

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, December 03, 2025/ Agrahayana 12, 1947 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

1. Demand to Enhance Clean Energy Infrastructure to Meet Rising Power Demand in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: I wish to draw the attention of the House to the rapidly rising electricity demand in Uttar Pradesh and the pressing need to strengthen clean, reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure accordingly. In many districts, pressure on electricity supply increases during peak demand periods, and there is a growing need to connect clean energy to the grid, develop energy-storage facilities, and reinforce the transmission network. The state government's efforts to expand solar and wind energy capacity are commendable; however, to fully realize their benefits, technical and infrastructural robustness is essential.

Therefore, I humbly request the Central Government to prepare a special Green Energy Infrastructure Package for Uttar Pradesh. In particular, priority should be given to expanding a national-level integrated green grid connection in the State for energy storage and green hydrogen projects. The process for approvals for large solar parks, rooftop solar and agricultural solar-pump schemes should be simplified and made time-bound to accelerate their implementation. I urge that, keeping in view the energy needs of a rapidly emerging state like Uttar Pradesh, concrete and far-sighted steps be taken immediately to secure clean, reliable, and affordable energy.

2. Need for Central Government Intervention to Support Farmers Affected by Floods and Cyclone Damage in Tamil Nadu

SHRI I.S. INBADURAI: I rise to draw the urgent attention of this House to the catastrophic plight of farmers in Tamil Nadu Cyclone Ditwah and relentless monsoon rains have submerged thousands of acres of paddy, banana, sugarcane, betel leaf, and other crops across the Delta districts. In my region, in Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, and Ramanathapuram districts, cultivated paddy now lies completely underwater, annihilating the livelihoods of hardworking farmers! Thousands of farmers without updated title deeds are cultivating land which is in the name of family members of the deceased and hence are unable to access crop insurance which is compounding their sufferings. Now Chennai is also submerged under two feet of water even after four crore rupees have been spent for rainwater drainage system. I urge the Central Government to immediately dispatch a Central Assessment Team on a war-footing basis to evaluate the damage and ensure timely and adequate compensation to the farmers of Tamil Nadu and save the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

3. Demand to Address Declining Term Deposit Interest Rates in Bihar and Ensuring Timely, Transparent Credit Disbursal by Banks

SHRIMATI DHARMSHILA GUPTA: Through this House, I wish to respectfully draw the Government's attention to the need for making banking services in Bihar more effective and people-friendly. The promotion of Jan Dhan accounts, Mudra loans, Kisan Credit Cards, and Self-Help Groups has brought some positive changes in the rural economy. However, despite this, the pace of

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

credit disbursement in Bihar still has not reached a level commensurate with the State's developmental aspirations. While many citizens are making deposits in banks on a large scale, Bihar's credit-to-deposit ratio remains lower than the national average. As a result, youths, farmers, women belonging to Self-Help Groups, and small entrepreneurs are facing several practical challenges. I urge the Government to take steps to correct this deficiency in credit disbursement in Bihar and thereby take initiative to make Bihar a developed State.

4. Need to Enhance Insurance Cover with Extra Premium to Whole Amount of Customer's Deposit in Banks

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: In the event that any bank fails, depositors are guaranteed protection up to only ₹ 5 lakh by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), regardless of the actual amount held in the bank. In such a situation, the full risk on deposit amounts higher than ₹ 5 lakh remains. Since the number of banks failing in our country is continuously increasing, it is now highly necessary to immediately raise the limit of customers' deposit coverage in banks from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh. I would like to urge the Government through you that, in the event of a bank's failure, account-holders should be offered — on payment of an extra premium and at their own expense — the option of insurance that covers their entire deposited amount, by raising the insurance limit from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh.

5. Demand for Restoration of Train Stoppages at Specific Stations in Bihar

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL: During the COVID-19 period, for security reasons, stoppages of certain trains at various stations in Bihar were suspended, and many train stoppages at several railway stations and halts have since been restored. However, at some railway stations and halts, stoppages of certain trains have still not resumed — because of which daily commuters are facing great hardship.

Through you I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to restore the stoppages of the following trains at Kajra railway station in Lakhisarai district:

- Train No. 13420 — Muzaffarpur–Bhagalpur Jansadharan Express
- Train No. 13242 — Rajendra Nagar–Banka–Bhagalpur Express
- Train No. 18403 — Godda–Ranchi Vananchal Express

Along with this, I would also like to request the Hon'ble Minister — through this House — to order the expansion (upgrade) of Mankatha railway station in Lakhisarai district.

6. Concern over renaming of Raj Bhavan as Lok Bhavan

***MS. DOLA SEN:** For many years these palaces have been known as Raj Bhavans. The respective State Governments maintain them. The expenses are borne by the State Government, under the State Assembly. But this directive of which neither the State Assembly is aware, nor is the State Government; there has been no official government notification either. In the constitutional federal structure of our country, before taking such a decision, the Union Government's Home Ministry should have certainly discussed it with the State Governments. In Bengal, this MHA order has been implemented very quickly. But in reality, how are the 'Lok' (people) or 'Manush' of this Lok Bhavan doing? How are they being deprived of their constitutional rights? Consequently, by depriving the 'Ma, Mati, Manush' (Mother, Land, and People) of their legitimate dues in this manner, what 'Lok Bhavan' fairy tale are you telling us, friends? We believe that humanity is above all, nothing is above it. The people speak the final word.

* Spoke in Bengali.

7. Demand for Conferring the Bharat Ratna on Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji of Jamnagar

SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA: Today my issue is related to awarding the “Bharat Ratna” to Maharaja Jam Sahib Digvijaysinh of Jamnagar. When we moved forward in the country’s independence movement, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — who was the first Home Minister of the country — was given the responsibility of bringing together the princely states. Sir, out of more than 562 princely states, about 217 of them belonged to the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The pilgrimage-site and centre of faith, Somnath Temple, holds great religious significance. After independence, along with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and K. M. Munshi ji, a trust was formed, and the entire reconstruction of the temple was carried out — under the patronage of Jam Sahib Digvijaysinhji. He performed many works during his lifetime. I request the Government that Jam Sahib Digvijaysinhji be honored with the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna.

8. Demand to Rename Colonial-era Roads and Institutions and Restore India's Civilisational Memory

DR. DINESH SHARMA: I stand before you today to speak about something deeply woven into the fabric of our capital city, Delhi — a matter concerning the names that adorn our roads, our buildings, and our public spaces. For centuries, the sacred land of India has witnessed the rise and fall of empires. Many foreign invaders came and left their mark, but today’s India is a sovereign and self-respecting nation, built upon the sacrifices of countless heroes who fought for our freedom. In many places across Delhi, the roads are named after Mughal emperors and British Viceroy. The names of all the lanes, colonies, roads, parks, and gardens of Delhi were kept after the names of invaders in order to glorify them. The Government should work in this direction to change these names.

