

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, February 06, 2025/ Magha 17, 1946 (Saka)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I am pleased to extend greetings to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Upendra Kushwaha, on his birthday today.

A Rajya Sabha Member since August 2024, **Shri Upendra Kushwaha** is serving his second term. A former Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development from 2014 to 2018, Shri Kushwahaji's distinguished public life includes numerous roles, reflecting his leadership and deep commitment to social service.

He was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 2000 to 2005, where he earned recognition as Leader of the Opposition. He served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 2010 to 2013; Member of 16th Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019 and Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 2021 to 2023. He is the National President of Rashtriya Lok Morcha. He is married to Shrimati Snehlata, and the couple is blessed with son - Deepak Prakash and daughter - Preeti Lata.

Hon. Members, on my own and your behalf, I wish him a happy, long, and healthy life and extend greetings to his family members.

SUO-MOTO STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Deportation of Indian Nationals from USA

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. JAISHANKAR): I rise to apprise the House of certain developments pertaining to deportation of Indians from the USA. Hon. Members are aware that people-to-people exchanges constitute the bedrock of our deepening ties with the United States. Indeed, more than any other relationship, mobility and migration has had a key role to play in enhancing its quality. The House would also share the view of the Government that it is in our collective interest to encourage legal mobility and discourage illegal movement. In fact, illegal mobility and migration has many other associated activities, also of an illegal nature. Moreover, those of our citizens who have been inveigled into illegal movement themselves become prey to other crimes. They are trapped into both moving and working under inhuman conditions. Members are aware that unfortunately there have even been fatalities in the course of such illegal migration. Those who have returned have also testified to their harrowing experiences. It is the obligation of all countries to take back their nationals if they are found to be living illegally abroad. This is naturally subject to an unambiguous verification of their nationality. This is not a policy

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applicable to any specific country, nor indeed one only practiced by India. It is a general accepted principle in international relations. Hon'ble Members would be aware that the process of deportation is not a new one, I repeat, not a new one, and has been ongoing for several years. I would like to share with the House details of deportation from the United States since 2009. Their numbers, year-wise, as available with our law enforcement authorities is as follows: In 2009, the number of deportees was 734; 2010 – 799; 2011 – 597; 2012 – 530; 2013 – 515; 2014 – 591; 2015 – 708; 2016 – 1303; 2017 – 1024; 2018 – 1180; 2019 – 2042; 2020 – 1889; 2021 – 805; 2022 – 862; 2023 – 617; 2024 – 1368; 2025 – 104.

Deportations by the U.S. are organized and executed by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, authorities. The standard operating procedure for deportation by aircraft used by ICE that is effective from 2012, I repeat, that is effective from 2012, provides for the use of restraints. However, we have been informed by ICE that women and children are not restrained. Further, the needs of the deportees during transit related to food or other necessities, including possible medical emergencies, are attended to. During toilet breaks, deportees are temporarily unrestrained, if needed, in that regard. This is applicable to chartered civilian aircraft as well as military aircraft. There has been no change -- I repeat, 'no change' -- from past procedure for the flight undertaken by the U.S. on 5 February 2025. We are, of course, engaging the U.S. Government to ensure that the returning deportees are not mistreated in any manner during the flight. At the same time, the House will appreciate that our focus should be on strong crackdown on the illegal migration industry, while taking steps to ease visas for the legitimate traveller. On the basis of information provided by returning deportees about the agents and others involved, law enforcement agencies will take necessary preventive and exemplary actions.

The hon'ble Minister, replying to the points raised by the members, said: A number of Members raised issues which you pointed out were repeated. So, I will answer issue by issue. In some cases, it will reply to multiple Members. The first issue, which was raised by Shri Surjewala. He said, 'Do you know that 104 people were brought back yesterday'. Of course, we know. We were the people who verified the nationality. We were the people who gave the aircraft clearance for the flight. So, yes, I know 104 people came back in 2025. I also know that five to seven times the numbers came back in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. So, let us not make out as though this is something which is a new issue. This is an issue which was happening earlier. Second issue, many people asked me, 'Did we have Consular access to these 104 or others who are in detention? In many cases, Embassy would like to have Consular Access to any Indian national. But, that national has to request Consular access. In many cases, they have not requested. So, we were not aware. But, in every case, we have obtained passport details, we have checked the verification, we have ensured that they are Indians, and we have had contacts to ensure that. That is the case. And then, there is the next issue. One hon'ble Member asked, "Are we making an effort after their return"? Yes. In fact, that is why, the authorities have been given instructions, and I would urge hon. Member, Shri Sanjay Singh not to misrepresent that instruction. They have been given instruction to sit with every one of the returnees, find out how did they go to America, who was the agent, how did this illegal industry happen, how can we take precautions so that this does not continue.

