RAJYA SABHA

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***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Tuesday, February 03, 2026/ Magha 14, 1947 (Saka)

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OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, it is with profound sorrow, I inform the House about the passing away of **Shrimati Sushila Tiriya**, former Member of the Rajya Sabha on 1st February, 2026, at the age of 69 years. She represented the State of Odisha from 2nd July, 1986 to 1st July, 1992 and again from 4th April, 2006 to 3rd April, 2012. She also served as a Member of the Tenth and the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Born on 6th February, 1956 at Kalua-khaman in district Mayurbhanj of Odisha, Shrimati Sushila Tiriya, pursued her education at Utkal University. From an early age, she was deeply committed to social service, particularly, for the upliftment and empowerment of tribal communities. She organised tribal festivals and worked for safeguarding the rich traditional culture of various tribes, development of rural and tribal areas, and encouraging young artistes and sportspersons.

In the passing away of Shrimati Sushila Tiriya, the nation has lost an experienced legislator and a distinguished social worker. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shrimati Sushila Tiriya.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.)

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MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need for Digitisation and Capacity Building of Cooperative institutions

SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU: Today, I wish to draw attention to the role and challenges of the cooperative sector, which is considered the backbone of Punjab's rural economy. Cooperation is not merely a financial system, but a culture of collective and inclusive growth that has strengthened Punjab's agriculture and rural economy for decades. Institutions like MARKFED and MILKFED have made Punjab self-reliant, particularly in the fertilizer and agriculture sectors. Today, cooperative institutions are facing issues such as rising NPAs, corruption, and lack of leadership. Therefore, I urge that under the vision of *"Sahkar se Samriddhi"*, digital transformation, food processing, crop diversification, and youth and women entrepreneurship be promoted, and that a regional centre of the Tribhuvan Cooperative University be established in Punjab to infuse new energy into the cooperative movement.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Demand for Including the Kothavalasa-Kirandul Line in Proposed Visakhapatnam Division of New South Coast Railway Zone

SHRI GOLLA BABURAO: I demand that the Kothavalasa-Kirandul line and other sections currently proposed to be transferred to Rayagada Division be included only in the Visakhapatnam

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

Division of the new South Coast Railway Zone. I understand that the Ministry of Railways plans to move these lines to the East Coast Railway's Rayagada Division, which goes against the wishes of the people and would structurally and financially weaken the new zone. I also urge that the notification for the new South Coast Railway Zone be issued at the earliest, and that the construction of its headquarters and other infrastructure be completed promptly so that the zone can become fully operational.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need for Specialized Training Programs to Enhance Skill Development for Students in the Country

SHRI BRIJ LAL: Lord Macaulay's education system instilled a mindset focused on creating clerks, which we are now changing under the leadership of the Prime Minister. India is progressing towards becoming a fully developed nation by 2047, and for this, it is essential to equip our youth with practical skills. This budget is youth-centric, promoting their skill development, progress, and entrepreneurship. I appreciate the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, who has made vocational education a primary and respected option. Our Government is empowering youth through skill development so that they can contribute to making India a fully developed nation by 2047.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Need to Strengthen Institutional Delivery and Maternal Healthcare Services in Tribal and Remote Areas of the Country

SHRIMATI SULATA DEO: In Odisha, 23% of the total population is tribal, of which about 13 are PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) who live in hills and forests and do not come down. They prefer to follow their local deities and traditions. In such tribal areas, there is a need for maternal healthcare services, especially institutional pre-natal and post-natal delivery. I suggest that mobile medical units be deployed and awareness be increased through panchayats and the government so that these communities can access institutional healthcare services. Additionally, if they are unable to come for institutional delivery, emphasis should be given to delivering healthcare services within their communities. I want to state that tribals from areas like Sijimali, Kutrumali, Khandwalmali, and Niyamgiri are being forcibly displaced, which can mentally and physically distress them. Many pregnant women in these communities would not be able to safely give birth under such circumstances. Previously, facilities like "Maa Ghar" existed there, where women were cared for and institutional deliveries were conducted. I urge the Government to allow these tribals to remain in their current locations and to reconsider displacement plans while taking their difficulties into account.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand for the Establishment of an All India Education Service (IES) on the lines of the All India Civil Services

SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA: I draw the House's attention to the need to strengthen the education sector and express my support for the establishment of the All India Education Service (IES). This will create a dedicated, trained, and visionary cadre capable of taking the country's education system to new heights. This service will strengthen the new National Education Policy, contribute to making India a global knowledge superpower, and provide a foundational support to realize the goal of a developed India by 2047. The IES is not just a new service, but a safeguard for the dreams and future of India's new generation.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Need for Effective Resolution of Issues Faced by Serving Soldiers, Ex-servicemen, Elderly and Ailing Personnel

DR. SIKANDER KUMAR: I want to draw the House's attention to the issues faced by serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, elderly, and ailing personnel. In Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh, two ex-servicemen canteens are operational, on which a total of 13,527 cardholding ex-servicemen and their dependents rely. Ex-servicemen and their dependents from Dhatwal, Barsar,

Bangana, and to some extent Jhanduta areas are facing significant difficulties. In Dhatwal Tehsil alone, 3,918 cardholders depend on the Barsar canteen, which currently has a capacity of 250 cards per day and approximately 5,500 per month—far short of the total requirement. During peak days, overcrowding and disorder create serious problems, especially for elderly and ailing ex-servicemen. Therefore, I urge the Government to establish an extension counter of the ex-servicemen's canteen in Dhatwal Tehsil, Barsar Assembly constituency, to provide them with convenient, dignified, and smooth services.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Concern over the Coastal Erosion and Climate Displacement at India's Eastern Coastline

SHRI A.D. SINGH: I would like to raise the urgent humanitarian crisis along India's eastern coastline caused by coastal erosion and climate displacement. In Odisha, 46 villages, including Satabhaya, have been destroyed, forcing families inland where they lose their livelihoods and face severe hardships. Similar threats exist in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry due to rising sea levels, cyclones, sand mining, mangrove destruction and unplanned development. I urge the Government to treat climate displacement as a national policy priority, ensure livelihood-linked rehabilitation, restore natural barriers, strictly regulate coastal construction and sand mining, and create a national climate refugee framework with dedicated funding, warning that inaction erodes not just land, but lives.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Need to Address Unfair Rejection of Claims and Violations by Health Insurance Companies