9. Need to Address the Issues Faced by College and University Teachers in the Country

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: We have approximately 50,000 colleges and 1,000 universities in our country. Three lakh teaching posts are vacant in our universities and Government colleges. Don’t we have enough number of qualified teachers to fill up these vacancies? Please take urgent steps to fill up these vacancies. The UGC Regulations of 2004 and 2005 are an insult to the teaching community. The pensioners are not getting genuine fair treatment; pensioners are not prisoners. I request the Government to address these issues urgently because the teaching community is one of the most important sectors in our country.

10. Demand for Relaxation of PMGSY-IV Guidelines for the State of Arunachal Pradesh

SHRI NABAM REBIA: Arunachal Pradesh is geographically the largest state in the North-East, while our population is the smallest. As per the current guidelines of Phase-IV of PMGSY, a population of 250+ for the North-East qualifies for it. If we follow this guideline, then Arunachal Pradesh still does not qualify. The population criteria for Arunachal Pradesh under PMGSY Phase-IV should be relaxed and it should remain 100+ for Arunachal Pradesh. We are really grateful that the government has kept the criteria of 250+ for the North-East, this is very good. I request for further relaxation in this.

11. Demand to Change PwDs to Differently Abled Person in Official Communications

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I think, this is a right time to recall that these people who are being called by different names - “disabled,” “people with disabilities,” or “persons requiring special support”. In the year 2014-15, hon’ble Prime Minister mentioned that the term ‘Viklang’, should be replaced with ‘Divyang’ which means persons with divine organs or powers. This was aimed at creating a shift in the societal attitude towards this community and also to make a shift to create a very good inclusive environment. This marked an official change in the nomenclature to address the community. I urge, kindly change that to 'differently abled persons' from 'Divyangs' or 'PWD'.

(Dr. John Brittas; Shri R. Girirajan; Shrimati Mahua Maji; Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan and Shri Prakash Chik Baraik associated.)

12. Need to Improve Public Transport and Last-Mile Connectivity for Women's Safety

SHRIMATI SUMITRA BALMIKI: Today, when we talk about the development of women's empowerment, we must ensure that women who go out for work can return home safely. In our cities, metro and bus services have become world-class, and due to CCTV and security guards, women feel safe inside the stations. However, their real fear begins when their journey starts in a metro, bus, or auto. The problem lies in their last-mile travel, that is, when they travel from the metro station to home, covering a distance of one or two kilometers. I want to draw the Government's attention to the need to provide Pink E-Rickshaw services for women, with only women drivers operating them. This will not only ensure the safety of female passengers but also provide employment to thousands of needy women. QR code-based tracking – every shared auto rickshaw should have a unique QR code. Passengers should scan it before sitting, so that the vehicle number and driver's details are sent directly to the police control room and this information can also reach their families.

13. Concern Over Privacy and Security Risks from Mandating 'Sanchar Saathi' as a Non-Removable System App

SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA: The Government has purportedly issued an order whereby all cell phone manufacturers and importers are compulsorily required to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on every device. It cannot ever be deleted or altered in any manner by the users. This is a clear breach of privacy of every smart phone and cell phone user of India. A clear apprehension is that the features of the app would point out real-time geolocation of every user. The serious apprehension is, every app can have a backdoor or every app is possibly hacked. It leaves millions of devices exposed for months, for it depends on an upgrade that would be pushed by the Government.

14. Demand for Restoration of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) and Timely Conduct of the Examination in Odisha

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI: The erstwhile BJD Government had established 316 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas to provide CBSE-pattern quality education. These institutions have been instrumental in giving modern education, quality education, vocational education and professional education to economically weaker children. During the current academic session, the Odisha Government has stopped the scholarship scheme. Abrupt discontinuation of the scholarship and cancellation of the scholarship examination, NMMS, undermine the purpose of empowering talented students. I urge the Government to intervene urgently and ensure restoration of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme and timely conduct of scholarship examination so that the educational aspirations of these students will be protected.

15. Concern over Crisis of Missing Children and Women and Need for a National Tracing Mechanism

DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL: NCRB data indicates that in our country, 47,000 innocent children and approximately 1,97,000 women are still missing. The question is: where do these children and women go? The truth is that this is not merely a case of disappearance; it is part of a sinister organized human trafficking network. These innocent children and women are kidnapped and forced into begging, prostitution, and even organ trade. I urge that under the Ministry of Home Affairs, a National Missing Person Tracking Portal be created, utilizing modern technologies such as facial recognition. A column for 'missing' or 'unknown' should also be added in the census, which currently does not exist. Cases of missing persons should also be analyzed from the perspective of human trafficking.

16. Concern over Halal Certification of Non-Meat Products

DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI: The concept of Halal is linked to a specific religion and faith, and is primarily associated with meat consumption. Imposing Halal certification on people of other faiths in a secular country does not seem appropriate. Now even in health sciences, revisions are taking place, and it is being said that after the Halal process, an enzyme is formed in the animal's body, which makes its consumption harmful to health. Why is Halal certification being given to non-meat products, such as milk, sugar, oil, medicines, etc.? Non-food items, such as construction materials, cement, plastic, chemicals, and even mineral resources, are also being given Halal certification. This is illogical and full of concerns, as it undermines the secular character of the country. If Halal certification is to be granted, it should be done through a government mechanism, and the charges collected for certification should be deposited in the government treasury. Halal certification granted on non-meat and non-food items should be immediately withdrawn.

17. Need for Nationwide Decisive Action on Rising Food Adulteration

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Contaminated cough syrups that are being prescribed by doctors and that have been taking the lives of infants, is a matter of concern. Low quality medicines available freely in the market that leads to cancer across the country need to be brought under control. We need to have stricter measures and take punitive action against those who are flouting these norms.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Adoption of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024, in State of Manipur

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV), moving the statutory resolution, said: As a Central Act, this was passed by the Rajya Sabha on February 6, 2024, and by the Lok Sabha on February 8, 2024. It was passed after discussion in both Houses. Since the State of Manipur is currently under President's rule, I request the House to approve this resolution unanimously under subsection (1) of Article 252 of the Constitution.