What precautions we can take so that this does not continue. We are being very, very sympathetic and solicitous to the predicament of the people going. So, I do not want the House or the public to have a wrong understanding of how they were received. They have come through a very difficult experience. They were misled by agents. One hon'ble Member had raised an issue saying that the numbers went up after the year 2016. I was very, very 'bureaucratically correct'. It means, I follow a bureaucratic database to ensure that I gave

before the House a very, very similar, comparable number from the same database. If one looks at the Homeland Security data, the American Homeland Security Department has a report about aliens removed by criminal status, the country or nationality. Homeland Security Department data actually shows prior to 2014; the American numbers were actually close to a thousand. The numbers I have given as can be seen in the Statement are from the Bureau of Immigration. In many cases, possibly, because they were not issued emergency certificates, they may have been treated differently or maybe they went to some other country. So, I would say we should look at this in an overall manner, rather than try to make points about which year it was a little higher than which year. An issue came about a military aircraft being sent. Now, some other hon. Members also raised their concerns, 'have military aircraft being sent before?' Sir, we have looked at the deportations for the last fifteen years. It is up to the authority of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to charter an aircraft; it could be a military aircraft, but, whichever aircraft comes in, it is under the authority of the ICE. The procedure whether it was the military aircraft or it was a chartered aircraft was exactly the same. Advance notice was given and there was Consular access done; we have checked all the procedures. The issue was raised, 'Do they have property?' We are not aware if they have property. But, if they have anything we will be responsive to that. We do not have data on illegal immigrants and the issue about student Visas being cancelled, does not apply to Immigration.

