

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, February 03, 2025/ Magha 14, 1946 (Saka)

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

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I am immensely proud as an Indian that the hon. President who read that Address and the Finance Minister who read the Budget Speech is a woman. And I am immensely proud to speak on behalf of a party founded 27 years ago, by a self-made woman. BJP talks about the Women's Reservation Bill and is having only 13 per cent women MPs. My first question through you is what is stopping you? Forget about bringing 33 per cent women MPs to Parliament. At least, give 33 per cent tickets to women. I am saying a few things about farmers. One, in the last five years, the agricultural wages grew by 0.2 per cent; 0.2 per cent means no growth. Two, two out of five farmers are in debt. Three, the average debt is Rs. 75,000. Four, 30 farmers commit suicide every day, and there is still no legal guarantee for MSP. The reality is that Seventy-five lakh youth enter the labour force every year; eight out of ten unemployed are youth.

Unemployment is six times higher when it comes to secondary and higher secondary and nine times higher when it comes to graduates compared to those who cannot read or write. Fifty-one crimes against women are registered every hour. Eighty-five rape cases are reported every day. That is why we want to bring the Aparajita Bill. It is stuck with some constitutional authority. The Bengal Assembly has unanimously approved it. You bring these three Criminal Law Bills and there is nothing to protect women from spousal violence. These women are doctors, professionals, lawyers, being exposed to spousal violence. Anti-conversion laws are not against one community; it is anti-constitutional, against Articles 14, 15 and 16. Wakf is not a religious issue; it is a constitutional issue. For every 100 students who go to educational institutions, more than 70 belong to the Muslim, the Hindu, the Sikh and the Buddhist communities. In this country, there are 20 lakh to 30 lakh child labourers. The Census is still not done, and you are in no mood to do it because you have put Rs.500 crores only on the Table and once you do not do the Census, the women's reservation for you will go back another five years. 32 per cent per cent children are underweight! Individuals are paying more income tax than corporates. Individuals are paying about 19 per cent and corporates are paying 2 to 3 per cent less. Personal income tax made up 53 per cent of direct taxes and it is the highest in 24 years. Income inequality is the biggest issue today. The Cess is not shared; it goes to

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the Union Government. In Bengal, Rs.1.7 lakh crore MGNREGA work was done with 99.5 per cent compliance, but not paid by the Union Government!

Remove the 18 per cent GST on health insurance and term insurance. The Government want MPs to declare their income and assets. But the big media owners do not declare their conflict of interest. A water related tragedy in an IAS coaching institute happened in Delhi in July of 2024 and ruling party put in notices for discussion. And it was done in the House. Today opposition MPs raised the similar issue of water related tragedy. This is the reality of notices given by the opposition party. No Rajya Sabha MP spoke more than the hon. Chairman in the last Session of the Parliament. There are a few Opposition voices which hurt you more because you cannot defeat them politically. There is a whole section on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The 22nd Law Commission suggested that sedition should be well defined. Yet the Government in the new criminal laws did something completely different. There is no mention about 'price rise', 'smart cities', 'crimes against women', 'malnutrition', 'federalism', 'doubling the farmers' income, 'MNREGA', 'inequality of income', 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'MANIPUR'. The institutions like EC, CBI and ED have been weakened. Some say that they have become branch offices of the political parties. 95 per cent of political leaders investigated by the CBI and the ED belong to the Opposition parties.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: I would like to raise certain issues regarding the President's Address. Tamil Nadu is among the first places on earth to have used molten iron, dating back over 5,370 years. Unfortunately, this historical fact finds no mention in the President's Address. The Union Government has completely neglected Tamil Nadu. We have repeatedly demanded the development of highway networks, metro rail projects, new railway projects, etc. yet it is highly unfortunate that all our demands have been ignored. MNREGA is another example of this neglect, where our Hon'ble Chief Minister had to write to the Prime Minister urging the release of pending wage payments. Farmers across the country have been agitating for the past two years. The Government must provide a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all agricultural produce. Additionally, GST and other duties on agricultural equipments should be reduced, and such equipments should be made available to farmers at subsidized rates. Regarding sugarcane farmers, the President's Address completely overlooks their welfare. They are not receiving remunerative prices, and the price of sugar remains lower than the cost of production. Tea and coffee are essential commodities for every individual. Therefore, they should be included in the list of essential commodities to ensure a minimum guaranteed price, benefiting tea and coffee growers, traders, and all those associated with the sector. Cotton growers and raw silk producers are also dissatisfied, as there is a significant gap between production costs and selling prices. Only middlemen benefit, while the actual producers suffer.

