RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, December 08, 2025/ Agrahayana 17, 1947 (Saka)

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Health Security Se National Security Cess Bill, 2025- *Contd.*

DR. KAVITA PAIDAR: I support this Bill as well as the perspective it represents, which aims to establish a permanent framework for national security capabilities and public health preparedness. This Bill also reflects our ethical responsibility. To put it in numbers, approximately 1.35 million people die every year in our country due to tobacco and cancer. It is not just the individual who suffers; their family suffers too. The cost burden falls on the family and also increases the economic burden on the government by ₹1.77 lakh crore. I am fully confident that this Bill will significantly reduce tobacco consumption. The revenue generated through this cess will be spent on healthcare, and for us, healthcare and safety are extremely important. Today, new dimensions are being established in the healthcare sector—whether it is the addition of 50,000 new MBBS seats, the establishment of medical colleges in every district, or unique schemes like Ayushman Bharat, which provide every Indian with a shield of health security. On one hand, we are imposing a tax on tobacco, while on the other, GST has been removed from health insurance premiums. This Bill is not just about health, nor is it limited to hospitals; it also underscores our national security. In the past ten years, we have not made hollow promises; instead, we have done substantial work in the field of defence. Today, if an enemy looks at us with ill intent, we have the strength to enter their territory and respond. We all know that health is very important for us, and this Bill imposes a cess on narcotic substances. Through this, not only will the consumption of such narcotic substances end, but individuals will also become more aware of their health. This cess has not been imposed forcefully by the Centre. This decision has been taken with the consent of the GST Council. The opposition views it as a tax and a burden, whereas we see it as a shield for the health protection of every individual in India. I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA: I rise to support a reform that gives India the institutional strength long required for both national security and public health preparedness. I would like emphasize that by keeping a targeted cess on pan masala and other excisable goods, the Bill shields ordinary families while ensuring high-risk industries contribute to addressing the health harms they create. This reform is timely, as India faces rising health and security challenges. In Andhra Pradesh, these issues are even more severe. Hence, the Bill's provision of a stable funding stream for hospitals, preventive care and emergency readiness is crucial. Past revenue mechanisms have already strengthened insurance coverage and health infrastructure, including Ayushman Bharat's coverage of 55 crore people. In conclusion, I support this Bill on behalf of my party.

SHRIMATI MAYA NAROLIA: I congratulate Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for bringing the Bill to the House. I emphasize that this Bill is not merely a revenue measure but a

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

historic step to strengthen India’s health, security, technological capacity, and long-term preparedness. It moves India away from the ad hoc financial models of the past and provides a predictable, legally protected funding mechanism for national security and public health emergencies. I also clarify that the targeted cess will only apply to select products like pan masala and will not be a burden on the public.

Tax increases on products that don't impact ordinary families are a targeted high revenue and equitable contribution to national security, not a new burden on the poor. The funds generated through this bill provide dedicated and secure funding for surveillance, rapid response mechanism, modern mobility systems and intelligence infrastructure. This strengthens national security and gives new impetus to the government's defence modernization policy. National security isn't just about guns on the border; a strong healthcare system is also a primary requirement for national security. This bill ensures that all these initiatives receive long-term and targeted financial support. The bill links cess liability to production, machine speed and capacity. It aims to eliminate under-declared production, tax evasion and leakages. This is a technology-driven, discretionary and transparent system. It is a continuation of the government's faceless assessment, digital governance and GST reforms, where a trust-based system is being implemented for honest industries. This cess will ensure that this digital network remains robust for disease surveillance, emergency response and health infrastructure expansion and will provide a permanent fund to accelerate defence modernization. The BRO's budget has also been doubled, enabling border roads, operational tunnels and forward posts to develop at an unprecedented pace. This cess will further sustain this momentum, making India a nation prepared, not just reactive. This bill regulates a sector where opacity, under-declared production and tax leakage have been a major problem for years. Provisions for machine speed, weight and process-based cess liability in Sections 5 and 9 of this bill eliminate this leakage. Furthermore, tiered penalties, the right to appeal, compounding and a cause-of-action process ensure that genuine industries are not unduly harassed. The separation of funds for national security and public health prepares India for future challenges. This cess provides a reliable, sustainable and structural financial foundation for the strategic needs of both defence reform and social reform. This bill is not merely a proposal to impose a cess on pan masala, but a national framework for national security, public health protection, technology-driven good governance, a transparent tax system and long-term financial stability. This bill moves India towards ensuring sustainable resources, modern systems and forward-looking policies for both security and health. I strongly support this bill and urge all MPs to strengthen India's long-term national security and health preparedness by passing it.

SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK: The Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025, which is related to the lives of millions of poor and oppressed brothers and sisters in our country, will bring direct light into their lives. Its objective is to ensure free or very affordable access to treatment for every individual. However, digital health, telemedicine, specialist doctors in remote rural areas, through whom disease diagnosis, diagnostics, and early warnings reach us – all these shortcomings remain, which are being addressed by this new bill. I want to present five key points of this bill to the House. First, it talks about providing free treatment up to 10 lakh rupees to every poor person, which has been doubled from 5 lakh rupees. Second, digital health will reach every village. Now, every citizen will be issued an 'Abha' card, an Ayushman Bharat health account will be created and their complete treatment records will be maintained. Video treatment from doctors in Delhi will also be available from villages. Third, health security is for national security. In 2020, COVID-19 taught us that if a disease is detected early, there won't be a need to lock down the country. Now, through AI, digital surveillance will alert us to any new epidemic 15-20 days in advance. This can be considered not only a health issue but also a matter of national security. Fourth, to raise funds for this, a cess will be imposed on 'sin goods' such as tobacco and gutkha. This will reduce consumption, and those who consume them will have to pay more tax. The 'sin tax' on such goods will increase slightly. A nominal national health cess will also be imposed on expensive liquor and luxury goods. The poor will not be burdened by a single penny. Fifth, a provision of ₹6.81 lakh crore was made for defence in this year's budget and now almost the same amount will be spent on health. The government believes that as important a soldier's weapon is, so is the treatment of the poor and their mothers. Today's era is the digital era. Internet access has reached every village in our country through "Bharat Net." This bill will bring telemedicine to every village. Now, even a small farmer's child will be able to talk to a doctor via mobile. Our government's dream is that by 2030, every Indian will have their own health card, a health profile to preserve their medical records. This will not impose a cess on production, but only on capacity and packaging. The poor will not have to spend even a single rupee. We will use a small portion of the money spent today on cigarettes and alcohol to treat the poor. Today, we are fighting a health war. This bill against poverty and disease is part of that resolve. I appeal to all parties to pass this bill unanimously so that the year 2025 becomes not just an Amrit Mahotsav but also a health Amrit Mahotsav.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN), replying to the debate, said: I will try to respond to the points raised by the Hon'ble Members who spoke on this Bill and also the clarifications that they have sought. Before that, I would like to put before the House specific points and comments which are linked to the stated objectives of the Bill. At the time of introduction of the Bill, I had mentioned very clearly that this is a cess and the cess so collected aims to serve the cause of national security and also health security and that it shall not be on any essential commodities but it is going to be only on demerit goods. Raising a dedicated stream of revenue for credible defence capability is very important, particularly in this era of high-tech warfare. Modern conflicts are all very dominated with precision weapons, autonomous systems, space assets, cyber operations and rapid battlefield intelligence, all of which require capital intensive expenditure; continuous expenditure, steady expenditure. Technology being such a rapidly growing area, you also have to be keep updating the technology, which also requires investment, which has to be for upgrading as well. Hon'ble Prime Minister spoke about Mission *Sudarshan Chakra* from the Red Fort. He said, “Mission *Sudarshan Chakra* means building a wall of security around the country’s key locations, industrial and public sectors that the enemy cannot penetrate. If the enemy dares, our *Sudarshan Chakra* will destroy them.” This actually was seen in the Operation Sindoor, in a smaller way. It showed how our three services now work together, use signals and drones. We neutralized targets without our troops even ever crossing the border and without a single civilian casualty. Modern warfare today is driven by advanced technology and precision, and maintaining such defence systems requires substantial funding. To ensure our armed forces remain fully equipped and combat-ready, we need a steady flow of revenue. This *cess* has therefore been introduced as an effective mechanism to strengthen both public health and national security. Earlier, under the GST framework, demerit goods like cigarettes and pan masala were taxed heavily through GST and the compensation cess, sometimes reaching up to 88 percent. With the new GST structure capping tax rates at 40 percent, the end of the compensation cess created a fiscal gap. To prevent these harmful products from becoming cheaper, excise duty was reintroduced on cigarettes, and a cess has been applied on pan masala, which does not fall under excise. We fully recognize that public health is a State subject, and therefore, revenue from this cess will be shared with the States to support health-related initiatives.

