SHRI SHAMHU SHARAN PATEL: The working to connect the district headquarters of the country through six-lane highways under Bharatmala project. One of the main objectives of the project is to improve freight efficiency through highways. Apart from this, the ambitious six-lane green field Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway of the National Highways Authority of India will pass through many districts of Bihar. The Government has also decided to build an elevated road on NH 30 in Patna. Currently, bridges are being constructed in many districts of Bihar and the Government has allocated funds for these works. Work is being done for the development of the first multi-modal logistics park in Patna. I urge the Government that most of the districts in Bihar are aspirational, so the work of all these projects should be expedited, so that there is development in Bihar and encroachment on the NH should be removed. Solar lights should also be installed on the NH so that accidents on the NH can be reduced.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra associated)

22. Concerns over Energy Security Projects in Tamil Nadu

Shri P. Wilson: The Tamil Nadu State Power Utility Company, Tangedcon has started development of a 2x800 MW super critical thermal project in Ramanathapuram district. Similarly, the 1,320 MW Udangudi Stage-I is also nearing completion. Considering that development of projects within the state is crucial for progress, the state has proposed that NTPC and NLC take up further development of these projects. Taking up of these projects by NTPC and NLC will enhance the energy security of Tamil Nadu and other southern States. Moreover, the demand for electricity in Tamil Nadu is growing at a higher rate than other states. I urge that 100 per cent allocation from Units III and IV of Koodankulam Atomic Power Station be given to Tamil Nadu to meet the growing demand and help Tamil Nadu become fully self-sufficient in terms of electricity.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

23. Concern over Attacks by Stray Animals in country.

DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL: We all see videos on social media where stray animals attack children and the elderly and a case has come to light in Bathinda where a 5-year-old girl was attacked by a stray animal, resulting in her death. Incidents of dog bites have increased across the country. This has also been taken cognizance of by the High Court and the Supreme Court of the country. I request the government to start a scheme under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for the rehabilitation of stray animals, so that shelters for stray animals can be built at the block, ward or taluka level and the increasing cases of human-animal conflict can also be curbed.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

24. Concern over Difficulties Faced by Pilgrims in Char Dham in Uttarakhand

DR. SIKANDER KUMAR: I would like to draw your attention to the problems of Char Dham Yatra in the state of Uttarakhand. There are four sacred Hindu pilgrimage sites located in the region of Uttarakhand. It is not only a religious pilgrimage but also an important cultural and tourism event for Uttarakhand, which attracts tourists from all over the world. It is important for the local communities as it provides employment opportunities. After Covid-19, the number of devotees coming here has increased, due to which the government arrangements for facilities ranging from medical and health to transport, accommodation and toilets have proved to be inadequate. I request the hon'ble

Tourism Minister that the officials dealing with the facilities for the devotees coming on Char Dham Yatra should complete the review of the arrangements of proper facilities for the Char Dham Yatra of the coming years in advance, so that the devotees do not face any problem.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

25. Need for Reconsideration of NCTE's Oversight of NIOS D.El.Ed (ODL) Programme

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA: In a quest to uphold the Right to Education Act 2009, the National Council for Teacher Education issued a notification in 2010, requiring a minimum qualification of a two-year diploma in elementary education. After NCTE's 2014 regulations, the Ministry of Human Resource Development issued a letter to all the Secretaries of States and UTs directing that all the teachers in Government Schools must possess minimum qualification as mandated under the RTE Act and a last chance was being given to all such teachers to acquire minimum qualification till 31-03-2019. In 2017, an opportunity arose for in-service untrained teachers of Government, Government Aided, Unaided Private Schools, classes I-VIII, to acquire Diploma in Elementary Education, D.El.Ed., from National Institute of Open Schooling in ODL mode in 18 months instead of two years. The Supreme Court ruling on November 28, 2023, emphasized that the entire scheme was only for the purpose of providing a window to the in-service teachers to prevent their dismissal. The delay in publishing notifications left approximately 14 lakh candidates in limbo, as the NCTE failed to publish the Gazette directed by the MHRD on September 22, 2017. States like Bihar and West Bengal have appointed teachers trained through the NIOS 18-month course. I urge the Government to reconsider the NCTE's non-recognition of the NIOS 18-month D.El.Ed course, ensuring equal opportunities for the affected candidates at the earliest.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

26. Demand for Adequate Budgetary Allocation for Ensuring Safety of Mining Workers

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI: Odisha has one of the highest coal reserves in the country, which increases the importance of ensuring the safety of the mining workers. However, in spite of the urgency of the matter, the budget for the Ministry of Coal has been declining for the past two years. Under-utilisation of funds is another cause of concern. Mining is an extremely hazardous profession and disasters in this area cause grave threat to human life and loss of economic resources. Quite frequently, the inundation leads to disasters in mines. The safety measures and proper rescue plans have not been formulated. I urge the Central Government to devise a mechanism to ensure safety of mining workers.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

27. Demand for Bringing Back Royal Throne of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA: I stand up to speak on an issue that is linked to the pride and sentiments of Punjab and the whole of India. Fortunately, I come from the same Punjab, which was once ruled by Sher-e-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He was a great warrior and a just ruler. A survey by BBC World History has termed Maharaja Ranjit Singh as the 'greatest leader of all time'. In this august gathering, I want to connect the memory of Maharaja Ranjit Singh with the golden royal throne, which is kept in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London today. I demand from the Government of India

that they should talk to the British Government through diplomatic relations and try to bring that royal throne back to India. If this happens, the people of the country will be able to see that historical throne and get inspired. Also, in schools, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's bravery and good governance should be taught.