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I would like to highlight serious irregularities and arbitrary practices by health insurance companies across the country. Policyholders' medical claims are often unfairly rejected using pretexts like pre-existing conditions, insufficient proof, non-disclosure, or package mismatch, even when complete documents are submitted, causing severe financial, mental, and familial distress. I cite real examples, including a patient admitted at night for emergency treatment who was denied the claim because the company argued he should have waited until morning OPD. I draw the House's attention to the irregular claim rejections and unfair practices by health insurance companies against consumers. In many serious cases, claims are denied on technical grounds, and the grievance redressal mechanisms remain ineffective at the ground level. I urge the Government to ensure strict compliance with IRDAI guidelines, implement a transparent and time-bound claims process, enforce a "No Claim Rejection without Medical Audit" policy, and establish a centralized national health insurance grievance portal.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Demand for Expeditious Completion of Jeypore-Nabarangpur and Jeypore-Malkangiri Railway Lines

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: Our districts, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri, are predominantly tribal areas. In 2016, under the leadership of then Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, an MoU was signed to provide rail connectivity in these districts. The agreement included provisions for the state government to bear a part of the land acquisition and construction costs for the Jeypore–Nabarangpur and Jeypore–Malkangiri railway lines. However, ten years have passed since 2016, and there has been no significant progress. The distance between Nabarangpur and Jeypore is only 38–40 kilometres, yet this rail line is still incomplete. The distance to Malkangiri is 138–140 kilometres. Due to this delay, the local tribal communities remain deprived of railway facilities.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need for Stoppage of Long-distance Trains at Dadri Railway Station and Strengthening the Railway Infrastructure in Gautam Buddha Nagar District

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious problems faced by rail passengers of Greater Noida in Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. The population of Greater Noida has crossed 1.2 million, with a large number of residents coming from different states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, along with students from across the country. Despite this large population, residents are compelled to travel nearly 50 kilometres to Delhi or Ghaziabad to board long-distance trains, causing severe traffic congestion, loss of time and additional financial burden. Although several important long-distance trains such as the Prayagraj–Rewa Superfast Express, Vande Bharat, Shatabdi Express and Shiv Ganga Express pass through Dadri–Bodaki railway stations, they do not have scheduled stoppages there. I, therefore, urge the Government to consider providing stoppages for long-distance trains at Dadri and Bodaki stations in the larger public interest and to expedite the development of Bodaki railway station as a railway hub for Greater Noida. This will greatly benefit local residents, students, and entrepreneurs.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Demand for Stoppage of Important Passenger Trains at Janghai Junction, Uttar Pradesh

SHRIMATI SEEMA DWIVEDI: I represent Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh and wish to raise the issue of providing stoppages for major trains at Janghai Junction. Janghai Junction, under the Lucknow Division of Northern Railway, is an A-category station and has been included in the Amrit Bharat Scheme, yet several important trains do not have stoppages there. Due to the absence of stoppages for trains such as the Archana Express, Neelanchal Express, Jansadharan Express and Kashi Mahakal Superfast, passengers from Bhadohi, Jaunpur and Prayagraj regions are compelled to travel nearly 60 kilometres to other stations, resulting in unnecessary loss of time and money. I request that in the interest of the public, stoppages for these trains be provided at Janghai Junction Railway Station under the Lucknow Division of Northern Railway.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Demand for Declaring the Delwara Jain Temple of Mount Abu as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government to the world-renowned Delwara Jain Temples, located in the Aravalli hills at the highest peak, Guru Shikhar, in Mount Abu, Sirohi district, Rajasthan. These temples, built between the 11th and 13th centuries, are outstanding examples of ancient Indian architecture and unparalleled marble craftsmanship. The complex houses five Shwetambar Jain temples, among which the Vimalvasahi and Lunvasahi temples are particularly noted for their artistic grandeur. The intricate carvings on the domes, ceilings, toranas, pillars and walls—depicting animals, birds, plants, flowers and mythological scenes—offer an extraordinary visual experience. The architecture and sculptural skill here are unique and unmatched globally. Delwara Jain Temples are not only a center of religious devotion but also living symbols of India's pluralistic culture, non-violence, tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Every year, thousands of devotees and tourists visit these temples, which also boosts regional tourism, local employment and economic development. Therefore, I urge the Government to prioritize the process of declaring these historically and culturally significant temples as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This will ensure the protection of our invaluable cultural heritage and provide future generations with a strong connection to India's glorious traditions.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Concern over the Impact of United States' Tariff Policies on Indian Exports and Domestic Industry

SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA: I wish to draw the attention of the House to the significant impact of the United States' tariff policies on Indian exports. In 2025, the U.S. imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, followed by an additional 25 per cent punitive duty linked to India's purchase of Russian oil. As a result, several Indian exports faced an effective tariff

burden of 50–58 per cent, affecting nearly USD 50 billion worth of shipments and causing serious disruption, especially for MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors. I would like to acknowledge the determined efforts of Government. Their proactive engagement with the U.S. led to the announcement on 2nd February 2026 reducing the reciprocal tariff from 25 per cent to 18 per cent, providing significant relief and reflecting growing confidence in India's global trade leadership. However, a crucial area of uncertainty remains. The reduction is based on public statements and formal notification under U.S. law is still pending. Importantly, the additional 25 per cent punitive duty linked to Russian oil purchases has not been explicitly withdrawn, leaving exporters, including those in the shrimp industry, exposed to uncertainty. Indian shrimp exports to the U.S. fell by around 26 per cent in late 2025 due to high tariffs and while the reduction to 18 per cent helps, full revival depends on the complete removal of the punitive duty. I therefore urge the Government to continue and intensify dialogue with the U.S. Administration to ensure formal withdrawal of the punitive tariff and restore full competitiveness for Indian exporters.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Concern over Growing Drug Menace in the Country

SHRI JAGGESH: I rise to express my deep concern over the growing drug menace threatening India's youth. Across the country, drug abuse and trafficking are spreading rapidly, especially among students and young professionals, with synthetic drugs circulated through organized inter-State and international networks. Bangalore, as a major metropolitan city and technology hub, has seen a sharp rise in drug consumption and trafficking, affecting educational institutions, workplaces, entertainment hubs and residential areas. The impact of drug abuse extends beyond individuals—it destroys families, creates financial hardship, causes domestic conflicts, mental health issues and social instability. Yet conviction rates remain low and rehabilitation, counselling and awareness programs are insufficient. In some States, including Karnataka, sustained commitment to tackle this menace has been lacking. I therefore urge the Government to lead a strong national movement against drug abuse and trafficking, combining strict enforcement, early intervention, widespread awareness, and accessible rehabilitation, to protect our youth, support families and strengthen society as a whole.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Need for Enhancement of Ayushman Bharat Scheme, Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Multi-Specialty Healthcare Services in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha

***SHRIMATI MAMATA MOHANTA:** I sincerely appreciate the sustained efforts of the Government in strengthening the healthcare system of the country. Through schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, affordable and quality healthcare is reaching the poor, underprivileged and tribal communities. The recent Union Budget's focus on upgrading district hospitals, expanding trauma care, training allied health professionals and strengthening telemedicine services is a significant step towards achieving the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Mayurbhanj district of Odisha is a tribal-dominated and geographically remote area, where these schemes have already made a positive impact by providing accessible healthcare to the needy. However, people still have to travel to major cities for treatment of serious illnesses. I therefore humbly request the Government to develop Mayurbhanj District Hospital into a modern multi-specialty hospital in a phased manner. I also urge further strengthening of telemedicine, emergency and trauma care facilities and special focus on maternal and child health and nutrition programmes in tribal and remote regions. I am confident that the Government will take necessary steps to improve healthcare accessibility and effectiveness in tribal-dominated districts like Mayurbhanj, in line with the recent budget proposals.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

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*Spoke in Odia.