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: I would like to express my serious objections to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2025 in this House. I am not opposed to clean water, sustainable development, or strong environmental governance. Our rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and groundwater sources are all the lifelines of India. The question is not whether we want to act or not, but whether this bill actually implements a robust system for water pollution control. Amid India's rapidly growing population, the availability of clean drinking water is steadily declining, while pollution in rivers and lakes continues to rise. Although this Bill grants State Pollution Control Boards the authority to regulate and penalize, the reality is that these boards face severe shortages of manpower, resources, and laboratory facilities. As a result, large industries often release chemicals and waste materials into water sources without restraint. The 2024 amendment does reform the penalty framework, but replacing criminal punishment for serious violations with mere financial penalties is dangerous, because such small fines will not deter large corporations. When profits outweigh penalties, punishment becomes meaningless. Furthermore, this amendment significantly expands the powers of the central government—granting it greater control over permissions, standard-setting, and exemptions—thus centralizing decision-making, even though states understand their local water bodies, industries, and ecological conditions far better. The new penalty system also replaces criminal proceedings with administrative action, with appeals being heard by an authority designated by the central government. A broad discussion is necessary to ensure strict penalties, stronger board

capacity, and proper respect for the role of the states in the Bill. Therefore, it would be unfair to weaken the states. There is also ambiguity in the monitoring and compliance system. Ideas like online monitoring, digital recording, and real-time data are modern and welcome. However, if the authenticity of digital data is not ensured, then moving from physical inspection to digital inspection will only change the medium, not the impact. Let's talk about pollution in Manipur and the Northeast. A recent study found that changes in land use around the Loktak Lake, particularly the promotion of agriculture, are worsening the situation. The Northeast is suddenly becoming a pollution hotspot. In states like Assam and Tripura, PM 2.5 levels have remained consistently high throughout the year. Therefore, the conditions are not conducive, but are significantly increasing pollution. Now I would also like to draw attention to the situation in Rajasthan. The conditions there are very serious as well. The drinking water problem is extremely severe. Forget clean water—providing even basic drinking water is itself a major challenge. I would like to say that the government must focus on this issue too. Crores of people in our country, especially those living in rural and tribal areas, still depend directly on rivers, ponds, and groundwater. Therefore, the Bill should have included a provision for mandatory consultation with affected communities. If this Amendment Bill truly intends to be effective, it should have incorporated pollution budgeting at the river-basin level, scientifically defined limits on industrial discharge, and integration with policies on groundwater recharge and wastewater reuse. Water pollution is among the biggest ecological challenges in our country today, and to address it we need strict penalties, effective enforcement, cooperative federalism, and protection of local communities. I would request that, for these reasons, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2025 should not be passed in its current form, but instead be referred to a Select Committee.

SHRI MAHARAJA SANAJAOBA LEISHEMBA: I fully support the Statutory Resolution to adopt the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 for the State of Manipur, and I express my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister for bringing it forward. I recalled that the original 1974 Act was enacted to prevent and control water pollution, and Manipur had adopted it in 1987. Now, with the 2024 Amendment, minor offences have been decriminalized and replaced with monetary penalties, the Central Government has been given the power to exempt certain industries from consent requirements, and uniform guidelines for appointing State Pollution Control Board Chairpersons have been introduced. Adjudicating officers will now determine penalties, with appeals going to the National Green Tribunal. Since Manipur is under President's Rule, Parliament is empowered to adopt this Amendment on its behalf. In my view, the 2024 Amendment modernizes penalties and procedures while maintaining the core objective of controlling water pollution.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: While speaking on this Statutory Resolution, I began by noting that Article 252(1) can be invoked only when two or more State Legislatures empower Parliament to legislate on a State subject, after which the law must again be adopted by the respective States. What we are doing today should have been done by the Manipur Assembly itself, but because the Assembly is suspended and the State is under President's Rule, Parliament must step in. I would like to add that water pollution is indeed a critical issue, yet our national response remains weak. Only 69% of the budget for the National Mission for Clean Ganga was spent in 2024, and the Public Accounts Committee noted that more money was spent on promotions than on the mission itself. Although the Government extended it to 2028, there is no budget provision, leaving State Governments to bear the cost. Before the general elections, the Finance Minister announced an allocation of ₹70,000 crore, but after the elections, the figure was drastically cut to ₹22,500 crore. In Assam, it is more than Rs. 7,000 crore; in Bengal, it is Rs. 2,500 crore, and the entire burden has been left to the State Governments. And, to my mind, the way the Budget represented the situation to State Governments, it is nothing less than financial fraud by the Government of India on the State Governments. These dues must be released. It is a travesty of justice that in a State where there is no election till date, in a State where people are still living in relief camps and internally displaced people are protesting outside Raj Bhavan, we are making a mockery of it by bringing a Water Pollution Act, 2024 amendment and saying we are helping Manipur. No, Sir; this is not the way to help Manipur. If you want to help Manipur, then you must immediately hold elections democratically. We have to invoke Article 252

Clause 1 in the Upper House of the Parliament rather than leave it to the Assembly. This is a murder of cooperative federalism.

SHRI P. WILSON: the Resolution is introduced for consideration in this House to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business in the State of Manipur. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, was enacted with a clear purpose, that is, to prevent and control water pollution, to maintain and restore the wholesomeness of water. Fifty years later, the intention of that Act must guide our conscience today because pollution is no longer just a statutory concern. It has become a national emergency and nowhere it is more visible than right here in the Capital city of Delhi. Delhi has become a gas chamber, a public health emergency and we, in this Parliament, cannot sit here in silence while citizens gasp for survival. And let us be honest, stubble burning is only one chapter. The culprits Delhiites face daily are traffic congestion, vehicular emissions and over centralization of everything in this one city Why should all works be carried out from Delhi? The Government must seriously consider whether Parliament Winter Sessions during peak smog months are even advisable? The constitutional requirement of number of days of sittings can be achieved by working in other Sessions avoiding Winter Sessions. There is no constitutional mandate that every constitutional body or authority must sit in Delhi. Let the Government establish regional benches of Supreme Court in Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and reduce the work of the Supreme Court at New Delhi. Likewise, shift the principal benches of tribunals to other parts of the country. Likewise, move the Ministries and statutory bodies to other States. Spread the administrative load across the country. Let us decongest Delhi and allow Delhi to breathe good air. I take this opportunity to highlight the financial pollution affecting the projects in the State of Tamil Nadu due to inaction of the Government of India and seek to urgently release the long pending dues owed to the State of Tamil Nadu. Many funds which have to be given to the Tamil Nadu Government are not being settled by the Union Government. Therefore, this financial pollution be first lifted and be solved and see to it that Tamil Nadu gets all the funds that are due and payable to it.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: There are positive achievements and purpose of this Amendment. Modernization and uniformity of water governance is very important. This Amendment updates nearly 50 years old Water Act of 1974 by allowing State frameworks with modern environmental standards. Uniform norms for consent, exemptions and enforcement promote consistency across States particularly important for shared river basins. By shifting minor violations from criminal courts to adjudicating officers, the law promises speedy disposal of cases. Decriminalizing petty and technical violations reduces harassment for enterprises. Yet the graded penalty structure going up to Rs.15 lakh ensures that accountability is not compromised. This Act, predominantly, focuses on surface water pollution only. Groundwater protection is a glaring omission. More than 50 per cent of Indians are still dependent on groundwater. This needs to be brought in. The Central Ground Water Board lacks statutory authority and its responsibility for groundwater regulation is undermined by the argument that 'water' is a State Subject. The current quality monitoring infrastructure is grossly inadequate. I also propose a few changes to this. The Act must be amended to include explicit groundwater protection provisions. The CGWB must be granted statutory regulatory authority with clear enforcement powers, moving beyond its current advisory role. Amendment is fundamentally designed to address point-source pollution from identifiable industrial and municipal discharges only. Diffuse or non-point source pollution--arising from agriculture runoff, urban stormwater, construction sites, and land-use activities--receives minimal attention despite contributing to more than 30-40 per cent of pollution. The required changes are that the Act must be expanded to include comprehensive provisions to diffuse pollution control, incorporating the best management practices for agriculture, mandatory buffer zones along water bodies, and restrictions on agricultural chemical use in sensitive watersheds. Then, every industrial estate in this country must have a central treatment plant and it should be connected with the real-time data. Third one is about the faecal sludges. It is because 'Swachh Bharat' has come into effect and septic tanks are being emptied into rivers creating big problem. Finally, we have to introduce environment damage-linked penalties. Penalties must increase in proportion to the environmental harm caused by violators whether it is municipalities or industries. Establish a National Water Compliance Dashboard. A real-time data on pollution, penalties, consent and exemption should be made public.

