

**LOK SABHA**  
**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES**  
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

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**Thursday, August 1, 2024 / Sravana 10, 1946 (Saka)**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**HON. SPEAKER:** On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and my own behalf, I am immensely pleased to welcome the Members of the Parliamentary Delegation from Japan led by His Excellency Mr. Nukaga Fukushima, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan who are on an official visit to India as our honoured guests. They are at present seated in the Special Box of the House. The Members of the Parliamentary Delegation from Japan arrived in Delhi from Bengaluru on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. They will depart for Japan on August 2, 2024. Their visit will further strengthen Parliamentary relations between India and Japan. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in India. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of the Parliament of Japan, the Government of Japan as well as the friendly people of that country.

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**THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)** moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to further amend the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

**SHRI MANISH TEWARI** *opposing the motion for introduction of the Bill* said: No entry enumerated in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India pertains to the disaster management. The second reason why I am opposing this Bill is that this legislation, like much legislation piloted by this Government, suffers from the infirmity of excessive delegation. That is the rule-making power,

which is vested with the Central Government, thereby encroaches upon the domain of the State Governments squarely. As per the Section 41(A) inserted under Clause 23 in this Bill, every State Government will have the powers to allow its municipal corporations to make disaster management plans except the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Chandigarh. This is a direct assault on federalism and goes against the basic tenets of federalism.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY** *opposing the motion for introduction of the Bill said:* Under Rule 72(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I oppose the introduction of the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024. My point is, this Bill tells us in the context of the tragedy in Wayanad in Kerala that there seems to be a multiplicity of authority. It is going to create an Urban Disaster Management Authority. It is also creating a State Disaster Response Force by the State Government. The whole problem is that the multiplicity of authorities will give rise to confusion and bureaucratic muddles at the time of natural disaster.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)** *replying said:* The original Disaster Management Act has been enacted under Entry 23 of List III of the 7th Schedule in the Concurrent List of 2005 and has stood the test of constitutionality for more than 19 years. I would like to categorically state that there is no interference anywhere. The primary responsibility of disaster management lies with the State. The purpose of tabling this Bill is to ensure that disaster management is undertaken properly. It has been decided to introduce the Disaster Management Amendment Bill, 2024 in the House to address the concerns raised during consultation with all the stakeholders. When the discussion takes place during the process of considering and passing of this Bill, every question will be answered as to why this Bill has been brought in. If there is any doubt, that will be addressed. If there is any reasonable suggestion, that will also be considered.

*The Bill was introduced.*

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## STATUTORY RESOLUTION

*Re: Amendment of the first schedule of the Customs Tariff Act.*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)** moved that in pursuance of Section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, this House hereby approves of notification No. 15/2024-Customs, dated 12th March, 2024 [G.S.R. 182(E), dated 12th March, 2024], which seeks to amend the First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, in order to increase the import duty on X-ray Tubes, falling under tariff items 9022 30 00, and Flat Panel Detectors (including Scintillators), falling under tariff item 9022 90 90, respectively.

*The resolution was adopted.*

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### **\*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI** laid a statement regarding setting up of a Central University in Kandhamal Parliamentary Constituency.
- (2) **SHRIMATI MANJU SHARMA** laid a statement regarding grant of Central University status to Rajasthan University.
- (3) **SHRI MANOJ TIWARI** laid a statement regarding desilting of Yamuna River.
- (4) **SHRI DULU MAHATO** laid a statement regarding setting up of an AIIMS like institution in Dhanbad.
- (5) **SHRIMATI DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI** laid a statement regarding stoppage of trains at Kovvur Railway Station.
- (6) **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY** laid a statement regarding setting up of a

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\*Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair

Mega Food Park in Kushinagar.

- (7) **DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND** laid a statement regarding need to bring the existing Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi under an Act of Parliament.
- (8) **SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL** laid a statement regarding shifting of FCI Depot from Mehsana city to the outskirts.
- (9) **SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL** laid a statement regarding increase in honorarium and provisioning of Annual Leave for Anganwadi Workers.
- (10) **DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY** laid a statement regarding need to connect Deoghar with Amritsar – Delhi – Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
- (11) **DR. RAJEEV BHARADWAJ** laid a statement regarding road connectivity for villages of Chamba and Kangra Districts under PMGSY.
- (12) **SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA** laid a statement regarding provision of Reservation and Caste Census for BC-A Category on the lines of SC/ST.
- (13) **SHRI ANTO ANTONY** laid a statement regarding need to establish a Minimum Support Price for natural rubber.
- (14) **SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN** laid a statement regarding establishment of a National Institute of Virology in Kerala.
- (15) **SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH** laid a statement regarding ban on sale of Ducks.
- (16) **SHRI RAM PRASAD CHAUDHARY** laid a statement regarding need to construct bridge in Basti Parliamentary Constituency.
- (17) **SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI** laid a statement regarding opening of a Passport Office at Tripattur in Tamil Nadu.
- (18) **DR. T. SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN** laid a statement regarding need to augment health services at ESIC Medical

College and PGIMSR, K.K. Nagar, Chennai.