16. Need for Establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Ramanathapuram Constituency, Tamil Nadu

♦**SHRI R. DHARMAR:** I represent Ramanathapuram constituency in Tamil Nadu and wish to draw the attention of the House to a pressing educational issue in my region. There is currently no Kendriya Vidyalaya in Ramanathapuram or in its nearby areas. As a result, children of Central and State Government employees, as well as students seeking quality CBSE education, are facing serious difficulties. Thousands of students in my constituency are deprived of access to standard CBSE education due to this gap. I, therefore, earnestly urge the Union Government to consider establishing a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Ramanathapuram. Such an institution would greatly benefit the students and significantly contribute to the educational development of the area.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

17. Concern over the Deteriorating Condition of Three National Highways in Tripura Causing Accidents and Inconvenience

SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE: I rise to highlight the issues concerning the development of my state, Tripura, in the North-East. Since 2014, significant progress has been made in the North-East, including in Tripura. Earlier, the state had only one National Highway, but now eight highways are being constructed, of which six are complete and work is ongoing on the remaining two. However, I have observed serious issues on certain highways, particularly NH-8 (Mungiakami to Ambasa), NH-108B/208B (Khowai to Manik Bhandar) and NH-208A (Manik Bhandar to Kailashahar). Large potholes and construction defects are causing difficulties for farmers, students, citizens and especially ambulance services. I therefore request the Government to conduct a re-survey, increase the budget and ensure these roads are built to be technically sound and durable.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

18. Concern over the Discriminatory Exclusion of Rajya Sabha Members from Official Public Programmes in many States

SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY: I rise to bring a matter that concerns all of us in this House. Whenever dignitaries like the Prime Minister, President, Vice President, or Cabinet Ministers visit our constituencies, as MPs, we are expected to be invited and included on the podium. Recently, during the Vice President's visit to Cuttack for Netaji's Jayanti, I was not invited to the function despite being the Rajya Sabha MP for my nodal district, Cuttack. The Collector of Cuttack overlooked my position; my name was not even on the list. While local MLAs and the Lok Sabha MP were invited, this was a clear insult to the privileges of this House. I want to make it clear that this is not about me personally—this is about protecting the rights and dignity of all Members of this august House. I request that such lapses should not occur again and that the present Collector should be issued a privilege notice to safeguard the respect of this House and its Members.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

19. Need for Purification of Kshipra River and Strengthening of Narmada-Kshipra Link Project for Simhastha 2028 in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI BALYOGI UMESHNATH: I wish to draw the Government's attention to a highly sensitive and nationally significant issue. Ujjain, a centre of cultural and spiritual faith, is set to host the Kumbh Mela in 2028. During this event, millions of devotees and saints will come to take the *Shahi Snan* on the banks of the *Mokshadayi Maa Kshipra* River. Unfortunately, the river is being polluted by toxic and untreated water from Indore and Ujjain's industrial areas, which threatens its sanctity and identity. I therefore urge the Government to make the Narmada-Kshipra link a permanent solution, ensuring the Kshipra flows continuously, not only during festivals. The budget and capacity of this multi-purpose project must be increased, zero sewage dumping must be enforced and a special economic package should be provided for the cleaning of Kshipra. A high-level task force under the 'Kshipra Purification Mission' should be established to restore the river from its origin at Kakadi

♦Spoke in Tamil.

Bardali to Ujjain. The Simhastha Kumbh is a symbol of India's spiritual faith and preserving the purity and continuity of our rivers is essential for future generations.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

20. Concern over the Unregulated Access of Children to Social Media and Smartphones

SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA: I rise to draw attention to the urgent issue of unregulated social media exposure among children in India. Studies show that a large number of children, even as young as 2-5 years, are spending excessive time on smartphones and social media, leading to developmental delays, disrupted sleep, poor focus and social-emotional challenges. During the pandemic, digital classrooms were necessary, but ongoing unsupervised screen use is harmful. With over 85% of Indian households owning smartphones, children's exposure must be regulated. I strongly support discussions in this House on curbing excessive screen time and ensuring parental monitoring, content quality and possibly statutory advisories on smartphone use. Timely intervention is critical to protect children's development and to leverage India's demographic dividend in achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

21. Concern over the Rising Number of Suicides among Students in Higher Education Institutions

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: I rise to draw attention to the growing issue of student suicides in higher education institutions. In January, an IIT Kanpur student took his life and in the past two and a half years, over 40 students across IITs, IIMs and other institutions have died by suicide. The causes vary—gender discrimination, caste-based harassment, financial crises—but together they create situations where students feel they have no option but to end their lives. The government issued the "Framework Guidelines for Emotional and Mental Well-Being of Students in Higher Education Institutions" in 2023 and the Supreme Court in 2025 recommended forming a task force. However, both the guidelines and the task force have not been effectively implemented on the ground. I urge the government to take concrete and effective action to address this crisis, protect our youth and ensure their future is not jeopardized.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