SHRIMATI SULATA DEO: Before speaking on this resolution, I would like to say one thing. I said this yesterday as well — since a discussion is taking place on Manipur, we should give more importance to how peace can be restored in Manipur and how a democratically elected government can be established there. The rivers and lakes in Manipur are becoming highly polluted. Strict regulations are needed for this. Along with that, infrastructure is also greatly needed; without proper infrastructure, making rules alone will not help. Many people are not getting drinking water. First, ensure that people get access to drinking water. Waterborne diseases affect 4 crore people every year in India, and 4 lakh people die due to them. In the year 2024–25, people in Odisha too have died due to waterborne diseases. Sixteen rivers in Odisha are polluted. People are not getting clean drinking water — what are you doing about this? Rivers get polluted because dead animals are dumped into them; industrial waste water is also discharged into the rivers. Strict action must be taken regarding this.

Secondly, the Central Ground Water Board and the State Ground Water Boards earlier had separate jurisdictions, but now all powers and capacities are being shifted to the central Board and the Central Government. If permissions will be issued from here, what will happen to the State Governments? What will happen to the State Boards? This also needs attention.

SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA: Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught us — “*Pavan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahat*”. That is, he gave air the status of a Guru, water the status of a father, and the earth the status of a mother. Punjab, the land of five rivers, is today suffering the most from issues of both the quality and quantity of water. When the country faced hunger and food shortages, Punjab fed the nation. Because of this responsibility, farmers in Punjab used chemical fertilizers, as well as pesticides, and cultivated water-intensive paddy. They also extracted groundwater through tube wells. As a result, Punjab’s water is turning poisonous and the water table is falling. This is not the fault of Punjab’s farmers; it is the price of national service, for which they have not been compensated. According to the Government of India’s *Groundwater Quality Assessment Report, 2025*, the highest levels of uranium contamination have been found in the state of Punjab. Uranium is a radioactive heavy metal that causes kidney damage, cancer, deterioration of bones, and deformities in future generations. Along with uranium, arsenic, lead, nickel, and other such contaminants are found far beyond the limits set by the World Health Organization — especially in the Malwa region of Punjab, particularly Bhathinda, Mansa, Faridkot, Sangrur, Sri Muktsar Sahib, and Fazilka. The second major problem is the decline in groundwater levels, which is worsening especially due to paddy cultivation in Punjab. Third major problem is the dying of the rivers. Rivers in Punjab are dying and Punjab today needs the help of the Central Government more than ever.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: On behalf of the AIADMK party, I express my support for this truly progressive and responsible Resolution, which marks an important milestone in India’s environmental governance. I refer to the decision to channel penalty amounts collected under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act into the newly established Environmental Fund. The commendable aspect of this reform is its fair and practical distribution model. Seventy-five per cent of the penalty amount will go back to the State where the violation occurred, and 25 per cent will remain with the Central Government.

SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY: While the BRS Party supports any initiative which balances development with ecology, the main concerns of the Amendments in the Act, especially 4 and 5, are powers of the States being taken away by the Union Government. So, we have a few concerns and those are how much and how well the centre government would utilize, implement and protect state’s interest. NITI Aayog Report a few years back pointed out that India stands 120 out of 122 nations in water pollution. One reason we are unable to deal with pollution is that there are 50 per cent vacancies of the officers to be filled up, especially in the Manipur, there are 63 per cent vacancies in the Pollution Board. Finally, the only concern I have is the reason to bring in this Resolution through Parliament when there is still time for the revival of Manipur Assembly.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: According to the reports of the air quality and water quality, this Resolution is not to prevent the pollution of water, it is promoting the pollution of water. This Resolution is not for the people, it is for the corporates. The Government must explain why it is trying

to weaken the States and environmental safeguards at a time when the ecology of Manipur needs stronger protection. The Union Government is not taking the initiative to conduct elections and to form a State Legislative Assembly. Instead of that, they are making legislations in the name of the people of Manipur. This is the violation of principles of federalism.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: I support this Bill on behalf of my party, Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar). Manipur is a very important and sensitive State and it went through rough weather because of internal problems. Because of the Central Government's timely intervention in Manipur to solve problems, it has ended very positively, and today Manipur is progressing peacefully in all departments. Government of India's transformative and national initiatives like the Namami Gange and Jal Jeevan Mission have brought tangible improvement in water quality and access across the country. That is why this Amendment in Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Bill is very important. This is aimed at improving not only 'Ease of Doing Business' but also 'Ease of Living' by simplifying, rationalizing, digitalizing and decriminalizing compliance for citizens. The Government has taken up rationalization of penal provisions for minor offences under various legislations and omissions of obsolete Sections.

SHRIMATI MAYA NAROLIYA: I fully support this Statutory Resolution. It is our collective responsibility to protect the sanctity of our water resources. This amendment act strongly reflects the spirit of responsible governance. This amendment reflects the government's strong commitment to trust-based governance, ease of living, ease of doing business, and, above all, sustainable environmental protection. Earlier punitive provisions often categorized even minor or technical errors as criminal offences, which was neither just nor conducive to a positive regulatory environment. This amendment corrects that imbalance by replacing criminal penalties for minor violations with monetary penalties, adopting a more humane and practical approach. At the same time, strict action has been ensured against major environmental offences such as illegal discharge of industrial waste and polluted water, with provisions for stringent punishment, including imprisonment of up to six to seven years, so that serious polluters are held accountable while honest industries are supported. The amendment also authorizes the central government to establish clear guidelines for industrial approvals, ensuring transparency and uniformity across states, while enhancing accountability and professionalism in the functioning and appointments of state pollution control boards. Under the new mechanism, penalties will be decided by an authorized senior officer instead of through lengthy criminal procedures, and appeals will be made before the National Green Tribunal, while all penalty amounts will directly contribute to an environmental protection fund. A state like Manipur, rich in water and ecological resources, will greatly benefit from this modern and balanced regulatory framework, which will help preserve its natural assets while supporting development. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, major initiatives such as river rejuvenation and the expansion of the Jal Jeevan Mission have proven that environmental protection is an investment in the nation's future, and this amendment is an important extension of that vision. Therefore, I fully support this resolution and urge that the *Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024* for the state of Manipur be adopted unanimously so that our environmental heritage remains protected and governance becomes more effective.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: I want to raise a serious procedural concern regarding this Resolution, as I believe it violates constitutional provisions. Since water is a State Subject, Parliament can legislate on it only if two or more State legislatures pass a resolution permitting such action. But in this case, Manipur currently has no functioning legislature, which raises the crucial question of whether Parliament can make such a law under Article 356 while bypassing the requirements of Article 252. Article 252 clearly states that Parliament may legislate only after a unanimous resolution by the concerned State legislatures, and no such step has been followed here. Therefore, Article 356 cannot be treated as a constitutional shortcut to override the safeguards laid down under Article 252. This violation must be taken seriously, as the Government has no authority to disregard the Constitution. The situation in Manipur itself arose due to governance failure and internal conflict within the ruling party, leading to the collapse of democratic functioning and continued breakdown even under President's Rule. Hence, I firmly demand the immediate restoration of the Manipur Legislative Assembly to uphold constitutional values and democratic integrity.