- (19) **SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND** laid a statement regarding need to accord permission for speedy construction of bridge in Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency.
- (20) **SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE** laid a statement regarding resolving anomalies in EPS-95 Scheme.
- (21) **SHRI S. VENKATESAN** laid a statement regarding NEET-UG, UGC – NET and NEET-PG examinations.
- (22) **DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN** laid a statement regarding need to include Bagpat district in Khelo India Programme and accord permission for construction of a stadium.
- (23) **SHRI JOYANTA BASUMATARY** laid a statement regarding need to solve the problem of land erosion by sending a specialized team to Kokrajhar Parliamentary Constituency.

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**THE UNION BUDGET 2024-2025**  
**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS – *Contd.***

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**  
*replying said:* This time a record allocation has been made in the Budget. Railways is the lifeline of India. This is such a system on which the economy of India depends upon and it is a service to every common man of the country. Whatever points have come up have been classified into three types of categories. The first category pertains to the general category. The second category deals with important issues of each MP's constituency like the stoppage of trains at many places, and the construction of R.O.B./RUB at many places about which Members of Parliament have made their points. The third category is how the Railways is making headway in a new direction acting along the line envisioned by the Prime Minister. Today even a poor person is able to travel a long distance by railways at an affordable fare. It is a middle-class ride and an ordinary citizen's ride. With this

spirit, many such steps have been taken in the last ten years, so that the facility of railways may be accessible to every common man. If we look at the ratio of general coaches and AC coaches in the railways, two-thirds of it happens to be the general coach i.e. non-AC coaches, which consist of sleeper and general class coaches and one-third are the AC coaches and this composition is maintained. Keeping in mind the increasing demand for general coaches, the production of about 2,500 extra general coaches in the next few months has been taken up. As per the standard composition, of at least four general coaches in each mail express, implemented. For the coming time, the special production of ten thousand special general coaches has been taken up, to address the problem of general coaches everywhere. A train equipped with world-class facilities has been envisaged. 'Amrit India' trains have been inaugurated. The first train ran from Malda to Bengaluru and the second train from Darbhanga to Delhi. Of the 22 coaches in these trains, half are sleepers and half are general category coaches. These trains are so popular that after about five-six months of testing, it has been decided to bring 50 more 'Amrit trains'. The journey of a thousand kilometres on this train costs four and a half hundred rupees. It is equipped with a new technology called semi-permanent couplers, which solves the problem of shaking in the train. There are many other features, good toilets, good charging points and the design of the berth has been changed. Based on the experience of operating 'Amrit India' trains, 13 new improvements were made in the train which will be included in the next 50 'Amrut India' trains. The entire focus of the present Government is on the poorest section and the middle class and that is why all the development of trains is also being done on the same basis. I want to say with great pleasure that many MPs from the opposition have made demanded for the 'Vande Bharat' train. The old practice of transferring technology from abroad has been rejected. The ability and intelligence of Indian welders and Indian electricians have been adopted. This 'Vande Bharat' train is a glimpse of the same confidence in the capabilities of India and faith in the abilities of the youth of India. Today, Vande Bharat train is available in every state from Kerala to Assam and from Jammu to Tamil Nadu. 'Vande Metro' has been designed for short distance travel i.e cities located between the distance of 150-200 km. Amrit India will be a service like Vande India train which will prove to be a new boon for passengers in India. Modern facilities including all the features equipped with safety features have been kept in the Vande Metro train. Vande sleeper has also