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

SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI: I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the Hon'ble President. The manner in which the injustice faced by Shri Sadanandan Master came to light while the Motion was being moved and supported reflects intolerance towards differing viewpoints and political violence in our democracy, particularly in the context of Kerala. Despite this, his unwavering commitment to the motherland and to Bharat Mata remains truly inspiring. In the concluding paragraphs of her Address, the Hon'ble President has called upon the Government, Parliament, and the citizens to work together to build the future of India. She has recalled the contributions of great personalities, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, and reiterated the resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047. The guiding ideology is clearly reflected in this Address, which also mentions the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. I want to clarify that the references in the Hon'ble President's Address to the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda ji, the birth anniversary of Ravidas ji, the 300th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar ji, and the martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji reflect our ideology, which is based on respect for all sections of society, saints, tribal communities, and the great heroes of the nation. This is a clear testimony to our inclusive and nationalist outlook. I would also like to state that our ideology is not directed against any class or individual; rather, it is aimed at uniting the nation and taking it forward. Our commitment to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi is evident, and the resolve to

make India self-reliant and a developed nation by 2047 is an extension of the same vision.The nature of our ideology is further evident from the fact that, on different occasions, we have chosen ndividuals from diverse social backgrounds—A. P. J. Abdul Kalam ji, Ram Nath Kovind ji, and the Hon'ble Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji—as Presidents of the country. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that India's federal structure is that of an integrated union, which must be understood in its correct perspective. I wish to clarify that, under the Constitution of India, the Centre has powers related to the alteration of state boundaries and their structure. Therefore, India is not a federation formed by the coming together of states, but an integrated Union. The allegation of an attack on federalism is unfounded, as no changes have been made so far to the Union List, State List, or Concurrent List. If there was any reduction in the powers of the states, it occurred during the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976, when education was shifted from the State List to the Concurrent List, at a time when the DMK was aligned with the Congress. I would also like to state that the discussion should have focused on the fact that 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, 95 crore people have been brought under the ambit of social security, ₹6.75 lakh crore has been transferred directly to the people through Direct Benefit Transfer, and 4 crore permanent houses have been constructed. All these efforts have been undertaken to take India towards its highest glory by 2047.

SHRIMATI RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL: I wish to state that the President's Address should not merely be a list of the Government's achievements, but should also reflect the country's actual situation, its challenges, and the direction for the future. Unfortunately, this Address does not adequately reflect the ground realities and the suffering of the common people, and appears to be limited to the Government's self-praise. This House is not meant for formal applause alone; it is the voice of the country's 140 crore citizens. Moreover, the issue is not only about what has been said, but also about the important matters that have not been mentioned, and the suppression of the voice of the Leader of the Opposition in the House, which is also a matter of serious concern. I question the Government's claim that India is the world's fastest-growing economy, because the true condition of the country cannot be understood through GDP growth alone. My question is why the benefits of this growth have not reached the common people, when per capita income remains low, household savings are declining, and the number of indebted families is increasing. I also wish to state that a decline in exports has a direct impact on employment, production, and incomes. Crores of workers engaged in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, marine products, and auto components are the worst affected, and their voices do not reach this House. The President's Address mentions 'Viksit Bharat', but I want to make it clear that this dream is not new, and it is the duty of Parliament to examine how strong the foundation of these dreams really is. Today, global circumstances, particularly the tariff policies of the United States, are creating new challenges for India, leading to a sharp decline in our exports.Coming from a farming family, I am deeply concerned about the proposed trade agreements with the United States, which speak of opening the agricultural sector, allowing zero-tariff access to markets, and distancing ourselves from long-standing friends like Russia. On all these serious issues, the Government must give clear answers to this House and to the nation. I question the government's claim that the economy is strong and that domestic demand is its foundation, because the ground reality is that the common person is under increasing financial pressure. Rising prices of essential items like lentils, milk, vegetables, and grains have disrupted the budgets of middle-class and poor families. When expenses rise and income remains stagnant, how will consumption increase, and how will the benefits of growth reach the common people? The government must answer this. Democracy is not just about governance; it is also about accountability to the people. I also want to point out that the policies the government highlights, such as the Production-Linked Incentive scheme, mainly benefit large corporates at the ground level. Small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of employment, are still struggling with capital, market access, and policy uncertainty. While large foreign investment figures are presented, net investment shows instability. Investment comes from trust, not slogans, and frequent policy changes weaken that trust. The employment situation is even more concerning. Youth unemployment, especially in urban areas, has become a serious challenge. Permanent and regular jobs are decreasing, while educated unemployment is rising. Millions of applications for limited government posts and incidents like exam paper leaks are eroding the confidence of young people. The dream of a 'Developed India' will only be meaningful when young people are assured a secure and dignified future. Education and skill

development remain largely on paper. Government institutions face severe shortages of infrastructure and teachers, private education is increasingly out of reach for ordinary families, and even after skill training, youth are unable to find employment. Serious questions remain about women's safety—the utilization of the Nirbhaya Fund and the rising number of crimes against women demand accountability. While achievements are claimed in the name of social security, schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, which provided work to millions, are being weakened in their original form and rights. The principle of work on demand is being eroded, and I strongly oppose this.

I want to say that there is a significant gap between the picture presented in the President's address and the ground reality. According to Gandhi Ji, the poorest should be treated like God, yet the work under MGNREGA is often incomplete. Despite grand claims in the health sector, medical expenses continue to push people into debt and poverty. Private hospitals are refusing patients under government schemes due to delayed payments. The situation in agriculture and rural areas is also serious. Farmers' incomes remain unstable, and until the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is legally guaranteed, they will not get relief. Rising production costs, fertilizers, and diesel prices are burdening farmers, and forced migration from villages to cities continues. A grand picture of manufacturing and Make in India has been presented, but local value addition and employment remain limited. Large subsidies and incentives have mainly benefited a few big companies, while small and medium enterprises continue to struggle. I want to make it clear that this criticism is not directed at any individual, but at the mindset that equates propaganda and statistics with reality. In a democracy, the true measure is how policies impact the last person in society. The country needs strong policies, not just slogans—policies established by Nehru Ji, Mahatma Gandhi Ji, and their successors. Only with such policies can the nation truly progress.

[€]SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: India is the world's largest democracy, with republican traditions dating back to the Mahajanapadas. Yet today, there is a disturbing attempt to decide who may vote and who may not. Even Bharat Ratna Prof. Amartya Sen has faced wrongful exclusion from voter lists. Living citizens are being declared dead, leading to harassment and over 150 tragic deaths. When affected citizens approached the Election Commission in Delhi, they were met with police violence, exposing a grave assault on democratic rights. After the BJP's defeat in Bengal in 2021, the Union Government has withheld nearly ₹2 lakh crore of our rightful dues, including MGNREGA, disaster relief, education, and drinking water funds. There are also attempts to control people's food habits, from restricting non-vegetarian food on Vande Bharat trains to bans during public events. Labour protections are being dismantled through four labour codes. Minimum wages remain unrevised, PF dues of tea garden workers are unpaid, and jute industries are being undermined. In contrast, our State has implemented BMSSY for unorganised workers, enrolling over 1.86 crore people. This people-centric model shows that welfare, dignity, and democracy can go together.