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

SHRI DEVENDRA PRATAP SINGH, continuing his unfinished speech dated 04.02.2025, said: The President's address is an important document of the Government's policies, achievements and future direction. It is a constitutional process in which the progress of the country is incorporated. An hon. MP had told that nowadays farmers are committing suicide and are in a bad condition. I want to tell that the farmers of Chhattisgarh have seen that difficult period of farming when after producing paddy with hard work, the farmers had to sell the paddy in the markets at meagre prices. After the harvest, they had no other work except going to other states and working as laborers. After the formation of Chhattisgarh state, a system of paddy procurement was started. It was ensured that no person sleeps hungry in Chhattisgarh which is called the rice bowl. This work was done in such a systematic manner that Chhattisgarh became a model state of food security. In the initial phase of the formation of Chhattisgarh, paddy procurement was about 4.63 lakh metric tonnes, but last time this figure reached 145 lakh metric tonnes. The Government has provided a fair price for paddy to the farmers. Paddy is being purchased at a fast pace in the state. The amount of support price is being continuously sent to the accounts of our farmers. The Government has decided to send a lump sum amount as input assistance to the accounts of farmer in the month of February. Deendayal Upadhyay Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Kalyan Yojana for landless agricultural laborers has also been started. The landless farmers are being provided Rs 10,000 per year under this scheme. The farmers in Chhattisgarh are now very happy. Migration has stopped in the state and farmers are investing in agriculture because they are getting good income from farming. Tribal society has always played an important role in nation building and will continue to do so in future too. Today I am deeply saddened and angry that a senior Rajya Sabha MP has made derogatory and indecent remarks against the Hon'ble President of our country. These indecent remarks have not only insulted the Hon'ble President, but have also deeply hurt the sentiments of the entire tribal society and the countrymen. This is not just an insult to an individual, but an attack on the dignity and prestige of the Constitution of India.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: Hon'ble President in her Address has mentioned several programmes and policies which are going to be implemented by the Government. This is a policy document where several issues have been mentioned. The Government has stated that the highest priority is given to the poor, the middle class, the youth, and the women. This is mentioned on the second page of the President's Address. And, to achieve this highest priority, to implement this, and to achieve the prospects of this neglected section, it is necessary to have a stable Government that can run for five years. With the support of the regional parties like us, this Government will run for five years. In the last ten years, I have not taken any benefit from the Prime Minister or from anybody. I do not want to hurt anybody. I am only telling the truth. I gave reservation to the Jat community of Rajasthan. I was Prime Minister hardly for 320 days. The world has recognized Modi as the tallest leader. Page 2 of the President's Address mention that 5,36,000 crore rupees have been allocated for this purpose under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Rs. 41,000 crores have already been dispersed for the farmers. It is very difficult for the Opposition to swallow it. Even the amount allocated for education, medical education, agriculture, irrigation, etc. finds mention in the Address. In Karnataka, the money earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been diverted and used for the election purpose. Lastly, I would like to speak about drinking water. Karnataka is very unfortunate. I am not talking about Modi's Government. I am talking about all Governments in the past. Drinking water supply to Bengaluru city has been a major problem. Even today, for more than one crore forty-five lakh people of Bengaluru, they have allotted just 20 TMC of water. We require more than 50 TMC. There are three rivers serving Karnataka - Cauvery, Mahanadi and Krishna. All three are inter-State rivers. Tribunal awards are there. For Cauvery, there was one interim award. Nowhere in India, in any tribunal, there is an interim award. The High Court and the Supreme Court have passed strictures. The tribunal award was notified. If water release is short, that should be made good for next month. It is Modi Sahab alone who can solve this problem, not others. The people of Karnataka, Bengaluru and other districts are suffering for want of drinking water. I want, in my lifetime, that it should be solved.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: We support all the things mentioned in the President's Address, whether it is women empowerment or education. However, we have some questions about political speeches. The first question is whether politics is only for elections? You can pick up any number of speeches, whether it is the President's Address or the Budget speech, you do not need to go to the Election Commission's website or Google, you will know which state is going to have elections in the future from the speeches of ministers and people of the Government. If any state starts being talked about in the speeches, assume that elections are going to be held in that state and as soon as the elections are over, the discussion about that state ends. In the President's address, only Delhi and Bihar are being discussed. I believe that we should not promote this thing too much that elections are our sole aim. All kinds of demands have been made from all the states. Neither are they mentioned in the President's Address nor in this Budget. The Election Commission halts small projects by saying that this is a way to lure voters. The Budget is the biggest storehouse of announcements. The Budget is coming just before the elections and on the day of the elections, BJP's advertisement gets published mentioning tax exemption up to 12 lakhs, which was the announcement of this Budget. This is a direct violation of the election code of conduct. We will have to take care of this in future. But the Election Commission does not pay attention to these things. You will also agree to one thing that the image of the Election Commission has become very tarnished. You will remember the time of Seshan, who was appointed by our Government, but he used to take strict action against our own Government. But why is no Chief Election Commissioner's name being taken today? Because they are sitting with their eyes closed. They do not see anything. Packets of money are being distributed openly. Political

parties go to complain, but they are not heard. Therefore, I request the Election Commission that they too pay attention to this. India is the youngest country, and we can do the most work in the economy, but what happened today! You have made that very youth power sit in the villages. Today, whether it is the industry of Surat, or that of Mumbai, or the agriculture industry of Punjab, there are no workers due to which the manufacturing sector is suffering so much loss. But tell me one thing, is Kumbh a political event or a religious event? I have also been to Kumbh many times since my childhood. Sermons of religious saints etc. always used to take place there.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: I would first appreciate the efforts of all Governments since independence that have significantly improved healthcare in our country. This progress is evident in the success of universal immunization, eradication of smallpox, polio, overall increase in the life-expectancy, etc. Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a fundamental right. Affordability of healthcare is still an issue in our country. As per the available data, around 7½ per cent families in India are pushed into poverty because of one critical healthcare issue in the family. Budgetary allocation is too less as far as healthcare is concerned. The National Health Policy set a target of increasing India's public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of country's GDP by 2025. However, still only 0.27 per cent of GDP is being spent and 2 per cent of total Budgetary allocation is going towards health. Recently, there was a report by the State Bank of India which says that the healthcare budget should be 5 per cent of GDP. I would like to request the Hon'ble Health Minister to get as much Budget as possible so that affordable health care can be provided. Now, I come to the issue of out-of-pocket expenses. As per the last data, which is available on the Government website, 39.4 per cent is the out-of-pocket expense, which I beg to disagree. Firstly, this data pertains to 2021-22, which was a Covid year, when most of the expenses were taken care of by the Government. Secondly, patients also used to avoid visiting hospitals due to the fear of catching infections during medical care.