Government-owned NTC mills were shut down long ago, leaving workers struggling for their terminal benefits. The Textile Mill Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme was merged into the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana under the ESIC Scheme, but workers are not receiving any benefits. I demand that all retrenched workers be provided with their rightful terminal benefits. Handloom weavers are facing severe hardships. Trade unions have repeatedly urged the Government to hold tripartite meetings involving trade unions and employers to address critical labor issues. The long-standing demand for increasing the wage ceiling must be met to ensure that more workers come under the ESI scheme. The bonus ceiling should also be raised. Additionally, gratuity payments should be increased from 15 days to 30 days. Under the EPF 1995 Pension

Scheme, the minimum pension must be increased to ₹9,000 per month, considering that the minimum basic wage is ₹18,000. Despite the permanent nature of certain jobs, start-ups continue to hire contract laborers and outsource work, leading to exploitation. The ESI scheme should be extended to all workers, including those in the unorganized sector and domestic workers. The concept of a Unified Pension Scheme should be clarified, and the Old Pension Scheme must be restored.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to formulate similar schemes for workers in the unorganized sector, including gig workers, platform workers, domestic workers, motor vehicle workers, etc. Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in the field of education, and the Economic Survey also acknowledges that we provide the best, high-quality, and universal education in the State. We follow the Two-Language Formula, Tamil and English, and our children excel at both national and international levels. Our School Education Department is yet to receive ₹2,000 crore from the Union Government under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for the financial year 2024-25. Tamil Nadu has excelled in healthcare services with robust infrastructure and a commendable doctor-patient ratio. However, despite our State's top performance in the health sector, it has been denied funds under several joint Central-State schemes. Hon. President Madam has mentioned the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which we will vehemently oppose, as it infringes upon the fundamental rights of the minority community.

We strongly oppose the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' as it violates federal principles. Our State has several Rural Development Schemes, and we have demanded funds for their implementation, such as the Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme and the Rural Infrastructure Scheme. However, this BJP Government has rejected our demands. Now, I come to Urban Development and the Disaster Relief Fund. The Union Government is not releasing the State's rightful share of funds for its projects. Madam President mentioned the *Mahakumbh* in Allahabad *Sangamam*. A similar Maha Maham Mela is scheduled in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, and in this regard, we demanded the doubling of the Villupuram-Thanjavur main railway line. However, only the survey has been completed, and work has not yet commenced. This Government has failed to take any steps to revive MSME units that are currently in recession. Coming to ASHA and Anganwadi health workers, all essential benefits such as fixed wages, insurance, and risk allowance must be provided to them. Regarding the Tamil Nadu fishermen issue, there are repeated attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy, which include detaining them outside custody and opening fire on them, depriving them of their livelihood. On Centre-State relations, I would say that the BJP Government is misusing the office of the Governor in Opposition-ruled States as a political tool to further its agenda.

SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA: Hon'ble President Madam's Address highlights the achievements of the Government, referring to this era as 'Amrit Kaal' and 'Sushasan'. But the real question remains: Is this truly 'Amrit Kaal' for the entire nation, or just for a privileged few? The harsh reality is that economic and social inequality is deepening. Millions of poor citizens still lack access to basic amenities. Farmers continue to commit suicide, youth struggle with unemployment, and women feel increasingly unsafe. Hon. President Madam spoke about strengthening the railway network and introducing Vande Bharat trains. However, the truth is that earlier, railway zones were established in the national interest. Now, they are being shaped purely for political gains. The Government boasts about Digital India, pension reforms, and insurance coverage, but the ground reality remains grim. When even in Digital India, people struggle to get their pensions and farmers take their own lives, how can this be called 'Sushasan'?