I wish to draw attention to the alarming situation of the Press Council of India, a statutory quasi-judicial body meant to safeguard press freedom, which is without a Chairperson for the first time since Independence. Even after the end of the Fourteenth Council and the completion of the extended tenure of the last Chairperson, the Fifteenth Council has not been fully constituted. This reflects serious institutional neglect. Recalling Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's words on universities standing for humanism, tolerance, reason and the search for truth, I submit that these values are essential not just for universities but for the Republic itself. When institutions weaken, the nation suffers. Though our foreign policy claims to amplify the voice of the Global South, I question the moral consistency of our international stance. India has repeatedly abstained from voting on a Gaza ceasefire despite immense human suffering. At the same time, anti-India sentiments are growing in our neighbourhood, including Bangladesh and Maldives, alongside shifting geopolitical equations in Sri Lanka. I am concerned that foreign policy is being driven by optics rather than statesmanship. Economic and strategic decisions appear externally dictated, undermining India's credibility as a trusted partner, even in its own neighbourhood.

[€] Spoke in Bengali

Domestically, headline GDP growth is being used to mask unemployment, inequality and poor education outcomes. Data transparency has weakened, inconvenient numbers disappear, and trust in governance erodes. Media freedom is shrinking, polarisation is rising, and identity politics is replacing serious policy debate. Growth without trust and transparency cannot be sustained. I strongly condemn statements that encourage troubling any community. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, I reaffirm that India stands for harmony, assimilation and peace, not exclusion or hatred. As Nehru described, India is an ancient palimpsest where no layer of history can erase another. This pluralism is our true strength and must be protected.

SHRI GOLLA BABURAO: India emerging as the fourth largest economy in the world is a remarkable milestone. Nearly 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, five crore pucca houses have been built, tap water connections have reached crores of households, and massive amounts have been transferred directly to beneficiaries. These efforts inspire confidence that the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 can be achieved. Coming to my State of Andhra Pradesh, which was bifurcated in 2014 without adequate safeguards or guarantees, the State has suffered a major setback in development. I wish to draw the attention of this House to the Polavaram Project, which is not only a lifeline for Andhra Pradesh but also beneficial for neighbouring States. The allocation of ₹3,320 crore is grossly inadequate, and any proposal to reduce the height of the dam will lead to floods, submergence, and destruction of years of development. I strongly urge the Union Government to reconsider and enhance funding. Similarly, the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, built after the sacrifice of many lives, has been denied captive mines and adequate support, while private steel plants are being favoured, which is deeply unjust to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

I also wish to highlight the serious deterioration of law and order in Andhra Pradesh, where violence, arson, and destruction of houses are taking place under what is described as “Red Book Rajyangam”. Though law and order is a State subject, the gravity of the situation calls for the intervention of the Union Government to prevent further loss of life. Further, I draw attention to the issue of medical education. Seventeen medical colleges were initiated to serve the poor, with nearly ₹3,000 crore spent by Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy , yet these institutions are now being pushed into a PPP model and handed over to private interests. I request that Andhra Pradesh be treated with fairness, respect, and the importance it truly deserves.

[α]**DR. SASMIT PATRA:** While this address details various government facilities, I find myself compelled to ask: what does it truly offer to the state of Odisha?. It is deeply concerning that the term 'federalism' is entirely missing from the speech; had it been mentioned, the government would have had to address the Mahanadi water dispute with Chhattisgarh and the Polavaram project involving Andhra Pradesh. Despite the 'triple-engine' government, justice for Odisha remains elusive, and our 11-year-long demand for Special Category Status continues to be ignored. Furthermore, while the address highlights the welfare of tribal and Dalit communities, the ground reality in Odisha is a rise in atrocities against these marginalized groups. In the agricultural sector, the government boasts of record rice production, yet our farmers are suffering due to the lack of Minimum Support Price (MSP), poor mandi operations, and unfair deductions during procurement, leading to tragic farmer suicides. On infrastructure, the government speaks of 'Purvodaya' (the rise of the East), but Odisha is noticeably excluded from the new high-speed and industrial corridors . After ten years, the promised Coastal Highway remains unbuilt, and our people in hilly regions must still climb mountains just to find a mobile network signal.

While I welcome the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme for women's empowerment, it is overshadowed by grave concerns regarding women’s safety following incidents in Gopalpur and Balasore. Our tribal brothers and sisters are also being deprived of their rights as the PESA Act is not being properly implemented, and we still await the inclusion of languages like Mundari, Bhumij, and Sora in the Eighth Schedule. Economically, Odisha is being penalized as the coal royalty has not been revised in a decade,

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[α] Spoke in Odia.

resulting in a staggering loss of 20,000 crore rupees. Ultimately, while the President is the pride of Odisha, this address fails to reflect the needs and aspirations of the 4.5 crore people of Odisha

SHRI SANJAY YADAV: I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. Though social justice has been mentioned, it is unfortunate that even today millions of SCs, STs and OBCs remain systematically deprived of opportunities. Our traditions of Kabir, Ravidas and other saints speak of harmony, justice and equality, yet for crores of the deprived and marginalised, social justice remains only a dream. The rulers use the language of social justice not for uplifting the backward classes but to protect their own privileges. OBCs today exist mainly in speeches and posters, while they are absent from policy, appointments and decision-making. There is a wide gap between the Government's words and deeds. OBCs constitute nearly 60 per cent of the population, yet they do not receive their due share in institutions. They are missing from key positions in universities, commissions and public bodies. Even after 26 years of implementation of the Mandal Commission, many reserved posts remain vacant. Nearly nine lakh backlog vacancies of OBCs exist, and about seven per cent of reserved posts are still unfilled. A new filter of "Not Found Suitable" has been imposed, which effectively excludes OBCs. If every second citizen is OBC, how is it that suitable candidates are repeatedly declared unavailable? Judicial interventions in OBC matters have also increased, and cases remain pending for years.

I also point out that in BJP-ruled States, reports of demolitions, discriminatory actions and denial of notice against OBC communities are coming to light, violating their constitutional rights. Despite cosmetic measures, deep inequalities persist in education, health, services and employment. After 78 years of Independence, we must ask whether equal opportunities have truly been created for the deprived and oppressed. This struggle is not merely for OBC representation but for dignity, inclusion and a future where no section of society is left behind.

[©]**SHRI I.S. INBADURAI, making his maiden speech, said:** I stand in this historic House, where many giants have served, filled with deep emotion as I speak in my mother tongue, Tamil, to ensure my people's voice is heard clearly. I represent the salt-aired village of Navaladi and carry forward the legacy of Arignar Anna, MGR, Jayalalithaa, and my leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who paved the way for my presence here. I take immense pride in seeing a tribal woman as India's first citizen; to me, this is the true essence of 'Dravidam'—not a mere noun, but an action plan for the upliftment of the downtrodden. My party, the AIADMK, has long practiced this philosophy, from appointing Satyavani Muthu as the first Dalit woman minister to making Dhanapal the Speaker so that all leaders would respect a Dalit in the chair. Following the ideals of the Justice Party, we protected the 69% reservation by placing it in the Ninth Schedule and even successfully fielded Dalit candidates like Dalit Ezhilmalai in general constituencies.