SHRI RAM CHANDER JANGRA: This Bill primarily empowers the Central Government to directly participate in decisions related to establishing industries, permitting their operation, and resolving disputes handled by State Pollution Control Boards, with the objective of effectively controlling water pollution. I believe water is not just a resource but life itself, and protecting it is both our cultural and moral responsibility. Some members raised concerns that the punishment is too lenient, but the Bill clearly differentiates between minor and serious violations. Minor and unintended lapses will attract only financial penalties so that businesses are not unfairly shut down, while serious offences carry fines ranging from ten thousand to fifteen lakh rupees, with an additional daily penalty for continued violations. This framework is designed to ensure accountability and prevent future negligence. A notable feature is that the collected penalty amount will remain with the Pollution Control Board so it can be used directly for cleaning rivers, lakes, canals, and other water bodies—ensuring the funds serve environmental protection instead of depending on state or central budgets. To avoid long judicial delays, the Bill provides for a committee of competent officers from the Centre and the respective State Governments to ensure quicker and fair decisions. In the context of the Northeastern states, especially Manipur, the purpose of this Bill is to ensure access to clean water. I can confidently say that since 2014, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, the Northeast has received unprecedented attention—whether through railways, highways, medical institutions, IITs, IIMs, or other development. I firmly believe that this Bill will strengthen water security and environmental protection in Manipur and across the nation.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: I believe this Resolution is not just about Manipur—it reflects our national priorities and collective responsibility. I support it, but I strongly emphasize that legal reforms must translate into real, visible enforcement across the country because environmental laws are failing everywhere. Our major rivers, small streams, and even the air in our national capital are polluted to dangerous levels. Without a strong, efficient, and corruption-free regulatory system, we cannot succeed. Today, land-use change, untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, and industrial and medical waste have pushed dissolved oxygen levels to critically low points and increased biochemical oxygen demand beyond safety limits. Environmental protection cannot be treated as just an administrative formality—it is a national emergency and a public health crisis. India is naturally blessed with resources, weather, and biodiversity, yet we suffer from two man-made problems: lack of civic sense and corruption. The casual attitude of dumping sewage into drains, throwing garbage on streets, spitting openly, or bribing officials reflects how deeply this mindset is embedded. We call this land our mother and proudly say *Vande Mataram*, yet our behavior contradicts that sentiment. Enforcement, therefore, is essential. Today people say pollution control boards themselves are the most polluted part of the system—not because of chemicals, but because of corruption, intent, and negligence. Without addressing corruption and accountability, forming committees or passing laws will not solve the climate crisis or pollution problem. We must not only pass this Resolution—we must ensure we act on it.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I believe this discussion is extremely important because water pollution is directly connected to both public health and the country's development. I thank the Prime Minister for giving special attention to this issue and for taking significant steps, from cleaning the Ganga to improving other water bodies. The Government's current initiative, "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal," is truly commendable, as it aims to provide clean drinking water to every household and relieve women and girls from the burden of walking long distances to fetch water. However, my suggestion is that wherever water sources exist, we have not yet achieved the level of success that is needed. We must ensure that the supplied water is free from fluoride and other harmful contaminants. Wherever a source exists, filtration or advanced technology should be used so that clean, safe water reaches people's homes, and the investment being made under this major national project becomes truly effective.

Many Members have raised concerns about soil pollution and how harmful particles seep into the ground and contaminate groundwater, and I completely agree with them. We must work to prevent such contamination and protect groundwater. Finally, I would only say that while the government is already working seriously on this initiative, now the priority must be to ensure that households receive not just water, but clean and safe drinking water.

SHRIMATI DARSHANA SINGH: This amendment has been brought forward to make life and business easier, inspired by the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister. Water pollution harms public health and affects every aspect of human life, especially in a hilly state like Manipur where water resource protection is crucial. This Bill is also very important for the MSME sector, which is the backbone of our economy, providing employment to millions and strengthening the vision of *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*. Earlier, even small technical errors often resulted in criminal cases, which discouraged growth and affected business confidence. By advancing the Prime Minister's belief in *Ease of Doing Business* and trust-based governance, this Bill introduces thoughtful decriminalization reforms that are both timely and commendable.

With this amendment, unnecessary legal pressure will reduce, and minor technical violations will no longer lead to litigation. MSMEs will now be able to operate without fear, which will boost confidence and business growth. The focus will shift from punishment to compliance, creating a balance between environmental protection and industrial development. It will also save valuable time and resources previously lost in lengthy legal procedures, allowing those energies to move toward innovation and productivity. Most importantly, this reform reflects the government's trust in entrepreneurs—trust that accelerates economic progress. This is not just a legal change but a visionary step to empower the MSME sector. Therefore, I fully support the implementation of this amendment in Manipur, as it will benefit industries, the environment, and employment. I also express my sincere appreciation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Environment Minister for this progressive step.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: I thank you for allowing me to speak on this important Resolution. I support it, but my support comes with protest because Manipur still has no elected Assembly despite repeated promises—its democracy remains suspended. I also want to point out that when cities like Delhi and Mumbai were choking with severe pollution, our Environment Minister was busy with elections rather than addressing the environmental crisis. Since the violence in Manipur began on May 3, 2023, the situation has only worsened, yet there has been no restoration of the Assembly and no elected government. Even when Parliament discussed President's Rule, the Opposition participated until 3 a.m., while members from the ruling side avoided discussion. Yesterday, when the Finance Minister accused us of shedding crocodile tears, I felt the need to remind the House that the real indifference came from the government benches. Pollution—whether air or water—is now a national emergency affecting Manipur, Mumbai, Delhi, and the entire country. My only demand is that democracy in Manipur be restored and pollution be treated with top priority rather than political neglect.