Hon'ble President Madam paid tribute to those who lost their lives at the Mahakumbh, and our deepest condolences are with the affected families. However, we must ask: who is accountable for this disaster? The Kumbh Mela should have been meticulously planned, but it was marred by mismanagement and discriminatory treatment between common devotees and VVIPs. Our Constitution clearly defines the powers of the Centre and States, but today, the federal structure is under siege. Revenue sharing, misuse of central agencies, States' rights, co-operative federalism—is this the path to Viksit Bharat, or a shift towards a Centre-dependent India? Odisha bears the brunt of natural disasters repeatedly, yet it has never been granted Special Category State status. When other States' demands are addressed, why is Odisha consistently ignored? Our rich mineral resources fuel the nation's economy, but when it comes to development, Odisha is conveniently forgotten. If Odisha suffers from cyclones and floods annually, if Odisha's minerals contribute significantly to national growth, then why is Odisha denied its rightful share? If we genuinely aim to build Viksit Bharat, Odisha must receive what it rightfully deserves. I request you to ensure that Odisha is not neglected in the defence sector. We have a 500 km-long coastline, which is strategically ideal for both defence and economic development. Why is there no Naval University or shipyard in Odisha? Amrit Kaal should not remain a mere slogan—it must bring tangible relief to the people.

SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY: The Polavaram Project has been designated as a National Project, and it is the Central Government's responsibility to ensure its completion. The Godavari Tribunal had sanctioned the project with a height of 45.72 metres (150 feet) and a maximum water storage capacity of 194.6 TMC. However, on 28th August 2024, the Union Government decided to reduce the project height to 41.15 metres (135 feet), lowering its storage capacity to 115.44 TMC, which is a complete deviation from the original plan, an insult to the aspirations of the people, and a disregard for the permission granted by the Godavari Tribunal.

I demand, my party demands, and the people of Andhra Pradesh demand the approval of the 2nd Revised Cost Estimates of ₹55,565.87 crores. Furthermore, there are some reasons why we strongly oppose the Union Cabinet's decision. It fails to ensure irrigation for Ayacut during the non-flood season. It poses a major challenge in stabilizing the Godavari and Krishna Delta. It defeats the purpose of providing drinking water to Visakhapatnam, industrial water supply, and drinking water under Sujala Sravanti for North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Polavaram Project is the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh. Kindly make it possible. I urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister in this august House to personally intervene and restore the project height to its original sanctioned height of 45.72 metres and immediately approve the 2nd Revised Cost Estimates.

Another important issue pertains to the Manifesto. The Manifesto of any political party is sacrosanct. Failure of any party to fulfill the promises made in its Manifesto is nothing short of deceiving the people. No allocations have been made in the Budget to honor these promises in our State. The Election Commission must take serious note of the non-fulfillment of manifesto promises and take necessary action. Regarding Census, we are in the process of conducting a nationwide Census. We welcome this step, as Census data provides crucial insights for policy planning and formulation of government programs. However, it has been over a decade since Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated, yet the Government has not set up a Census Office in the State. It is imperative to establish the Directorate of Census Operations in Andhra Pradesh without further delay. The Hon'ble Union Minister had assured an increase in the production capacity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Despite having the potential to become a net exporter of steel, India continues to import more steel than it exports. The plant requires an extended, well-structured tax

holiday along with captive mines to become self-sufficient in raw materials. Only long-term solutions can genuinely revive this critical plant.

SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA: I believe that in her speech, the Hon'ble President has eloquently highlighted India's rich history, remarkable progress, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Today, we are witnessing political instability across the globe. However, under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, India stands as an exception. The Address has unequivocally indicated that whether we consider trade wars, shifting geo-political alliances, or emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, India has remained vigilant and is proactively preparing to lead the world in the future. I would like to pay my sincere tribute to Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji.

In India's nuclear journey, national interest has been paramount. Our Prime Ministers of the past several governments have shown that India's sovereignty and nuclear security are paramount. Our former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji conducted the Pokhran nuclear test which was a very bold step taken despite global sanctions. After this Dr. Manmohan Singh also signed the Indo-US nuclear deal which ended India's nuclear isolation at the global level and the world recognised India as a responsible nuclear power. India is going to make another historic economic reform which will start private sector participation in nuclear energy. This is a very big step by the Government to open India's nuclear energy sector to the private sector which will meet our growing energy needs and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. I agree with the Finance Minister that we should reduce our dependence on foreign countries for critical minerals like lithium.