We have established 23 new AIIMS hospitals, but there is a shortage of nearly 40 per cent of faculty members in these institutions, and non-faculty positions are also approximately 30 per cent less. My request is that if the Budget is increased, we can afford to pay more and recruit additional professors, faculty, and non-faculty members for our hospitals. Private hospitals charge arbitrarily across States due to lack of control over their charges. Consumables and diagnostic tests are overpriced due to the absence of price standardization. Even after setting ceiling prices for certain procedures, such as knee replacements, hospital charges have increased. Currently, ESI covers ₹21,000, which has been the case for a long time. I request the Government to increase this limit so that more workers can be covered under ESI and receive affordable healthcare. We have 1,09,000 undergraduate MBBS seats in India, but only 70,000 PG seats. This means that most doctors who complete their MBBS go abroad. We need to stop this brain drain. We need stricter laws against unethical practices and commercial motives should be curbed. We also need health insurance norms, and GST on health insurance should be removed, as the percentage of insured people in our country is very low, compared to other countries. I would like to call upon the Government to take the following steps: Increase healthcare expenditure at least to 2.5 per cent of the GDP if not 5 per cent, which has been recommended by the State Bank of India recently. Regulate private healthcare pricing; revise ESIC wage ceilings; strengthen AIIMS faculty and public health infrastructure; expand insurance coverage for vulnerable population and, currently, uninsured missing middle class; and curb unethical medical practices.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: I rise to oppose this Motion of Thanks. There is a general sentiment here and abroad that this parliamentary democracy is getting diluted. An

Opposition delayed is democracy denied. That is the caption now. There are so many other illegal immigrants there, not only in America but also in other places. Even in UAE, I am afraid that they will also start using their helicopters or whatever it is. I have to remind the Government is the Places of Worship Act, 1991. It is a verdict from the Supreme Court. But lower judiciary is overriding this Act It is highly condemnable and questions the integrity of our Judiciary. The recent claim and controversy over the Ajmer dargah which has a history of 600 plus years should be called out loud and should be strictly punished. I urge the Government and the Judiciary to strengthen this Act. In the Budget, especially Kerala has been totally ignored. is no single word about Kerala. If you also start suppressing the Keralites, what will we do?

SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA: In her speech, the Hon'ble President talked about the people standing at the last rung of the country and also said that meaningful development takes place only when the person standing at the last rung of the country gets the benefit of the government schemes. When the Prime Minister of the country worked to run schemes for the poor, worked to give them houses, they made fun of him. Hon'ble Narendra Modi ji gave them a permanent house. After the independence of the country, we used to hear, '*Roti, Kapda aur Makaan, Khushhal Rahega Hindustan*'. But neither did we get roti, nor clothes, nor houses. After the independence of the country, when the people of one family ruled for 60 years and kept raising such slogans, did they have the right to sit inside the Parliament of this country? Who gave them the right to make fun of the poor in this way? This discrimination in this country, the people who were in power after the independence of the country, the people of one family, who were to rule, created the discrimination of poverty and wealth. If anyone has resolved to end this discrimination, his name is Narendra Modi. After the independence of the country, they roam around the world with the constitution and make pretensions. If anyone has destroyed the dignity of that constitution, it is the opposition governments.