I wish to commend Prime Minister Narendra Modi for promoting Tamil civilization at Adichanallur and for the India-Europe trade agreement which has opened new doors for the textile industries in Coimbatore and Tiruppur. Under his leadership, India has moved past Britain, France, and Japan to become the fourth-largest economy. While Tamil Nadu flourished during 31 years of AIADMK rule—achieving a 51.4% higher education enrollment and winning 140 local body awards—I must address current gaps. While we offer a hand for cooperation, we will raise our voice for our rights; therefore, I urge the Center to approve Metro rail for Madurai and Coimbatore, as current delays stem from poor project reports. Furthermore, I demand employment priority for locals in Kudankulam, the reclassification of the Sivakasi fireworks industry to the 'White' category to save 8 lakh jobs, and the restoration of the Rameshwaram rail link via Thisayanvilai, which has been dismantled since the British era. Finally, I express grave concern over the safety of women and journalists in Tamil Nadu, citing the harassment of a female police officer and attacks on the press, and I call for the Home Minister's intervention regarding the lack of a permanent DGP with reference to the Prakash Singh case.

[©]Spoke in Tamil.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: While the Government speaks of decolonisation, major announcements like the Indo–US trade deal are being made on social media instead of on the floor of Parliament, which violates established parliamentary conventions. The nation is anxious to know the details of this proposed agreement. I raise serious concerns about the three conditions reportedly stated by the US President: that India should stop buying oil from Russia, remove trade barriers with zero tariffs on key items, and import goods worth 500 billion dollars. This amount is enormous and will rise further with the falling value of the rupee. Statements from US officials suggest that American agricultural and dairy products may enter Indian markets, which would severely affect our farmers because of their low-cost mechanised production.

I express anguish that such vital policy matters are not clarified in Parliament. India, which once led the Non-Aligned Movement, is now silent on global issues like Palestine and Iran. On the Rupee's depreciation, I remind the House that when the rupee was at 60 per dollar, it was described as being in the ICU; today, at much weaker levels, the situation is far worse. Capital outflows, withdrawal of foreign investors and drying up of FDI show the grim reality, and I question whether this Budget offers any solution. I further point out the vast gap between the Government's words and deeds, citing the Prime Minister's Internship Programme, where only a small fraction of the allocated funds was spent. This exposes poor implementation. I also highlight discrimination against States like Kerala, which has achieved milestones such as free education up to graduation. Progressive legislations like the Right to Information and Right to Employment are being weakened. Finally, I refer to political violence and stress that intolerance and ideological conflicts have led to many deaths, which is deeply unfortunate for a democracy.

I wish to conclude by stating that Kerala remains the most peaceful State in the country, marked by communal harmony and mutual respect. I question the real meaning of slogans like *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas* when bulldozers, attacks on minorities, and vandalism of churches and schools are seen on the ground. Incidents across the country show a disturbing rise in intolerance, and I ask where this nation is heading. This country was built by the sacrifices of ordinary people, not by those who now seek to divide it through communal and caste-based slogans. From the Constituent Assembly to today, the true spirit of India was unity, not hatred. No matter how hard attempts are made, such divisive forces will not succeed in Kerala. I speak with conviction and stand by every word, because the people of Kerala will never accept misinformation, hatred, or those who try to fracture our social harmony.

SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA: I believe the President's Address has presented a clear and realistic picture of where India stands in an increasingly uncertain and disruptive world. We are living in an era marked by global conflicts, strained supply chains, rapid technological change, and shifting economic and strategic equations. In such times, only those nations that strengthen their economies, secure their interests, lead in technology, and empower their youth will move ahead. I am confident that the coming year will be especially challenging, but I give full credit to the Government for responding decisively and turning challenges into opportunities. Economic strength today is the true foundation of national power, and India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies reflects this reality. I also wish to clarify that criticism regarding the timing of international trade agreements ignores the fact of different global time zones. The truth is that India today is a preferred trade partner, with countries across continents seeking agreements with us. Through firm leadership and clear intent, India has secured a strong position in global trade, including among the lowest tariff regimes when compared to competing economies. I want to mention that India today stands on a strong economic footing, reflected not only in our competitive tariff regime but also in the confidence of our markets. Despite momentary fluctuations, the stock market's performance clearly shows faith in India's economic direction and the success of our international trade engagements. Economic strength, I believe, is the true foundation of national power. I also stress the critical importance of securing global supply chains, especially for minerals essential to future technologies. Our push for domestic mining and overseas partnerships is a decisive step towards real self-reliance. At the same time, economic growth cannot be separated from national security. With strong armed forces, expanding defence partnerships, and a balanced foreign policy rooted in both realism and confidence, India is well-prepared for a volatile world. Finally, I firmly believe that India's greatest strength lies

in its youth. As the youngest nation globally, with a rapidly expanding workforce, empowering our youth through economic growth, technology, and secure supply chains will ensure that India moves forward with confidence and resilience.

SHRI SAJJAD AHMAD KICHLOO: The President's Address should have mentioned the recent devastating floods in which hundreds of lives were lost. When slogans like "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" are raised here, I ask what fault the people of Jammu and Kashmir have committed. Our children, vendors, and traders who travel to different States of the country are repeatedly subjected to violence and assault. Recently, an 18-year-old boy was brutally beaten, and an elderly vendor was so severely attacked that he is now fighting for his life. I wish to state that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are continuously facing violence, humiliation, and insecurity, and I raise the question whether there is any safe and dignified place for them in this country. I ask the Government what has ultimately been achieved by the removal of Article 370 and by dividing Jammu and Kashmir into two parts—neither has peace been restored nor has public resentment diminished. The promises that were made about bringing back PoK have disappeared from the agenda today. I firmly believe that the decision of 5 August 2019 was not only wrong but also unconstitutional, and it should be withdrawn. The situation today is such that journalists, members of civil society, and religious leaders are being profiled, which is dangerous for democracy. It is my clear view that nothing will be achieved through such repression and division; history bears witness that no power can permanently suppress the voice of the people.