Defence, however, is a Central subject and requires continuous investment to meet modern strategic and technological requirements. In the past, there were times when our defence forces lacked basic equipment, including adequate ammunition and essential gear such as snow boots during the Kargil conflict. Since the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, defence readiness has been prioritised and strengthened. Today, our soldiers receive timely ammunition, bulletproof jackets, and modern equipment. India has not only reduced its dependence on imports but is now exporting defence equipment worth more than ₹25,000 crore. This cess ensures that harmful products do not become more affordable and that the revenue generated from them supports two essential priorities: the health of our people and the preparedness of our armed forces. I explained that in 2013, against the official requirement of maintaining 40 days of war reserves, 125 out of 170 ammunition types had fallen below even 20 days’ supply. Shockingly, half of all ammunition types were available for less than 10 days of intense fighting. This was the state of preparedness before 2014. When Prime Minister Modi took office, these critical gaps surfaced, and we had to urgently address each one. Ensuring defence readiness requires a continuous, reliable flow of funds.I would like to respond to one honourable member's claim that “States are given alms, not rights.” I found this remark outrageous. During the previous Government’s time, neither Parliament nor the Cabinet decided how funds were allocated to States; that authority rested with the Planning Commission, which was not even a statutory body. Chief Ministers had to go there with folded hands, essentially *begging* for funds. Having experienced this personally as a Chief Minister, Prime Minister Modi believed that States should not have to plead before a non-constitutional body. That system was transformed, and today NITI Aayog acts as a true think-tank. No one goes there *begging* for money anymore—that era of *asking for alms* is over.I would like to mention that the 14th Finance Commission increased the States' share of taxable devolvable revenue from 32% to 42%, and Prime Minister Modi readily accepted this recommendation. Later it became 41% because Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory, and we have fully honoured this arrangement till today. However, the 14th Finance Commission had also advised something more, it recommended stopping all Centrally Sponsored Schemes and all Central Sector Schemes—essentially saying, "Close the schemes." Prime Minister Modi chose not to follow this advice because it would have caused hardship for the States. Those schemes continued from the time of the 14th Finance Commission until 2019, then again from 2019 to 2024, and they continue even today. Although our share came down while States' share increased by 10 percentage points, we still did not discontinue these schemes. The next Finance Commission also did not ask for them to be resumed or modified, which effectively meant it agreed with the earlier advice to stop them. So, two Finance Commissions aligned on stopping the schemes—but did the Prime Minister stop them? No. Even today States receive funds through these schemes. The Finance omission never asked us to provide interest-free 50-year loans for capital expenditure to States. That scheme was initiated by Prime Minister Modi, and because of it, numerous State projects are underway and capital assets are being created. From 2020 till now, more than ₹4.9 lakh crore has been given to States. Whether they return it after 50 years or whether it is treated as a grant is a separate matter—but the fact is, the money was given. The Finance commission did not direct this; we still provided the assistance. That is why I was surprised when Dr. John Brittas spoke of a trust deficit between the Centre and States. If they felt there was a trust deficit and wanted to seek clarity from the Supreme Court, that is absolutely their right. We were also summoned and we presented all facts before the Court under Article 279(3). All of us follow the FRBM; no one can independently decide how much to borrow. I further pointed out that cesses were being collected even before, under the UPA era. I will present the details of how much cess was collected between 2004 and 2014, how much was shared, and similarly how much has been collected and shared since 2014. Cesses are collected for specific purposes, and the funds must be spent exactly for those purposes.