been designed for travel of more than one thousand kilometres. Both these trains, Vande Metro and Vande Sleeper are getting ready. The combination of these four trains such as Vande India, Amrit India, Vande Metro, and Vande Sleeper, will give a new look to the journey of the train in the coming years. A total of 700 crore passengers performed their journey here last year for whom this innovation is a big boon. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has encouraged the introduction and creation of new technology and continuous improvement therein in India. The second biggest issue is passenger safety. We should take care of it with utmost sensitivity. There should be no politics in this. One of the biggest problems in Indian Railways was unmanned railway crossings. In 2019, there were around 9000 unmanned level crossings in the country, which are no longer in existence. ROBs have been built at many places and gates have been installed at many places. Underpasses have been built in many places. After the completion of this work, the root cause of the problem has been eliminated. The second most important issue is that of technology. From 2004 to 2014, 837 stations were covered with electronic interlocking, and 2,964 stations have been covered for the period from 2014 to 2024. Also, such innovation was introduced so that all the electronic interlocking systems of different manufacturers may become interoperable with each other. This innovation was introduced last year. The work of covering about 8,000 stations in the country is currently going on in mission mode. This will bring down the number of accidents on railways and improve the overall safety of railways. The third biggest achievement was to introduce a new system for overhauling locomotives in the country. The initiatives for modernization have been taken several times by evolving the ATP, Automatic Train Protection System through the application of technology in order to improve the safety mechanism of the train. The first trials of Kavach took place in the year 2016. The certification process of Kavach was completed in the year 2019. Its extensive trials were conducted after certification despite the Covid situation in the year 2020-21. On July 17, 2024, version 4.0 of Kavach was approved by the Safety and Research Organization, RBSO. More than eight thousand engineers and technicians have been imparted training. Six universities have included *Kavach* in their curriculum. Now the situation is that tenders for about nine thousand kilometers of tracks are in process on a large scale and work on about ten thousand locomotives will commence in the coming few months. Applying even slight pressure would result in fractures of the track. It should be our

collective endeavour to use whatever technology is required, to make any kind of arrangement and to make whatever investment is required to repair the railway fractures. LHB coaches should be manufactured in large numbers. During the ten years of the present Government, 37000 LHB coaches have been built in its first and second tenures. We have to replace all the old ICF coaches. Our own country's engineers and technical experts have designed a completely new platform and design of a new coach keeping today's technology in view. This is going to set one more example of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. It does not matter whether someone is from the treasury bench or from the opposition, we should all together make concrete efforts on each and every issue of security. We are committed and determined to make that effort. I would like to inform you that the morale of Railway employees, who work around the clock, should be elevated. The Railways possess the capability to tackle any national challenge, and our engineers and technical experts have the expertise to resolve even the most significant issues. During the UPA's tenure of 10 years from 2004 to 2014, only 411,000 recruitments were made within the Railways. In contrast, the NDA's tenure from 2014 to 2024 saw 502,000 recruitments. Regarding the recruitment process, the first exam had 12.6 million candidates, conducted over 68 days, in 133 shifts, across 211 cities and 726 centres, with no complaints. The second exam had 11 million candidates, conducted in 15 languages over 33 days, in 99 shifts, across 191 cities and 551 centres, also with no complaints. Following these exams, 130,000 appointments have been made. The annual Railway recruitment calendar was announced in January 2024, with vacancies now being advertised four times a year—in January, April, July, and October. As of now, according to this Annual Calendar, 40,565 vacancies have been advertised. In the fiscal year 2022-23, Rs 87,336 crore was spent on safety-related items, while Rs 98,414 crore was spent in 2023-24. The 2024-25 Budget allocates Rs 1,08,795 crore for safety-related expenditures. Maintenance is a critical aspect of railway operations. To enhance maintenance, the Railways have introduced a new system of rolling blocks. Loco pilots are integral to the Railway workforce, and their working conditions are governed by regulations established in 2005, which were updated in 2016 to improve their facilities. Air-conditioning has been installed in all 558 running rooms, and over 7,000 locomotive cabs have been air-conditioned and ergonomically designed. Prior to 2014, none of the running rooms or loco cabs were air-conditioned. Kerala received an average of Rs 372 crore during the UPA

regime, whereas the current Prime Minister is allocating Rs 3,011 crore to the state. Tamil Nadu's funding has risen from Rs 879 crore to Rs 6,362 crore. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Kerala and Tamil Nadu to cooperate fully with land acquisition efforts. For the Attipattu-Puttur new line, 189 hectares of land are needed but none have been acquired yet. For the Madurai-Tuticorin-Arrippukottai line, 871 hectares are required with only 75 hectares acquired. The Morappur-Dharmapuri line needs 91 hectares, and none have been acquired so far. Tamil Nadu requires 2,749 hectares for project completion, but only 807 hectares have been acquired. States need to actively facilitate land acquisition to ensure the timely completion of Railway projects. In the past 50 years, 20,000 kilometers of railway tracks have been electrified. In the last 10 years alone, 44,000 kilometres have been electrified. This has led to an additional 600 million tonnes of cargo being transported, saving 640 crore litres of diesel and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 400 crore kg, equivalent to planting 16 crore trees. We are committed to addressing all constructive suggestions provided.