SHRI RAM CHANDER JANGRA: In the President's Address, it has been clearly stated that nothing is greater than the nation. He has referred to the colonial mindset, Macaulay's system of education, and those symbols that for a long time fostered a sense of inferiority. I particularly wish to emphasize that under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, our Government has made consistent and concrete efforts over the past 12 years to free the country from these colonial legacies. My entire intervention is focused on how these efforts have worked towards restoring national self-respect, and I am presenting my views briefly and clearly in this context. I wish to state that, time and again in our country's history, international image has been placed above national interest, and the nation has paid a heavy price for it. From the very time of Independence, decisions were taken that made issues relating to borders, Kashmir, and the Indus Waters Treaty permanent and unresolved. Because of the Indus Waters Treaty, India could not fully utilise its own resources, and several hydropower projects remain stalled even today. I firmly believe that the Prime Minister, displayed courage and acted in the national interest when he declared that "blood and water cannot flow together." As a student of history, I also wish to say that after Independence, the country's own language should have been implemented immediately, but instead, a mindset of mental slavery to English was allowed to continue. Both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Lohia were of the view that when the British left, the English language should also have gone with them. The Hon'ble President has rightly pointed out this historical mistake in her Address. In my clear opinion, the nation can move forward only by placing national interest, self-respect, and self-esteem above all else. I wish to state that there is no harm in learning any language, but linguistic servitude is a matter of shame for the nation. There was never any mutual animosity among the people of India; our society has always shown equal love and respect for artists, musicians, and culture. Unfortunately, vote-bank politics and appeasement have created divisions in society and promoted a mindset that places power above the nation. I also believe that the country has endured many hardships, but today India is on the path of progress and towards becoming a global leader. The resolve reiterated by the Hon'ble President to make India a developed nation by 2047 is truly inspiring. In my view, the foundation of development lies in construction, skills, and employment. Empowering our youth through technical education and skill development is India's greatest strength. Today, India stands as a united nation imbued with a strong sense of nationalism, and it is our collective responsibility to work together for unity, integrity, and development, despite differences of opinion.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the President's address. The promise of "Reform, Perform, Transform" made in 2025 has been reduced to mere "Reform"—and even that has plunged farmers into crisis, deprived labourers of their rights under MNREGA, left the youth unemployed, and burdened the middle class with inflation. The result of the Government's so-called reforms is that only the environment, pollution, and natural disasters are performing. Continuous deforestation has led to landslides, floods, and cloudbursts in the mountains, and the Supreme Court has had to intervene in cases like the Aravalli range. All of this is a warning sign of the Government's policy failures, yet the Government, like an ostrich, is burying its head in the sand, remaining complacent and relying on selective, outdated data. I want to draw particular attention to the plight of young people and female students. The country's largest youth population is today disillusioned by rising education costs, shrinking opportunities, paper leaks, exam postponements, and delays in recruitment. The fact that enrollment in school education is only 58.4 percent up to classes 11 and 12, and approximately 30 percent in higher education, raises serious questions about the claim of a "developed India." Sadly, the President's address made no mention of the inequalities associated with the UGC Regulations, 2023, or the need to ensure justice in higher education. I regret that the President's address lacked any concrete vision on the extremely serious issue of employment. The Government is consistently ignoring the realities of job shortages, underemployment, gig and platform workers, outsourced employees, and precarious informal labor. The definition of employment is being manipulated to present mere subsistence activities as success. Under the guise of new labour laws, worker protections have been weakened, hiring and firing made easier, the power of collective bargaining diminished, and gig workers deprived of social security. There is a profound imbalance between skilling and employment—only 15 percent of young people are employed, and only 5 percent have access to skill training, which exposes the hollowness of the government's claims. The President's address made no mention of the man-made disasters resulting from uncontrolled construction, mining, and the violation of carrying capacity in the Himalayan, Terai, and Aravalli regions. Landslides and flash floods have increased by nearly 30 percent in the last 11 years. Similarly, the Government remains silent on the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR and the serious health crisis it has created. We talk about ambitious targets for solar and clean energy, but there is no clear plan for investment, grid improvements, domestic manufacturing, and workforce preparation. Subsidies are being reduced, and tariffs are increasing, affecting farmers, MSMEs, and poor families. Finally, I must say that while the President mentioned the fearless ideals of Guru Tegh Bahadur, but the Government is suppressing the opposition's voice. The President's address made no mention of proposals such as renaming a major railway station in Delhi after Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, honoring him as the *"Hind ki Chadar."* Adolescents and young people aged 12 to 18 are falling prey to serious drug addiction, especially in dry states like Bihar, but no concrete plan was outlined to address this social crisis. Similarly, Indian sports are plagued by corruption, mismanagement, and a lack of transparency. I also express my concern about the plight of senior citizens. Rising healthcare costs, inadequate pensions, and inflation have jeopardized the dignity of the elderly. Imposing GST on essential health equipment like air purifiers, water purifiers, and heaters reflects a lack of sensitivity. The true protection of tribal communities will come from ensuring their rights over their forests and land. Furthermore, farmers have serious concerns regarding the proposed agreements with the United States. It is imperative to take Parliament and the opposition into confidence before finalizing any such deal. Finally, the problems in education, employment, environment, energy, and social justice are not due to a lack of resources, but rather a lack of political will and honest acknowledgment of the issues.

SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY: While offering my views on the Hon'ble President's address, I would like to state that it clearly reflects India's confident entry into the second phase of the 21st century, characterized by technology-driven development, infrastructure expansion, and inclusive progress. States like Andhra Pradesh, which are both technology hubs and have agrarian coastal economies, are natural partners in this national vision. India's progress in the digital economy is remarkable, but the 2013 National Cyber Security Policy does not adequately address the needs of today's AI, cloud, and digital public infrastructure. Furthermore, there is a critical shortage of skilled human resources in areas such as cybersecurity, AI, semiconductors, and advanced electronics. In this context, emphasis on skill development and foundational education is essential. In the agricultural

sector, there is an urgent need for a long-term land-based agricultural policy. Increased production must be balanced with cost-benefit analysis and consideration of consumption, storage, and alternative uses. Concrete initiatives are also needed for women-led development, especially in the context of the rapidly growing population of elderly in South India. Finally, if the 'Reforms Express' is to move forward in the right direction, judicial reforms must also be made an integral part of it. Despite recent changes to penal laws, there has been no significant improvement in their actual implementation and impact. If India is to move towards becoming a 'developed India', comprehensive judicial reforms are essential to instill confidence in legal certainty for investment and business transactions in the country. A practical solution could be to mandate the imposition of costs and penalties commensurate with the actual expenses incurred in frivolous or deliberately delayed lawsuits. This would discourage unnecessary litigation and strengthen economic stability. Furthermore, the issue of law and order is directly linked to economic progress. The Government has a responsibility to intervene promptly if law and order deteriorates in any state due to political reasons, thereby affecting economic activities. As a representative from Andhra Pradesh, I urge the Government to seriously address the current law and order situation in the state and ensure swift improvements so that Andhra Pradesh can continue on its path of development.