More than the collections, more cess money has gone from the Centre. I will give you exact numbers also. Trust deficit is being created in the minds of people, which, of course, people are able to see where the facts lie. Rs. 18.54 lakh crores were given during UPA time, under the tax devolution. In NDA 10 years, Rs. 71 lakh crores have been given. And, if you take beyond 2024 till 2026, Rs. 84.87 lakh crores would be given. Several Members raised regarding strengthening India's national security and supporting public health. I have already said about that. Specific projects through which the public health activity will be supported, schemes or programmes, will all be notified. The Central Government has the authority, comes to the Parliament, passes the legislation and collects the cess. It will go to the CFI. But, after that the CAG will look into it. The question was raised saying, all right it is a cess, but you are not levying it on consumption, you are levying it not on the production, you are levying it on capacity. Consumption is taxed under the GST. I cannot tax again on consumption here. If it were to be an excisable thing, I can levy on production also. So there are well-researched, well-studied ways of understanding as to how to go about it. One Member has said about power to double the tax; It is completely wrong. Power to tax or double the tax rate happens only in an emergency situation. The provision has been incorporated in the Act itself for prior sanction of the Parliament. So, It is not discretionary. There are well-laid out procedures for Parliament scrutiny. No essential goods is going to be added to it.

Pan Masala is already classified under Tariff Code 21069020, but manufacturers often try to circumvent the law by making slight variations and claiming it is a different product. To address such tactics, laws always keep a window for including "similar goods," especially demerit goods, so that cloned or marginally altered versions can still be covered without needing new legislation each time. This provision applies only to demerit goods, and the concern raised by some Members about reviving "Inspector Raj" is misplaced. The sector is highly evasion-prone, which is why we designed the implementation to be technology-driven and risk-based. Manufacturers will first file a selfdeclaration, which will be followed by scrutiny to verify whether their manufacturing process matches the declaration. After that, technology-supported continuous monitoring will be used. Physical visits by officers will generally not occur unless there is a specific event—for example, if a manufacturer declares a shutdown for maintenance, officers may visit solely to seal the machines during that period to prevent misuse. Full legal recourse is available. Any order passed will first be reviewed at the officer level, then can be appealed to an appellate authority, followed by an appellate tribunal, and ultimately the High Court and Supreme Court. Cess is charged based on the number of active machines, not the total installed capacity. Our rates are based on detailed studies of capacity and utilization. Even manual producers are assessed differently. So, if a factory has ten machines but only one is running, they will pay only for that single operational machine. Questions have repeatedly been asked about the cess that has been collected, but not paid. I want to give an example. Pre-2004, cesses were collected, including cess on crude oil, National Calamity Contingent Duty, and Road and Infrastructure cess. The Health and Education cess, which is 2004-05 vintage, and the new Health and Education cess, both blended in 2018-19, and so on and so forth. Regarding the Health and Education cess, the Government has transferred ₹6,49,459 crore from 2014-15 to 2025-26, against a collection of ₹6,07,573 crore. This means that ₹6,07,573 crore was collected, and ₹6,49,459 crore has been disbursed, which is much more than what was collected. The same applies to the Road and Infrastructure cess, which has been levied since 2000. This cess has been collected under the Central Road Fund Act 2000, and on imported and manufactured motor spirit, commonly known as petrol and high-speed diesel oil. The cess is transferred to Central Road and Infrastructure Fund. There are various schemes through which it happens, railway safety, construction, investment in NHAI, road works, maintenance of national highways, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, all these receive it from there. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, was ₹13,327 crore in RE-24-25, of which the amount financed from the road and infrastructure cess was only ₹12,000 crore. Whereas, it was only ₹12,000 crore from the cess, ₹13,327 crore has gone to the States. All States have got their share in it. I don't want to read and take the time, but every State has got it. So it is not as if some got and some others did not. Similarly, regarding the compensation cess, which was collected for compensating the States having come into the GST, ₹9,45,237 crore were collected, whereas ₹9,33,920 crore has been shared with the States. The AAG authorised certification of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur has not come to us. So, the rest of the money will have to be given to both of them. That is where the gap is. Cesses were collected even during the UPA era. If we were to see how much of cesses were collected, as a percentage of the Gross Taxable Revenue, under the UPA, that is, 2010 to 2014. In those four years, cess, as a percentage of the GTR, was 7.0 per cent. Whereas, now, in the BE of 2025-26, it is 6.1 per cent. Far lower cesses are being collected now than what was collected under the UPA!