*All the cut Motions were negatived.*

*All the Demands for Grants were voted in full.*

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## **THE UNION BUDGET 2024-2025**

### **DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

#### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**SHRI TEJASVI SURYA** *initiating said:* The primary focus of this budget is on the youth of our country. On behalf of the nation's young people, I extend my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister for presenting a vision and blueprint aimed at creating direct and indirect employment opportunities for four crore youth through the implementation of the Skilling and Entrepreneurship Scheme. Over the last ten years, there has been a significant improvement in the infrastructure and the quality of the country's education system. I would like to draw attention towards the difference in the quantum of funding that the education department has received. In 2013-14, the Budget of the

higher education department was only Rs. 26,750 crores for the country. Today, ten years later, the Education Ministry's budget has increased by 78 per cent under the Government, and it is Rs. 47,619 crores. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented five schemes under the Prime Minister's Employment and Skilling Yojana, which is going to touch lives and transform the lives of more than four crore young people in the next five years. The country has seen massive growth in its education infrastructure. Pre-2014, India had 723 universities. Today, India has 1,113 universities as 390 new universities were built in the last ten years. In the last ten years, 7,262 new colleges were built. Pre-2014, we had 36,000 colleges in the country while today, we have 43,000 colleges in India. Before 2014, we had 49,000 higher education institutions in the country and today, we have 56,000 higher education institutions in the country. There has been an increase of 14 per cent. Now, I come to the density of colleges. The number of colleges to a lakh population has increased by 20 per cent in the last ten years. During the last ten years, the enrollment of SC, ST and OBC students has increased up to 44%, 65% and 45% respectively. Similarly, the enrollment of SC, ST and OBC girl students has got increased up to 51%, 82% and 49% during the said period. On the other hand, the Congress Party has been the most anti-OBC and the most anti-SC/ST party. The Congress Party's Government turned a blind eye towards implementing the Mandal Commission recommendations. I would flatly blame all the previous Governments in 70 years, which did not review the education system properly and make it more creative, and innovative, making it more problem-solving-centric. This desired change has been brought in the National Education Policy 2020. The new National Education Policy has now introduced flexibility in our higher education where the student is free to choose the subject that he wants to study. The Government has adopted an India-centric education model focussing on a mother tongue-based education system. For the first time, the education policy has made it mandatory for primary education to be in the mother tongue of the country, thereby strengthening the regional languages of the country. The first National Education Policy mandated a three-language policy. From the first National Education Policy to the National Education Policy, of 2020, other than this Government's education policy, every education policy that introduced the three-language formula said that you must compulsorily learn Hindi and another Indian language. The National Education Policy 2020, for the first time, has introduced an education policy that provides the choice for students to learn any

two Indian languages and not necessarily just Hindi.

**DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:** Education is a fundamental issue in any country or society. Over the past decade, the Modi Government has progressively undermined this crucial foundation. Despite promises to extend free and compulsory education for both boys and girls up to the age of 18 or until the 12th grade, this commitment remains unfulfilled. Under the UPA, the education budget was 3.36% of GDP, whereas it has now decreased to 2.9%. The combined total of students, teaching, and non-teaching staff represents about one-third of the country's population, yet they have been allocated only Rs 1.48 lakh crore. While the Modi Government speaks of new institutions, there is a notable lack of focus on existing ones. Bihar alone has 125,000 vacant teaching positions. Additionally, Central Universities, IITs, IIMs, Kendriya Vidyalayas, and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have 6,180, 425, 484, 12,000, and 3,271 vacancies, respectively. This Government seems to target minorities, OBCs, SCs, and STs in various aspects of governance. Currently, around 2 crore children are deprived of education, and frequent incidents of paper leaks and student suicides indicate a failing system. Higher education has been particularly affected. In 2022, approximately 1.325 million Indian students were studying abroad, with education costs amounting to about 60 to 70 billion dollars. Had this money been invested domestically, our children might have been able to pursue their education within India. I would urge upon the Government to reinstate and fully fund schemes and scholarships for minorities and to address the pressing issues in our education system.