We also have to start a very strong revolution in the field of electric vehicles. We have to increase our green hydrogen production. Our renewable energy capacity expansion has increased by 150 percent. The National Green Hydrogen Mission will create five million metric tonnes of green hydrogen capacity by 2030. I think an outlay of about Rs 35,000 crore in five to ten years will help us create a very strong supply chain for green technologies. These will create jobs and this will ensure our national security. I want to mention a fact about foreign policy and our internal security that in 2014, defence production in India was Rs 46,000 crore which has increased to about Rs 1.3 lakh crore today. Along with this, India is now exporting defence equipment to 90 countries, which is a very important evidence of our growing self-reliance. Therefore, to ensure rapid growth we need policies that allow India to compete globally. Today I can proudly say that India is the fastest growing economy which is projected to grow at a rate of 6.6 percent in 2025.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA: One of the most glaring lapse in the President's address was the continued centralisation of power and the dilution of the autonomy of the States. Tamil Nadu, like many other States, is experiencing the increasing centralisation of power in the hands of the Central Government. It has been observed over the last several years that the Governor, who is supposed to be apolitical and neutral, has become an instrument of political interference on the part of the Centre. Delay in assent to Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly has become a common issue. The Central Government has done nothing to prevent such delays. We believe it is important to introduce clear, binding rules governing the behaviour of Governors, including imposing a specific time-frame for them to take decisions on Bills and files sent by State Governments. Such measures are necessary to ensure that Governors function impartially and without political interference. The President's address overlooked many important issues, including the farmers' demand for a legal guarantee of minimum support price.

The President's Address overlooked people of Tamil Nadu. The Union Government has disregarding the will of people who elected their State Government. The

resource allocation for the State is unfair despite its significant contributions affecting its infrastructure development, education, healthcare and welfare schemes, also the national trade. Nation is grappling with rising joblessness, economic inequality and stagnation in key sectors. National Education Policy (NEP) mandates Hindi as a compulsory subject which is infringement of Tamil culture and heritage. The Government's decision to withhold funds for PM-SHRI Schools under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in Tamil Nadu is an example of negligence of the state. This decision directly affects the future of students. The State has opposed NEP-2020, particularly the Three-Language Formula, as it undermines State's autonomy. Tamil Nadu Government has the right to shape its education system according to the needs and aspirations of its people. Continued series of paper leaks that have shaken public trust in the Government recruitment process found no mention.

There is no equitable resource distribution affecting the lives of millions of people. The Union Government's approach has been one of centralisation and disrespect for the diverse needs of our country. Instead of fostering an environment of cooperation and mutual respect between the Union and State Governments, it has sought to impose a one-size-fits-all approach that fails to acknowledge regional diversity and local need. I would demand justice for the people of Tamil Nadu. The spirit of cooperative federalism must be restored. States like Tamil Nadu must get resources and respect. The ruling party must always keep the opposition benches in mind during the session.

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: In the President's address it was said that the Government is making every effort to provide justice to the tribals, so the height of the Polavaram project, which is a matter of concern, must be resolved. Due to the increase in the height, the houses of the tribals in the tribal-dominated Malkangiri district will be submerged in water. This will affect about 30-35 thousand people. The residents of Malkangiri district should be rehabilitated. The tribal women collect kendu leaves, and imposing 18 per cent GST on it will affect the tribal women. Therefore, 18 per cent GST on kendu leaves should be removed. The 300 km long Khurda-Road Balangir line has not been completed till date. I request the Central Government to get this work done as soon as possible. Therefore, there is a great need to focus on how to solve the connectivity problem in our Odisha as soon as possible and how to complete the Khurda Road-Balangir road. We have been insisting for many years to give special category state status to Odisha because there is natural calamity there. Now a double engine government has been formed, so I would like to request the Central Government through you that Odisha should be given at least special category state status.

***SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI:** The farmers of Andhra Pradesh are in a very critical situation. Both the Central Government and the State Government need to support the farmers. Andhra Pradesh has a coastline of about 974 kilometers. That means the entire state of Andhra Pradesh is in a cyclone prone area. Agriculture in the cyclone prone area is not sustainable and every third year the farmers are at a loss because of the cyclones. The schemes introduced by the previous state government have been closed. Therefore, the help of the Central Government is needed to start the schemes again.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The hon'ble President has stated that the Government is steering India to become the world's third-largest economy. Hon'ble President said that the Government has made headway on two historic river interlinking projects to provide irrigation and drinking water in the drought-affected areas of the country. The previous Government promised to link Godavari and Cauvery. This is missing. The sharing of

* Spoke in Telugu.

waters of the Cauvery river has been a source of serious conflict between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Karnataka Government is not at all implementing the award even after the Supreme Court gave the direction to implement it properly. Karnataka Government is indulging in constructing Mokedatu Dam against the interest of the people of Tamil Nadu. This has to be taken seriously.