SHRI RAMJI: The Parliament passed Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment in February 2024, where earlier criminal punishment was replaced with monetary penalties, but I believe this approach is not enough. Water pollution is a serious national threat, and regulating it only through fines will not solve the problem. We must first identify pollution sources and classify industries based on the type of contamination they release—whether physical, chemical, biological, microbiological, thermal, radioactive, or sewage-based. Only then can treatment and regulation be meaningful. I strongly feel that no factory should be allowed to operate without an Effluent Treatment Plant, and municipalities must also ensure proper sewage treatment so polluted water does not enter rivers and canals. I come from Lakhimpur Kheri, where many sugar mills openly release toxic waste into rivers and fields because they know paying a fine of up to ₹15 lakh is not a deterrent. Manipur faces similar challenges—rivers like Nambul, Imphal, and Iril, along with Loktak Lake, are under severe biological and organic pollution stress. Therefore, strict categorization, enforcement, and scientific policy-making are essential if we truly want to control pollution.

SHRIMATI JAYA AMITABH BACHCHAN: I support this discussion, but I believe the real message from nature is to clean our surroundings and allow free, fresh air to flow. If the environment is respected, water will heal naturally. My main point is that Manipur must be given back its democratic right instead of being controlled from Delhi. The people there are capable, and if elections are restored, they will manage their own land and resources responsibly. I truly hope the government succeeds in improving environmental conditions, whether air or water, but I am concerned that calling Manipur's water polluted could become a business opportunity for bottled water companies. Water should not become a profit-driven commodity.

MS. SWATI MALIWAL: While Delhiites are forced to breathe the world's most toxic air, the Yamuna River, Delhi's lifeline, is now flowing with poison. We call the Yamuna our mother, but in the last 10 years, we have turned our mother river into a drain. The Yamuna provides more than 90% of Delhi's drinking water. This means that the Yamuna is the source of 90% of our water needs, which has now become a black, stinking, dead drain. Today, 22 large drains flow into the Yamuna every day. The moment the Yamuna enters Delhi from the Wazirabad Barrage, it begins to turn into a drain. Today, the Yamuna's water is so toxic that its dissolved oxygen content is zero milligrams per liter. All fish die in this water. This toxic water is causing skin diseases, stomach ailments, liver and kidney diseases, and more.

Today, Delhi has only 35 sewage treatment plants, which is far less than what is needed. We need a capacity of 1,380 MGD, while today, the capacity is only 966 MGD. Thousands of crores of rupees have been spent in Delhi in the name of Yamuna in the last 10 years. Today, our mothers and sisters stand in line from 4 am in the morning, hoping for a tanker to arrive. The situation in Sangam Vihar and Deoli is so dire that people wait all night. Lines stretch up to a kilometer from their homes, and they connect pipes to a public tap and wait for water to arrive. If the Yamuna is cleaned, this water shortage in Delhi can be ended in an instant.

Today, I demand from this House that, first of all, a Yamuna Jeevan Mission be established for the Yamuna, so that special funds can be spent on the Yamuna. Second, STPs should be installed on a mission mode in Delhi, so that not a single drop of dirty water ends up in the Yamuna. Third, rainwater harvesting and zero liquid discharge should be mandatory in every home and society in Delhi. Furthermore, the licenses of any factories dumping dirty, polluted water into the Yamuna should be revoked. Save the Yamuna, or our future generations will never forgive us.

SHRI HARIS BEERAN: Sir, Article 252 says that if it appears to the Legislatures of two or more States to be desirable, then a Resolution of those two or more States can come over here. Now, problem here is that there is no Legislature in Manipur. So, on these two grounds -- one, there is no legislature; secondly, there is no Resolution by two or more States -- Article 252 cannot be made applicable in the situation. Now, please see the wordings in the Resolution. The Resolution says, "Whereas it appears to this House to be desirable that the Water Prevention (Amendment) Act should be adopted in the State of Manipur." This is not the House which has to have the desire. The desire has to come from two or more State Legislatures under Article 252. If that particular thing has not come over here, then the entire exercise would be void, it would be invalid. So, I do not know how the hon. Minister is going to support this particular Resolution. We are told that this particular Amendment is for trust-based governance and ease of doing business. When a State is under President's Rule, what trust are we talking about? What ease of doing business are we talking about? Sir, this Water Pollution Act was enacted to protect citizens and address grievances of citizens. The imprisonment that was given is now converted to monetary fines. Now, if it is to be monetary fines, it is the State Legislature which has to decide and not the Parliament. If State Legislature decides, it is well-and-good; but, we do not have the authority to decide whether the imprisonment should go and monetary fines should come back.

SHRISHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL: Sir, Parliament enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to prevent and control water pollution and to maintain or restore the cleanliness of water. To achieve these objectives, states were empowered to establish boards for the prevention and control of water pollution and exercise their powers. This Act initially applied to Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, West Bengal, and all Union Territories. Since President's rule was imposed in Manipur by His Excellency the President on February 13, 2025, this amendment bill could not be implemented there. Therefore, our Minister has introduced this amendment bill in the Rajya Sabha today. I fully support this bill. Sir, a Congress colleague said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government under Narendra Modi did nothing in Manipur. Whatever they did is on every platform. Our Home Minister camped there, our Minister of State for Home Affairs camped there for over 100 days, and the Prime Minister visited there. But as for what Neeraj Dangi was saying, I want to point out that West Bengal, the state next to the Northeast, did not say a single word about the rape of women there, the religious conversions taking place there, and the massacre of Hindus there. Hon'ble

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is clear that the law is not for punishment, but for justice and fairness. Our government has transformed the Indian Penal Code into the Indian Justice Code. According to them, laws should be for punishment, but for us, laws should be for justice. Sir, our government has repealed over 1,500 laws to improve ease of doing business. These redundant laws were hindering small and medium-sized businesses. In conclusion, I would like to say that this resolution will prove to be a milestone for MSMEs. This is a very good resolution for ease of doing business. While it is applicable in every state, it was not implemented in Manipur, but with the passage of this bill, people there will now be able to do business effectively. This resolution promotes self-regulation and environmental responsibility, saves time, resources, and energy, and also encourages trust-based governance.

SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA: I express my strong support for the recent amendment to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 through which the CENTRAL Government has provided a significant and progressive reform, exempting certain White Category industries from the requirement of obtaining consent to establish and consent to operate from the respective Pollution Control Boards. It is a far-reaching step that reflects both environmental responsibility and a deep commitment to ease of doing business, particularly, for MSMEs. The industries included in the White Category are those that either generate negligible pollution or, in many cases, do not contribute to pollution at all. These industries are essential for everyday economic fabric of our country. Under the amended provisions, these units no longer need to obtain CTE or CTO. Instead, they are simply required to inform the State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees in writing. This may seem like a small administrative change, but its impact is enormous. It reduces delays that previously discouraged small entrepreneurs from starting or expanding their businesses; cuts unnecessary compliance costs; strengthens trust and promote transparency. Sir, this Resolution is a boost to MSMEs, which is the backbone of the Indian economy. By releasing an updated list of 86 such industries, the Central Government has demonstrated its commitment to promoting MSME growth. These units are among our largest job creators. This reform also aligns with the principles of minimum Government and maximum governance. In conclusion, the Amendment to the Water Act is thoughtful, constructive and visionary step.