SHRI RAMJI: Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized justice, freedom, equality, and fraternity in the Preamble of the Constitution. Many governments have come and gone, yet Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) have not received complete social and economic justice till date. Today, even the constitutional rights that Dr. Ambedkar granted to these weaker sections are being undermined. Successive governments—both past and present—are recruiting employees on a contractual basis in government undertakings and departments, where reservations are not being implemented. If the people of this country do not get jobs, how will the nation progress? If this continues, we will face the same fate as those being deported from America today, treated like prisoners. The government is not serious about the education of weaker sections. Nearly 20 per cent of boys and girls in the country drop out due to poverty and other factors, unable to complete their education. Yet, the government has failed to make education free for these underprivileged children. Across the country, certain elements with a regressive mindset repeatedly damage the statues of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar and attempt to undermine the Constitution.

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA: Our President Shrimati Draupadi Murmu Ji hails from a humble background to occupy the highest office in our country, which speaks volumes about the vibrancy of our democracy. Her wisdom and grace have defined and added dignity to the high office she has assumed. Some people, who come from aristocratic classes, live by dynastic tradition and think of new ways to manipulate and capture our democracy, may say anything about our President, no matter how many new phrases they use to show disrespect and intolerance towards her, she will remain a ray of hope, a beacon of light for millions of people today and in the future. The President has mentioned in her

address about the progress being made regarding law to implement 'One Nation, One Election'. I welcome this great step taken by our NDA government. This will not only save the country's valuable time and resources but will also help us focus more on sustainable development. Our election system has become very expensive. To clean up this expensive election system, to make it free from black money and from the clutches of a few rich people, funding of elections should also be seriously considered by the states. The rising cost of elections, even at the local level, poses a serious threat to democracy, discouraging capable individuals from entering politics. Despite strict regulations, election expenditure remains uncontrolled, making money the biggest barrier to political participation. State funding of elections is the only viable solution. Several committees, including the Dinesh Goswami Committee, Indrajit Gupta Committee, and the Law Commission (1999), have positively recommended this idea. Given the current explosive rise in election spending, the government must seriously consider this reform to strengthen democracy. A dedicated committee should be formed to explore and implement state funding, ensuring fair and transparent elections. This measure will receive broad political support, and benefit the entire democratic system.

SHRIMATI JAYA AMITABH BACHCHAN: I'd like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to thank the President for her speech. First, I want to pay my condolences to those who left us after attending the Kumbh Mela. The President's address rightly emphasized the empowerment of women, which is something I deeply admire. I am proud that the first citizen of our country is a woman, and that we have a woman serving as the finance minister, a woman as the Chief Minister of a progressive state. It fills me with pride, especially because I know the struggles these women have faced to get to where they are today. However, it saddens me that women often don't get the same treatment. For example, during the recent Uttar Pradesh elections, I saw how women standing in line had their burqas lifted to check their identity. This is a clear violation of their personal rights. A similar incident occurred in Delhi as well—if a woman wears a burqa, her identity is questioned, but if she doesn't, no such scrutiny is applied. I want to speak on behalf of all the women present here. I'm not against anyone, but I want to address this matter as a woman. Recently, a comment was made saying, "You 'may be'." Sir, it's not just about me—it's about all women. We are not 'may be'; we are. It is deeply wrong to make such remarks about any woman, no matter which party she belongs to.

SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE: I express my gratitude for allowing to participate in the discussion on the address of Her Excellency Madam President. The President's speech presented the resolution of 'Developed India', which clarifies the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I felt proud when our Prime Minister worked for the poor, like building 12 crore toilets and giving free LPG connections to 10 crore women. Many important steps have also been taken in the health sector under the leadership of Modi ji, like Ayushman Card and establishment of Arogya Mandirs. I am from a small state like Tripura, where there was never any talk of development. Because of Modi ji, now 4,50,000 poor people have got pucca houses and many development projects have been completed. Farmers are also getting MSP and their problems are being solved. Modi ji's contribution to the North-East region has brought about major changes in Tripura and other states, such as new highways, railways, airports and broad gauge connectivity. We are now proudly participating in events like the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss the President's address. The President's speech emphasized the resolve for a 'developed India' and commitment to the Constitution. Prime Minister Modi brought 25 crore poor people above the poverty line and protected the Constitution. Modi has taken important

steps for the construction of memorials of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, such as giving NTC land in Mumbai for Baba Saheb's memorial. Modi has taken many steps for the development and social justice of the country. The work done in the direction of social and economic justice has been appreciated in the President's speech. I am with Prime Minister Modi and am working to strengthen democracy. Our party, Republican Party of India, is the party of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar ji, and I support the President's address while representing this party. He has also paid tribute to Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, who has been the respected Prime Minister of our country.