I would like to say here about the Tamil Nadu fishermen problem. This can be solved only by solving the Katchatheevu problem. That is our demand. Earlier Education was a State subject. But during the Emergency in 1976, Mrs. Indira Gandhi brought Education to the Concurrent List. Because of that, the NEET examination is taking place. For 18 years, the DMK was in the Central Government. They fail to bring Education to the State subject. Many people have talked about women's empowerment, their safety, about their education. What happened at Anna University is a serious issue. A girl was raped by an outside fellow. But the State Government of Tamil Nadu is not taking any action. It has to be taken by the Central Government seriously. All the culprits must be arrested. While, the Central Government must give more funds to the State Government, the State Government of Tamil Nadu should cut the taxes, especially they should reduce petrol cess. And also, the price of liquor has increased. Illicit liquor is going on. Drugs are going on. Law and problem is going on in Tamil Nadu. I want to talk about the language issue also. On this, the AIADMK's stand is that all the official languages in the Eighth Schedule including Tamil must be made official languages of this country. Then, I want to talk about Valmiki community and Tamil Nadu fisherman community. We are requesting to include these communities in the tribal category.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA JANGRA: The hon'ble President has mentioned in her speech that 10 years ago, 2 lakh crore rupees was being spent on infrastructure and now it is 11 lakh crore rupees. One can imagine what would have been the condition of the people of this country if Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana had not been launched, railway over bridges had not been built, railway stations had not been beautified, new trains, 'Vande Bharat' trains had not been started, new AIIMS and new medical colleges had not been established, new universities and colleges had not been opened. Today the railway network has been connected from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, today a rail bridge has been built in Chenab, which is the world's highest railway bridge, Atal Channel has been built, Sonamarg tunnel has been built, Sela tunnel has been built and the Shinkun-La tunnel, which is the highest tunnel to connect Himachal and Ladakh, will also be ready soon. Certainly, in 2047, India will be one of the most powerful and developed nations in the world because the Prime Minister who holds the reins of India is concerned about the nation and the country 24 hours a day. His focus is on the welfare of the poor, youth, farmers and women.

It is a matter of regret that even after independence, the British era's penal code continued to be in force, there was no change in it, because even after independence, those who came to power were victims of the mentality of punishing Indians, they did not have the mentality of giving justice. If there was a theft somewhere, the police officer did not try to find the thief, rather he punished a poor Sansi, a Bawri for the crime of theft, beat him up and made him admit to committing that crime and put him in jail. If they had the mentality of giving justice, then Warren Anderson, the culprit of the Bhopal gas tragedy, would not have been sent to America under government protection. Thousands of people died in that tragedy and many people became disabled. Victims kept wandering in search

of justice because the system of that time did not have the mentality to give justice to Indians. This mentality to give justice has come under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

In our country, UPSC exams and interviews were conducted in English. Despite the poor having talent, language was a barrier. When UPSC exams started being conducted in mother tongue and the candidate got the freedom to answer in his mother tongue, children from poor families started becoming IAS and IPS. The government is working to create 75,000 new seats in the medical colleges of the country in the next 5 years, this will prove to be a milestone for the country.