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA: Sir, this is a very important resolution. It belongs to a series of laws that had outlived their usefulness. Our respected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has abolished those laws and also amended several others. This law was enacted in 1974, and this resolution has been introduced in its context. This resolution was introduced because businessmen and individuals lived in fear. They have to do business and trade. I am a businessman myself. I understand that businessmen are negligent and have compulsions. Through this resolution, criminalization has been abolished, and financial penalties have been introduced. I would like to bring to the attention of the Honorable Minister that while you are imposing penalties for this, that is fine, but alongside the penalties, there should also be a provision to educate those responsible about not polluting in the future. If someone pollutes again, the fine should be multiplied and a mandatory workshop on pollution should be held for them. It should be made mandatory for those who commit mistakes to attend a one-, two-, or three-day workshop, where they are educated and explained about pollution prevention, so that they do not repeat such mistakes in the future. I have reviewed several provisions of this resolution. It would have been better if our members had discussed and given suggestions on this statutory resolution. I strongly support this bill. This bill has been introduced at the right time.

The Hon'ble Minister, replying to the discussion on the Statutory Resolution, said: This bill was discussed in this House on February 6, 2024, and subsequently passed by the Lok Sabha on February 8, 2024. Under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister, when we talk about the whole of governance, when we talk about maximum governance and minimum government, we have brought this bill based on the Honorable Prime Minister's priority of establishing public trust by eliminating provisions that have hindered living, running businesses, and encouraging people to establish industries in the country over the past 10 years. Public trust means that people should enforce the country's laws themselves and prevent us from having to go to courts unnecessarily. Previously, there was a provision that if someone did not submit their drainage records, they would be jailed. Now, this was not a significant provision at all. If even small matters require jail time, we

cannot confine ordinary civil responsibilities to prison, nor can we confine business responsibilities to prison. The 1974 Water Act contained provisions that were inconsistent, created unnecessary obstacles, and transformed civil liability into criminal liability. We have introduced this law to eliminate them. Despite this, under Sections 25 and 26, if an industry operates without consent or permission, it is a violation of the law. We have classified it as a crime. Our country is a large one, and industries should operate in all states, not just one. Therefore, since consent to operate requires different permissions in different states, and there are discrepancies, we have worked to unify this process under a single portal. We want to resolve everything through adjudication, but to avoid the lengthy civil court process, we have established an authority at the level of Joint Secretary to adjudicate. However, we have not closed the avenue to go to court. If there is any error in its decision, you can appeal to the National Green Tribunal. Therefore, I believe that this is an important step towards the ease of doing business under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Two of our members, one Haris Biran and the other Sandosh Kumar, a member of the Communist Party, raised an unnecessary issue regarding Article 252 and Article 356(1). When the proclamation was issued under Article 356(1), it was stated that legislative matters related to Manipur, which fall under the Seventh Schedule and List II, should not be obstructed, so that the State Government had the authority to proceed in a consistent manner. This letter is also dated February 14, 2025. Therefore, when the issue came from Manipur that Manipur should not be left behind when you grant CTO to other states, this resolution was sent by the State and passed in a consistent manner. You were quoting more incorrect facts about Article 252. I'm telling you this because—you are a respected member of this House—that when we passed this bill, the object of this bill included the provision in Article 252 that if two states adopt it and send it, that could happen. When it was passed in February 2024, the Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assemblies adopted it, and then this House passed it. I'm asking you for procedural clarity, and you should understand. I'm also telling Sushmita ji that the West Bengal Legislative Assembly has also adopted it, so there's no justification for unnecessary criticism here. She also raised the issue of Article 252. You raised the issue of cooperative federalism. We took that into account in this bill as well. In fact, we will return 75 percent of the fines collected by the Adjudicating Authority to the states. When we initiated this issue, Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, our MP from Manipur, highlighted the need for this in Manipur. We are certainly working to advance this need in Manipur.

One Member attempted to link this issue to Manipur. The situation there is quite peaceful. Peace should prevail in other states as well. Several Members called it a state matter. Punjab has been unable to control pollution. Punjab has no clear program in this regard. Other Members talked about taking the states' powers. But this does not do anything like that. Permission obtained in one state will be applicable in another state as well. Many Members supported this. An honourable Member spoke about plastic pollution. Rivers were also mentioned. Not all rivers in our country originate from the Himalayas. Many rivers originate from areas with abundant forests. Rivers in the southern parts of the country originate from forested areas. The Government is working to protect this forest area. India is the third-largest country in the world in protecting its forest area. The Government has held numerous meetings with various states regarding pollution since August. Meetings have also been held with Union Ministers. Compared to 2016, pollution levels have decreased by 90 percent. I believe the situation still needs further improvement. If we look at the number of days with an AQI above 400, they are decreasing comparatively this time. We are also working on all issues caused by human-based anthropocentric activities, whether it's dust pollution, vehicle pollution, or industrial pollution. The Ministry of Water Power is addressing the issue of river pollution. The only amendment to this bill today is the Concern to Operate and other provisions that were to be implemented in Manipur. Since other states have adopted it, if this House supports this bill, the ease of doing business and ease of living provisions will be implemented in Manipur as well. We have passed this bill in both Houses, and we will certainly fulfill the trust and hope you have expressed. Thank you.

The Statutory Resolution was adopted.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand for Formation of Small-Scale Industries and Food Processing Industries Board/Committee at Panchayat Level

SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA: There is no dedicated food processing committee at the Panchayat level in our country. Currently, approximately 98 percent of food processors are unregistered, preventing them from benefiting from government schemes. Due to an unorganized supply chain and the dominance of middlemen, producers are deprived of real benefits. This committee should implement government schemes according to local needs and assist in selling products at the rural level. Linking them with the postal department could also be beneficial. Today, there is a need to promote local products and create employment through them. Therefore, I demand that a "Food Processing Committee" or "Small Industries Board" be established at the Panchayat level.

(Shri Madan Rathore , Dr. Fauzia Khan and Shri R. Girirajan associated)

2. Demand for Establishment of Food Processing Unit in Chandauli District of Uttar Pradesh

SHRIMATI DARSHANA SINGH: The hard work of farmers has made Chandauli a leader in multi-crop agriculture and horticulture. High-value crops like chilies, tomatoes, strawberries, dragon fruit, and more are being produced in large quantities, boosting local employment and export prospects. Therefore, establishing a food processing unit here is crucial. This will not only provide better prices to farmers but also increase employment opportunities for local youth, women, and self-help groups. The geographical location, rail, and road network make it an ideal hub. Therefore, I urge the government to establish a food processing unit in Chandauli.