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: It is a matter of pride for me to stand here today and express my gratitude to the President for his inspiring speech. This speech was not just a guide, but a clear and ambitious plan to make India a 'developed India' by 2047. The President's address presents the pride, history, present and future of our country. It is a symbol of India's growing courage and strength. Under the leadership of Prime Minister , our diplomacy has established many new dimensions, whether it is the successful hosting of G20, QUAD, BRICS Summit or SCO Summit, India has played a major role everywhere. Today India has made a strong identity for itself in the global south. The event of Prime Minister Modi receiving the highest civilian award from 16 countries is not only an honor for him, but it is a matter of pride for the entire countrymen. Our defence capabilities have been strengthened under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' campaigns. Our core mantra is 'Saksham Bharat', social justice and inclusive growth, and the President in this address described the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' as the basis of India's progress. Development is not limited to economic growth, but it extends to the empowerment of the person standing in the last row.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana', crores of people have got their own houses. Under the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act', reservation has been given to women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. More than 10 crore women are becoming self-reliant by joining self-help groups. If we want to bring revolution in the society, then the path goes through women. Through 'Startup India' and Digital India, lakhs of startups have been registered in the country and Government jobs have also been created. In the past too, there have been Governments with large majority, but they did not have political will. The Government showed political will and abolished Article 370, triple talaq and started inclusive development. I also want to request the people who criticize that the dream of developed India that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has seen is not just his dream, but the dream of every Indian. It should be the dream of everyone, both the ruling party and the opposition.

SHRI MAHARAJA SANAJAOBA LEISHEMBA: In the third term of the Government, The poor, women, children, youth and farmers are put at top priority. Under SVAMITVA Scheme, our Government is committed to grant ownership rights of residential land to the rural poor and promoting financial inclusion. For uplifting of tribal communities, *Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan* has been started. Under Ayushman Bharat Yojana, people above the age of 70 years will be given a health cover of Rs.5 lakh. For small entrepreneurs, the limit of MUDRA loan has been increased. Under PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme, one crore youths will be provided with internship opportunities. Celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of Atalji, our Government is connecting thousands of villages under fourth phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Today, 71 Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains are running across the country. Our Government has also made swift progress on critical issues like One Nation One Election and the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, etc. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana, Saubhagya Scheme and Jal Jeevan Mission are providing benefits to crores of people. Under UDAN Scheme, the dreams of 1.5 crore people to fly in airplanes has been fulfilled. Our Government has provided medicines at

80 per cent concessional rates under Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme. Our government is committed to fostering women-led development to realize the fullest potential of the country. The goals of our Government is to make 3 crore Lakhpati Didis. Drone Didi Yojana has been instrumental in empowering our women, both economically and technically. Our daughters are flying fighter jets. They are joining the Armed Forces and leading corporate companies. This is a matter of pride for this House and the country. For education reforms and steps towards innovation, our Government has established a modern education system.

SHRIMATI MAHUA MAJI: The Hon'ble President mentioned the founding fathers of the Constitution, which included many learned women. She said that women have been given top priority in this government, but in the context of Jharkhand, this does not seem to be completely true. During the previous Governments, many atrocities were committed against women there. The present Government has worked to improve this situation. Many schemes for women empowerment are being run there. The condition of 'One Stop Crisis Centres' established across the country for women victims of violence is appalling. The women working there told that there is a huge lack of infrastructure, there is no staff, honorarium money is received very late, there are no facilities, there is no vehicle facility either. Nirbhaya Fund is not being used properly. Through it, CCTV cameras should be installed at every sensitive place like bus stops, railway stations and working girls' hostels, schools-colleges etc. There is a lack of basic facilities for women police personnel deployed for the safety of women. The Government closed and merged many government schools in the year 2016-17, due to which the dropout rate of girl students increased a lot. Our government in Jharkhand is doing great work for education. While expanding nuclear energy, attention should also be paid to the pollution caused by it.