I clarified that cess collections have decreased from 7% during 2010–2014 to 6.1% of Gross Taxable Revenue now, even though we are disbursing more to the States than what is collected. While comparing Bengal’s Swasthya Sathi with Ayushman Bharat, I pointed out that Ayushman Bharat provides national portability, enabling migrant workers from Bengal to receive free treatment in more than 32,000 hospitals across India. By refusing to join the scheme, Bengal has denied its own workers this coverage, even though concerns were recently raised about their safety and treatment in other States. Swasthya Sathi cannot assist them outside Bengal. I also highlighted that the Centre was ready to provide about ₹785 crore for Bengal’s health sector, which the State rejected. Had Bengal joined the national framework, it could have used its own funds for other priorities and benefited from the PMJAY ecosystem that supports 15.5 crore families nationwide. Integration would have allowed Kolkata to develop as a major medical hub for Eastern and North-Eastern India, spurring private investment and modernization. Therefore, I strongly urge this House to consider and pass the Bill.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc. were adopted.

The Bill was returned.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted. Clauses etc., were adopted. The Bill, was returned.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Concern over the Innovation Drain in Indian Web3 Startups due to Regulatory Uncertainty

DR. K. LAXMAN: I express my concern that many Indian Web3 and blockchain startups are shifting their operations or headquarters to places like Dubai and Singapore. This trend, as I see it, is mainly due to the lack of a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework for digital assets, blockchain-based models and emerging Web3 technologies. The current situation of undefined standards and fragmented compliances is creating uncertainty for entrepreneurs working in fast-changing tech sectors. Though these companies continue to rely on Indian talent and build products from within the country, the absence of clarity in compliance norms, registration rules, consumer protection and innovation governance is making long-term decisions difficult. As a result, several promising enterprises are moving abroad, causing an "innovation drain" that could affect India's future technological leadership. I believe it is essential to assess these regulatory gaps and create stable, transparent and innovation-friendly policies that boost investor confidence and encourage companies to keep operations in India. Such steps will strengthen our digital economy and support the vision of Vikshit Bharat 2047. I urge the Government to act on this.

(Shri R. Girirajan, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju, Shri Madan Rathore and Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel associated.)

2. Demand for Direct Flights from Goa to Shirdi and Tirupati under UDAN Scheme

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE: I draw the Government's attention to the need for starting daily direct flights from Goa to Shirdi and Goa to Tirupati under the UDAN scheme. Many devotees from Goa frequently travel to these major pilgrimage centres. Currently, they rely on overbooked trains, crowded buses or private vehicles, and those choosing air travel face long layovers and costly connecting flights, causing delay and inconvenience. I request the Government to start direct flight services on the Goa-Shirdi and Goa-Tirupati routes under the regional connectivity part of the UDAN Scheme.

(Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju and Shri R. Girirajan associated.)

3. Demand for Action Against the Misleading Food Advertisements

MS. SWATI MALIWAL: People are consuming unhealthy things believing them to be healthy after watching deceptive and misleading advertisements. These are gradually causing Diabetes, heart disease, Childhood Obesity, and High Blood Pressure and the same technique is used in the case of paan masala as well. My demand is that clear labeling of sugar and chemicals be made mandatory on every food package. Major health warnings should be placed on high-sugar products, and strict action should be taken against false advertisements.

(Several members associated.)

4. Demand to Improve Nagpur-Adilabad-Nirmal-Hyderabad Railway Connectivity

SHRI S. NIRANJAN REDDY: There is a long-standing demand for improved rail connectivity between Nagpur and Hyderabad, particularly through the proposed Adilabad-Nirmal-Armoor railway line. This vital line would directly connect Nirmal to major cities like Nagpur, Adilabad and Hyderabad. The implementation of the railway line is yet to materialize despite two surveys ordered by the Government. I urge the government to expedite the sanction and funding of this crucial project.

(Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju, Shri R. Girirajan and Dr. V. Sivadasan associated.)

5. Demand for Measures to Reduce Fees of Private Medical Colleges in the Country

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: Medical education in the country is increasingly becoming expensive and out of reach for economically disadvantaged students. The number of seats available for the MBBS course is quite limited. The students who are financially capable have to opt for MBBS seats in private medical colleges, where the course fees can go up to 1.5 crore. On the other hand, economically disadvantaged students are compelled to go abroad to fulfill their dream of pursuing an MBBS course, where the fees are only about 25 percent of what they are in Indian private medical colleges. I urge the Government of India to seriously consider measures to reduce the fees of private medical colleges and help realize the dreams of millions of students.

(Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju, Shri R. Girirajan and Dr. V. Sivadasan associated.)

6. Demand for Construction of Pathankot-Mandi Four Lane

MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI: The Pathankot–Mandi four-lane highway in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh is an important road project for both Kangra and Mandi districts as well as for Pathankot to Leh. Once completed, the distance between Pathankot and Mandi will be reduced from 219 kilometers to approximately 171 kilometers. The aforementioned work is in progress; however, a DPR has not yet been prepared for the roughly 80-kilometer stretch between Rajol to Thanpuri and Paraur to Padhar. This area is full of immense potential for tourism. Additionally, this is the safest route for the movement of the army from Jammu and Pathankot to Leh, Ladakh. Therefore, I request the government to commence the pending four-lane work at the mentioned location at the earliest and complete this project.

(Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Dr. Sikander Kumar, Shri R. Girirajan and Shri Sat Paul Sharma associated.)

7. Concern over Environmental Issues of Hazaribagh and Bokaro Districts of Jharkhand

SHRI KHIRU MAHTO: A large number of chimney brick kilns are operating in the Hazaribagh and Bokaro districts of Jharkhand state. These brick kilns are illegally extracting huge amounts of soil from forest land. As a result, pits are continuously forming within the forests, a large number of trees are getting uprooted, and forest area is rapidly being destroyed. Therefore, I demand that immediate and effective action be taken to prevent the illegal extraction of soil from forests and the environmental damage caused by brick kilns in Hazaribagh and Bokaro districts, and strict punitive measures be taken against the operators involved in illegal soil mining.

(Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel, Shri R. Girirajan and Dr. V. Sivadasan associated.)

8. Concern over the Rising Brain Drain and Shrinking Global Opportunities for Indian Professionals and Students

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: India is witnessing an alarming rise in outflow of skilled professionals and students seeking education and employment abroad. However, recent international policy shifts have made global mobility increasingly uncertain. Simultaneously, lack of competitive domestic research fellowships, limited access to start-up incubation funding and under-employment in high-skill sectors are forcing India's brightest minds to seek opportunities abroad. The combination of external restrictions and internal constraints now threatens India's long-term knowledge economy and workforce competitiveness. I urge the Government to engage directly with key foreign Governments to address the prohibitive rise in visa and work permit fees, and to double the annual fellowship and research grant corpus.

(Shri R. Girirajan, Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Dr. V. Sivadasan associated.)

9. Concern over the Environmental Threat Posed by Australian Acacias and Need for Alternative Plantations

SHRI BABURAM NISHAD: Australian Acacia, also known as the Prickly Wattle forms dense thickets that destroy native grasslands and vegetation, alter soil structure, and reduce water availability in catchment areas. It impacts not only biodiversity but also rural livelihoods, natural grazing systems, and water security. I urge the Central Government to adopt a coordinated national approach for the phased eradication of Australian Acacia in sensitive areas; to promote the planting of native trees and fruit-bearing species in cleared areas; to encourage the enhancement of native grasses to revive grazing ecosystems; and to ensure that all restoration work is based on scientific evaluation and soil studies.

(Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai, Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Shri R. Girirajan and Shri Sat Paul Sharma associated.)

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