(Shri R. Girirajan associated)

3. Demand to Adopt Research-Linked Incentives for Med-Tech Innovations

DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE: There is urgent need to support medical technology innovation through structured policy frameworks such as Research-Linked Incentives. India still imports over 70 per cent of high-end medical technologies. Significant gaps persist in design-led R&D. A three-tiered framework, aligned with Technology Readiness Levels, can provide milestone-based grants, co-funded clinical trials in India and tax benefits on patent royalties. Globally, countries like the United States and Singapore have demonstrated the success of similar frameworks. Therefore, I urge the Government to adopt research-linked incentives.

(Dr. Fauzia Khan associated)

4. Demand to Boost Domestic Consumption of Aquaculture Products

SHRI PAKA VENKATA SATYANARAYANA: There is an urgent need to support the aquaculture and pisciculture sector. India is a global leader in this sector, exporting nearly 75 per cent of its produce to international markets. Andhra Pradesh alone contributes nearly 70 per cent. However, this sector is currently facing a severe crisis due to volatile international market, specifically imposition of anti-dumping duties by the United States of America. To counter this, we must 'vibrate' it and boost domestic consumption within the nation. Therefore I urge the Government to include nutrient-rich products in the dietary supplies of the Defence sector and also in the Mid-day meal schemes. This initiative will cut reliance on exports and increase our domestic consumption.

(Shri R. Girirajan, Dr. Fauzia Khan and Shri Madan Rathore associated)

5. Need for Mandatory Registration of Electronic and Industrial Scrap and Recycling Units to Prevent Theft

SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA: The rampant theft and illegal trade of electronic and industrial scrap poses serious risks to national security, environmental safety and economic integrity. Despite the existence of Rules and Regulations, enforcement remains weak and many scrap and

recycling units continue to operate without proper registration or oversight. This has led to theft of valuable industrial components. This also increases the risk of data breaches. I urge the Government to make registration of all electronic and industrial scrap units mandatory, link the registration with GST and PAN and do geo-tagged facility verification. These steps will curb their illegal trade.

(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shri Madan Rathore, Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade and Shri R. Girirajan associated.)

6. Concern over Silent Exploitation of Common Man by Health Insurance Companies and Private Hospitals

SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA: Private insurance companies and private hospitals are colluding to exploit the general public. The public purchases insurance with their hard-earned money. However, in times of illness, these same insurance companies and hospitals harass them. They are suddenly denied cashless treatment. They are not reimbursed for their treatment. Ultimately, they are forced to sell their property to obtain treatment. Sometimes, they even lose their lives. Insurance companies and hospitals have all the authority. I request the government to take strict action against this and implement appropriate laws.

(Several hon'ble members associated.)

7. Demand for Reconsideration of Metro Project in Tamil Nadu

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: I rise today to demand for reconsideration of the metro rail projects for Coimbatore and Madurai. These cities are not just regional centres; they are engines of economic growth, cultural pride and national contribution. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to reconsider the matter, and recognize the aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu. Let Coimbatore continue to thrive as an industrial powerhouse, and Madurai shine as a global cultural beacon.

(Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham, Dr. V. Sivadasan, Shri R. Girirajan, Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar and Dr. John Brittas associated)

8. Demand for Setting up an AIIMS in Kozhikode, Kerala

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: The Government has been establishing new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in various States. A total of 22 AIIMS have been announced so far under PMSSY in various States. Kerala is perhaps the only major State that does not have an All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The demand to set up an AIIMS in Kerala dates back over a decade. The State is having all required facilities to cater to the requirements for establishment of AIIMS. Therefore, I fervently urge upon the Government to expeditiously grant approval for the establishment of AIIMS at Kinalur in Kozhikode district in Kerala.

(Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar, Shri R. Girirajan, Shri Sandosh Kumar P, Dr. V. Sivadasan and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu associated.)

9. Need to Exempt Khadi from GST

DR. V. SIVADASAN: As per the notification issued by the Government of India, products sold through KVIC or KVIC-certified institutions were placed under the zero per cent tax slab. These items were classified under HSN Codes 50 to 55 and were thus exempted from GST. However, it must be noted that no retrospective effect was provided. Consequently, all Khadi products sold between 1st July 2017 and 25th September 2017 were made taxable. Moreover some items still attract GST. Therefore, I request the Government that full GST exemption or an uninterrupted ITC flow for Khadi institutions be considered, so that the sector may be protected and sustained.

(Several hon'ble members associated.)

10. Concern over Delay in Gas Pipeline Connection Project in Puri, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack in Odisha

SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA: I wish to highlight the serious delay in the implementation of GAIL's gas pipeline project in Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack. Pipeline gas is essential for Odisha because it offers clean, affordable and efficient fuel for households and industries, helping both economic growth and environmental protection. Although most of the physical pipeline work is complete, the system is still not operational. Despite repeated assurances under the Government's City Gas Distribution initiative, the project continues to face delays, affecting timely access to clean energy for domestic, industrial, and commercial users. I urge the Government to address this urgently.

(Shri R. Girirajan , Dr. John Brittas and Dr. V. Sivadasan associated)

11. Demand for Providing Due Financial Aid and Status to AYUSH Medical Treatment Facilities at par with Allopathic System in India

SHRI NARESH BANSAL: I want to draw the government's attention to a very important issue related to India's healthcare system. Ayurveda, yoga, and naturopathy are not only effective in treatment but also play a vital role in disease prevention. The Prime Minister himself is deeply involved in these systems. Low budgets are a major obstacle to their development. Therefore, I urge the government to include Ayurveda, yoga, and naturopathy in the Ayushman Bharat scheme, repeal outdated related laws and implement a uniform health code, and provide special incentives to the Ayurvedic industry, startups, and research. Additionally, the budget of the Ministry of AYUSH should be increased at least fivefold, the first year of medical courses should be equal for all systems, and Ayurveda and yoga should be made compulsory subjects until Class 10. Now is the time to give our indigenous AYUSH medical heritage its due place.

(Shri R. Girirajan, Dr. Kalpana Saini, Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki, Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak and Shri Ram Chander Jangra associated.)

12. Demand for Expansion of Visually Impaired Friendly Sports Facilities

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: On the occasion of World Disability Day, I would first like to congratulate the Blind Women's Cricket Team on winning the World Cup—an achievement that has made the entire nation proud. I wish to draw the Government's attention to the serious challenges faced by visually impaired and blind sportspersons across the country. India has one of the world's largest visually impaired populations, yet most aspiring athletes continue to train in inadequate and unsafe environments. The shortage of trained coaches, guides, and support staff further limits their competitive growth. While the Government has taken progressive steps like ensuring pay parity in cricket, there is now an urgent need to extend similar recognition and institutional support to blind cricket teams and visually impaired athletes, whose remarkable achievements still remain outside mainstream visibility.

(Several hon'ble members associated.)

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P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

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