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY: The Address speaks about the Government's initiatives to attain the 'Viksit Bharat'. Under this Government, the country is moving forward on the path of economic progress. Today, the guiding mantras of Modiji's Government seem to materialise soon. In spite of Covid situation, this Government pull out around 25 crore people from poverty line. There are numerous programmes; among them, Ayushman Bharat, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, PM Awas Yojana is worth mentioning. The WHO has also praised the construction of toilets and the PM Ayushman Bharat scheme. This Government has introduced many schemes for women upliftment. *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*, PM *Jan-Dhan Yojana*, and the Mudra Loan scheme are performing well. The Soil Health Card, the PM Kisan Credit Card, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and direct transfer, guaranteed MSP on some crops are highly beneficial to our farmers. Timely import and export curbs have helped stabilize commodity prices in the country. Successful Startups have made many youth millionaires and billionaires. Today's youth are creating employment opportunities. The Startup India initiative has had a significant impact, particularly on SC/ST women. This Government has revamped the defence purchase system. The Government has not only purchased products but also acquired technology know-how. The *Chandrayaan* project has earned international recognition in the space field. The recent successful launch of the 100th satellite is a milestone in the space industry. Women scientists are also actively involved in space technology.

SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK: As a woman from the ST community, our hon. President is an inspiration not only to ST women like me, but also to all women in the country. In her speech, the Hon'ble President has clearly outlined the country's growth, progress, and the path towards Viksit Bharat. The Modi Government has set India on the path to becoming the world's third largest economy driven by the principles of service, good governance, prosperity and pride. The Government is intensifying its focus on inclusive growth by prioritising the welfare of garib, yuva, annadata and naari. The *Jan-dhan*, Aadhar

and Mobile, JAM trinity, has revolutionised Direct Benefit Transfer and this has streamlined pensions, scholarships and essential subsidies, providing timely financial support. Before 2014, millions of households in India were shrouded in darkness because of rampant corruption, scams and adversarial state of governance. This Government has made historic strides towards achieving stability and development in North East India. The hon. President has highlighted clearly how the Government has consciously worked towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people of the North-East and eliminated the sense of alienation. With the signing of 10 peace accords with various insurgent groups, there is stability in the region, reinforcing Prime Minister's Vision of North East India as *Ashtlakshmi*. Over 10,000 youths have laid down arms and are being reintegrated into mainstream society. The first ever Bodoland Mahotsav organised recently. Insurgency cases have dropped by 71 per cent, security casualties by 60 per cent and civilian deaths by 82 per cent. The Government have catapulted the start-up sector of the nation with a host of targeted schemes and policy measures such as Start-up India, Stand-up India, significant reduction in trademark and patent fees, doing away with policy bottlenecks, etc. As a result, startups have exponentially increased. With a focus on strengthening the MSME sector, collateral-free MUDRA loans of up to Rs. 10 lakhs have been sanctioned to around 47 crore beneficiaries. The Government has launched a paid internship scheme targeting one crore young students over the next five years. Over five crore business now registered on the Udyam platform. The Government has harnessed digital technology as a powerful tool for social justice and equality. India has achieved 'Tier-1' status in the global cyber security index. Digital payments, now widespread, enabling even small shopkeepers to conduct cashless transactions. UPI services are being used in seven countries, marking India's digital payment success on global stage. Significant strides have been made to enhance and expand air travel infrastructure connecting regions across India. The number of airports has grown from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024. Twenty-five crore people who have overcome poverty will now be the backbone of India's growth. This neo-middle class has emerged as the key driver of the country's socio-economic progress. This transformation is not just an economic shift but also a societal evolution with the middle-class taking centre stage in areas like sports, start-ups, space exploration and technological advancement. The Government has ensured transparency through Direct Benefit Transfer. This is the outcome of the Government's flagship programme Digital India, which was launched on 1st July 2015 with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. Our President has clearly outlined the direction that would lead to the fulfilment of Viksit Bharat guided by the ideals of our Constitution.

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