SHRIMATI SULATA DEO: Hon'ble President is a daughter of Odisha and our pride. Today, as she is present in my own district, I extend my heartfelt welcome to her and express my gratitude for her address. Nothing is greater than the nation, but today, the incidents of violence, mob lynching, and hatred spreading in Odisha in the name of caste and religion are a matter of deep concern. Muslims, Christians, and Hindus—no one feels safe. This is not the Odisha we envisioned. Today, we are finding examples of humanity in animals. We need to learn compassion from them. I request Hon'ble President, to also show sensitivity towards the cruelty being inflicted on stray animals, because the identity of a nation is defined by humanity and compassion. This Earth belongs not to just one person, but to all—even to the voiceless creatures who are the most loyal. It is unfortunate that we are unable to make this earth habitable for everyone. What kind of ‘developed India’ do we hope to build by spending only 2 percent on health and 2 percent on education? There is nothing in this development for Odisha. Odisha contributes the most to the country's rail freight, yet many districts still lack railway lines. The Khurda-Balangir rail project has been incomplete for years, and even a state-funded project like the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Metro has been cancelled. Non-violence, which our leader Naveen Patnaik had urged to be included in the Preamble of the Constitution, is nowhere to be seen in practice today. Odisha, which was once a symbol of peace and coexistence, is now grappling with fear and insecurity.

SHRI GURWINDER SINGH OBEROI: The Hon'ble President's address reflects a deep contradiction with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. On the one hand, there is talk of democracy, while on the other hand, it has been systematically suspended in a part of the country. Jammu and Kashmir is currently the only region in the country that has been downgraded from a state to a union territory, and its political autonomy has been stripped away. Jammu and Kashmir remains an example of centralization and democratic regression. Democratic strength cannot be claimed by dismantling representative institutions. Development has been mentioned repeatedly, but in my clear opinion, development without consent is not progress.

Roads cannot replace rights; investments and economic packages cannot compensate for the denial of dignity. If the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is truly normal, why is Statehood still withheld? If trust has been restored, why is power still centralized in Delhi? A generation is being asked to survive on promises, while its future remains hostage to political indecision. The President's Address speaks of peace, but peace without political dialogue is merely enforced silence. The continued denial of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is a constitutional and moral failure. It erodes federalism, deepens alienation, and undermines national unity. They talk of Viksit Bharat; they talk of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Viksit Bharat. But please tell them to give us Surakshit Bharat, where every Kashmiri can travel across India without any fear at all.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: The main issue before India is joblessness. MGNREGA was one of the big schemes of the UPA Government to provide more jobs to the rural people. But MGNREGA has gone now and that money, whatever money was being given by the Government, is no more there for the States. I admire the Government of India for 'Skill India' initiative. But, money which is given for skill development is not according to the expectations. Our hon. Prime Minister speaks of Viksit Bharat by 2047. But it is possible only by giving more skill and jobs. Modi's guarantee was there for new projects in Kerala. Nothing came. We are not asking just like our CPM colleague who was asking for AIIMS -- for at least, CGHS hospital somewhere near this, so that MPs and Government officials can avail that facility.

DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY: Operation Sindoor was a powerful demonstration of India's firm resolve, courage, and national will against terrorism.I was part of the India Global Outreach delegations. The hon. President has stressed the nation's journey towards Viksit Bharat with a noble goal of GDP growing above seven per cent. But, GDP is not only Gross Domestic Product, it is for the millions of common citizens, rickshaw pullers in Kolkata, a weaver in Varanasi, a techie in Bangalore and a farmer in Vidharbha. GDP has different meaning. 'G' stands for good governance 'D' stands for an all-round economic development P' stands for prosperity, not for select few billionaires but for every single citizen. Progress of our nation cannot be measured by how high our Sensex soars, but by how secure our farmers feel on their soil. The Address speaks of inclusive growth and rising purchasing power, but you are very well aware that there are published reports that show that the top one per cent hold 40 per cent of India's wealth while the middle class faces rising inflation. Yesterday I was reading a hilarious moment 'Poor gets subsidy, rich gets rebate, but the middle class is watching only TV and debate.' The Address mentions National Education Policy reforms, innovation. At the same time, reports indicate that less than 50 percent of graduates in the country are employable. Today, there are over 100,000 government schools in the country where only a single teacher is available. Meanwhile, the fees of private schools are extremely expensive. India's 2.7 per cent allocation to 'Education' falls well short of South Africa allocating 6 per cent, Brazil 5.6 per cent and 4 per cent spent by both China and Russia. how will we build a healthy India with shrinking budget on Health? We are building AIIMS hospitals but where are the doctors! The Address presents India as a global power and our growing influence. our 'Neighbourhood First Policy' needs to be revisited with proactive engagements in our neighbourhood. India's historical Non-aligned Movement and Panchsheel should be fundamental to our external policy while we should forge new alliances in the name of South-South Cooperation. Our rivers are foaming, our air is toxic and our mountains are crumbling under unregulated construction. This is an environmental emergency, and it is sad that this House could not have a few hours to discuss it. We celebrate being the fourth largest economy, yet so many people still need to be given free rations. Why not have a commission for youth and for our farmers? There should be a statutory body, a constitutional body, whose focus is to assess what ground-level impact government policies related to youth and farmers are actually having on youth and farmers.

[£]SHRIMATI RAMILABEN BECHARBHAI BARA: I stand today in this august House to express my heartfelt gratitude for the President's visionary and balanced address, which serves as a definitive roadmap for the future rather than just a report of achievements. As a woman, I feel immense pride in this address, which presents "Viksit Bharat 2047" not merely as a slogan, but as a national message and a call to responsibility for our youth. I believe our government is dedicated to the poor and marginalized, following the principle that "those who were ignored by everyone are worshipped by Modi ji". In my view, the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" has brought tangible positivity; for instance, ₹6.75 lakh crore has been sent directly to the poor via DBT. I highlight the transformative impact of providing LPG connections to 13 crore women, which has protected their health, and the allocation of houses to 4 crore poor citizens. Furthermore, I emphasize our commitment to the tribal community through the PM JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjati Vikas

[£] Spoke in Gujarati.

schemes, which aim to bring the most backward tribes into the mainstream. Our governance follows the mantra of "Reform, Perform, and Transform," exemplified by the PRAGATI system, which accelerated stalled projects worth ₹85 lakh crore. I am particularly proud of our infrastructure milestones, such as the world's highest railway arc bridge over the Chenab River and the Bamban vertical bridge in Tamil Nadu. We have successfully integrated the Northeast (Seven Sisters) with the rest of India through enhanced rail and road connectivity, ending their long-standing isolation. Ultimately, I call upon all members to rise above personal interests and politics to build a self-reliant, empowered, and prosperous India.

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