During Aurangzeb's rule, India's share in world trade was 33 percent. The British not only looted wealth but also the means of wealth. They took raw material from this country to England and brought finished goods here. They rendered the craftsmen of this country unemployed. They rendered the country unarmed and poor. When the British left this country, India's share in world trade remained only 1.4 percent. They were foreigners. Foreigners exploit, so they did. Our soldiers fought for freedom. They went to the gallows. They suffered torture inside the Andaman-Nicobar jail. Today some people are even irritated by the name of Savarkar. Some people say that he apologized. I have been to Andaman-Nicobar many times. I have sat inside the cell of that jail where Savarkar ji was imprisoned. Those who question the name of Savarkar ji should try to spend 11 days in that cell. He had stayed in that cell for 11 years. There was a noose of hanging right in front of him. People were hanged. People were flogged right in front of him so that Savarkar ji's morale would break. There has been a mentality of slavery in our country. Edward statue kept standing at our India Gate. If Narendra Modi ji had not come, then Subhash Chandra Bose statue would not have come in place of Edward. This country has now become the real country. Nationalism has now awakened in this country. A few days ago, the former Chief Minister of Delhi compared the water released from Haryana to the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and biological weapons. I say that half of Haryana lives in Delhi. He himself was born in Haryana. Even Pakistan does not make such allegations. Even enemy countries do not make such allegations.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: In the last ten years, the country has witnessed economic progress, security, sovereignty and farmers' interests under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It has also been proved that this Government is working for the common people, poor people, backward communities and backward people of the country. I can say it with pride that this Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working for the development of the country and peace in the North-Eastern region. Modi Government has launched an ambitious scheme - *Housing for All. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* will provide new houses to three crore people. Government is working to provide farmers a fair price for their produce and increase their income. Government has also given importance to make the country the third largest economy of the world. This Government is making every possible effort for the betterment of the North-Eastern region. Prime Minister has fulfilled his commitment in letter and spirit. He has provided adequate funds for each region in this regard. No previous Government has provided such huge amount of funds. I am proud and happy that this Government under the leadership of Prime Minister has decided to expand Namrup Fertilizer Company as Urea Company. It will produce 12.7 lakh metric tonnes of urea per year. Namrup Fertilizer Company has everything required - existing plants, abundant water resources, gas linkages and markets. The project did not come to fruition because of the lack of interest of the previous government. I am happy that this company

will play an important role in meeting the fertilizer requirements of the North-Eastern region. The problem of foreign nationals is a big issue for the people of Assam. This government has taken steps to meet the demand of Assam Accord. I urge the government to expedite the fencing of Indo-Bangladesh border. Six communities of Assam are demanding Scheduled Tribe status. I believe that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, this demand will also be met soon. I urge the government to provide assistance to small tea growers. They contribute immensely to self-employment. I urge the government to declare floods and soil erosion in Assam as a national problem. Sir, the second important issue is the threat to the Brahmaputra River. Our culture, economy and social life depend on the Brahmaputra River. China has decided to build a huge dam on the Brahmaputra River for power generation. This will destroy our civilization, social life and economy.

SMT. SULATA DEO: The President is the daughter of my state. I always respect her. Listening to the President's speech, it felt like she was reading a speech prepared by the government. Despite being from my state, she ignored the problems of my state. The President expressed grief for the dead in Prayagraj Kumbh Mela in her speech. We know that thousands of people are missing even today. There is no information about their whereabouts. In this House, we had a short duration discussion on 29 July on the death of some children due to water logging in Delhi on the night of 27-28 July. Why are we not discussing such a big incident in Kumbh? The President has said that the guiding mantra of the government is, "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas.*" Its goal is to create a "*developed India*". Kandhamal district of Odisha also comes in India. Mandipanka village is in Kandhamal district. Three women died there after eating mango seed pudding. No one is talking about them. What kind of justice is this? His Excellency did not talk about the tribals who lost their land, homes and livelihood in Polavaram project. It is very important to fight for the tribals. Today, no media is showing all this. You are talking about *Ayushman Bharat*. I will still talk about my *Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana* card, which was started by Naveen Patnaik ji. It had a promise of Rs 10 lakh. It was not insurance but assurance. You are talking about *Ayushman Bharat*, it is an insurance scheme. Where will the poor get the money from? First there will be treatment, then he will get the bill. There should not be such a scheme for poor people. There is also the problem of net connectivity. How will direct benefit transfer happen without net connectivity, bank connectivity.

SHRI BANSHILAL GURJAR: Honorable President has mentioned that in '*Amrit Kaal*', the Government of India has taken the proper development of rural India in its agenda. Its biggest example is in front of all of us. A person living in a village did not have any proof of ownership of the house. This government has done a commendable job by providing ownership rights to the residents of rural areas. The Honorable Prime Minister has provided this facility to crores of people of this country. I am happy to say that under the ownership scheme, the Government of India has distributed ownership cards to 2 crore, 25 lakh people. People can now take loans by keeping their ownership cards in the bank. The Government of India has done a great job. The Honorable President also mentioned the '*Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*' in her address. I am happy to say that the Honorable Prime Minister has emphasized on building roads in all villages. Now there are only 25,000 such settlements left in the country, which are yet to be connected. The Government of India has also made a provision of Rs 70,000 crore to connect those 25,000 settlements. This is definitely the biggest example of *Amrit Kaal*. (*Speech unfinished.*)

Discussion not concluded.

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P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.