(Dr. John Brittas, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Shri Sant Balbir Singh, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu associated.)

28. Demand for Establishing Multi-purpose Industrial Training Centre and Hi-tech Trade Centre with Entertainment Park at North Chennai Industrial Cluster

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN: The North Chennai industrial cluster comprising Ennore, Tiruvottiyur, Manali, Korattur, Madhavaram, Ambattur, Avadi and adjoining District of Tiruvallur makes this region a special industrial hub. Here, various leading PSUs and over 6,000 SMEs are fighting for skilled manpower. Thus, the employment potential is high. There is a need for an advanced industrial training centre and trade centre to harness the human resource. The picturesque location between Retteri and Madhavaram lakes is excellently suitable for setting up an Integrated Industrial training complex. Also, we can create water theme park and entertainment park which will add advantages to this North Chennai Industrial hub. The entire area will get a much-needed facelift and the overall trade will also prosper. This way, the industrial development and employment-oriented skilling of youths will go hand in hand. So, I urge the Government to set up a multi-purpose industrial training centre and Trade Centre to support North Chennai Industrial hub.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

29. Request for Consideration of Demand for Formation of Greater Cooch Behar as a Union Territory

SHRI NAGENDRA RAY: There has been a long pending demand of the Greater Cooch Behar People's Association for formation of Greater Cooch Behar as a Union Territory by carving it out of the State of West Bengal. This Association has been against merger of the then Cooch Behar with the States of West Bengal and Assam. This merger was illegal, unconstitutional and against the wishes of the locals. The Government is also aware of this sensitive issue. The merger was in violation of the Instrument of Accession signed between Maharaja Shri Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur and Lord Mountbatten, Governor General. Interestingly, Cooch Behar was shown as 'C' category State in the First Schedule of the Constitution adopted by Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949. Therefore, I request the Government to undo the injustice done to the people and a separate Union Territory of Cooch Behar should be carved out.

(Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh and Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala associated.)

30. Demand for Increasing the One Stop Centres in Odisha

MS. SULATA DEO: The violence against women is a distressing fact. It needs urgent attention and comprehensive solution. The One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme led by the Central Government is commendable. In Odisha, the Government has established *Sakhi Centres* to aid distressed women. However, the existing numbers fall short of meeting the extensive demand. I respectfully request the Government to increase the number of centres in Odisha to provide support to more women in the State.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

31. Demand to establish more Kendriya Vidyalayas and Eklavya Schools in Odisha

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: Odisha has been persistently advocating for the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas in every block across the state. These schools are crucial to providing quality education and ensuring educational access for students in remote areas. These specialized schools are essential for addressing educational disparities, promoting cultural preservation, and fostering socio-economic development among tribal communities in Odisha. Their establishment would not only improve educational outcomes but also empower marginalized groups by providing them with equitable opportunities for growth and development. I request the Government to take possible steps in this.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

32. Demand for Effective Flood Management works in India

SHRI NARESH BANSAL: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Odisha are among the worst flood-prone States in India. Recurring floods in every monsoon cause heavy loss of life and property. For flood control, greater emphasis should be laid on afforestation, terrace sloping to prevent slope flow, construction of dams and embankments to prevent water from entering human settlements, flood proofing and zoning of flood plains. Tree plantation and planting of vegetation will help the soil to retain and absorb excess water. Canals and feeder networks should be constructed to channelize excess water from flood-prone areas to dry areas and reservoirs and dams should be constructed scientifically. Effective flood management measures are required to protect human life, land and property from the ravages of floods in the country.

(Shri A.A. Rahim, Dr. John Brittas, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu associated.)

33. Need to address the Issues faced by Agricultural Workers

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Agricultural and rural workers of India constitute the most deprived and marginalized classes in our society. They are suffering from low wages, lack of social security, lack of proper health care, malnutrition and lack of educational opportunities for their children. The agricultural workers, who are unable to work due to old age, are left with no support from the Government. There is a need to ensure that agricultural workers get a monthly pension of minimum 5000/- rupees and the funds for this money should be transferred to the States by the Union Government. There is a need to ensure that universal and free quality healthcare is provided to the agricultural workers. There is an urgent need to increase the amount allocated for employment guarantee schemes and strengthen social security. I urge the Government to take steps to ensure that the right to a dignified life of the agricultural workers is protected.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

34. Concern over High Level of Pollution in Rivers flowing through Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BRIJ LAL: The Krishna, Kali, and Hindon rivers, which flow through Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh, are heavily contaminated with industrial pollutants, including heavy metals like mercury and lead. This pollution has severely impacted the health of local residents, leading to high rates of cancer, bone deformities, and other serious

illnesses. This has resulted in untimely death and a large number of other ailments. This problem has been there for over two decades. I earnestly urge the Central and State bodies involved in this area to make efforts to eradicate this problem and save the lives of residents and the future generations.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

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