**DR. SHIV PAL SINGH PATEL:** In the olden times, education would be a privilege reserved for a select few only, with the majority of Indian society, including women, being deprived of educational opportunities. An example of this inequality is the story of Eklavya, who, despite his dedication and respect for a sage who he looked upon and revered as his Guru, had ultimately been asked to sacrifice his thumb as Guru Dakshina. Such instances of discrimination were prevalent and remain a stark reminder of past injustices. Today, there are still certain forces that make attempts to undermine the social fabric of our nation. However, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar championed the right to education for all, including SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, and women, without discrimination. This progressive vision is enshrined in our Constitution, which has helped foster a broader

perspective beyond caste divisions. Despite India being the most populous country in the world, it is regrettable that no Indian university ranks among the top 100 universities globally. This is indicative of the fact that our education system calls for substantial overhaul. For positions like Professor and Vice-Chancellor, it is essential that candidates from OBC, SC, ST, and minority communities are provided with adequate representation in accordance with the reservation policy. In high school and at the intermediate levels, there are concerns that teachers with biased attitudes may unfairly award lower marks to students belonging to the OBC, SC, and ST categories during practical examinations of the Board.. This discrimination against Dalits and marginalized communities must be addressed and rectified. In addition, our education system places a burden on the teachers by entrusting them with non-teaching responsibilities like election duties, vote counting, pulse polio campaigns, census, and mid-day meal programs, which disrupt their primary teaching duties. To ensure that teachers can concentrate on their core responsibilities, I would request that they be relieved of these additional tasks. Teachers are the backbone of our education system. I recommend reinstating them under the Old Pension Scheme and providing Shiksha Mitras with a suitable honorarium and regular teacher status. These apart, the reservation quota for Dalits and backward classes should be fully utilized to fill up the vacant posts, and scholarships should be maximized for the students belonging to these communities.

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** I voice my deep concern about the current state of the education system in India. The Government policies have failed to uplift the educational standards of our nation. Our nation has consistently underfunded the education sector while countries like China, Japan and South Korea invested heavily in education decades ago. Public expenditure on education has touched new lows dropping to 2.7 per cent under this Government. The inadequacies in our education system are glaring. India has around 50,000 colleges and 1100 universities, half of which are private. While enrolment has increased, the quality and uniformity of education have not kept pace. The Budget neglects research and development. Our institutions struggle in the global arena. The Budget also fails to prioritize skill development programs crucial for aligning educational outcomes with market needs. I would like to highlight the crisis of suicide by students in Kota where around 250,000 students suffer immense

pressure. Out of one million JEE aspirants, only 10,000 make it to IIT, and for NEET, two million vie for 1,40,000 medical seats. The odds are scary and the stress is unbearable. I would also like to draw the attention of this House towards NEET scam. The Central Government and the Minister of Education are silent on such a sensitive issue in this grave situation. I would like to request the hon. Education Minister to consider reinstating the State's previous Joint Entrance Medical Examination as proposed by the West Bengal Assembly. The systematic revision of school textbooks under the current Government poses a threat to our children's education and intellectual integrity. Deleting a chapter on significant Muslim rulers and their contribution to the NCERT's curriculum, omitting reference to events like the 2002 Gujarat riots and altering narratives around Gandhi's assassination and promoting mythological theories over scientific ones have been widely criticised by academicians. These changes are leading to intellectual stagnation and political manipulation. An acute shortage of teachers exists as there are 10 lakh vacancies out of 62.71 lakh sanctioned posts. The marginalized sections like the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities face declining gross enrolment ratios at all levels. I would also like to draw the attention of this House to Kasturba Gandhi Schools and Navodaya Vidyalayas which are facing the problem of acute shortage of teachers. Regarding the Government's recent push for establishing campuses of foreign higher education institutions in India, I would say that the intention behind this initiative may seem noble, but these foreign universities will serve not only the needs of education but also the rich. We need not allow our rich traditions to be overshadowed by foreign influences. The great universities of Nalanda, Takshashila, and Guru Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan, West Bengal once attracted scholars from around the world, not through the attraction of foreign campuses but through the depth of knowledge and wisdom they offered.

**\*SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:**

**SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:** Education is a subject very close to my heart. The role of the Government is to regulate, to create good policies for the growth of the education ecosystem, and for those who can afford

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\* Please see Supplement

it, to provide high-quality education. For those who cannot, I think the Government should step in and invest in the future of such citizens of India. Overall, there is about a seven per cent increase in the education Budget. In the budget for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, there is an increase of 11 per cent. It reflects the strong commitment of the Government to enhance these quality schools in India. The increase in the budget of the PM SHRI programme is a strong commitment to enhancing the educational infrastructure and quality across India. I would like to also appreciate the budget allocation for the STARS Programme which is largely to increase the teachers' effectiveness through specialised teacher training. I would like to specifically appreciate the e-vouchers being provided to about one lakh students every year to secure loans of up to Rs.10 lakh to pursue higher education in domestic institutions and a three per cent interest subvention on student loans. The budget for the Central University of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, which are the subjects of the A.P. Reorganisation Act, have been subsumed into the larger support to the Central universities. I request that the budget -- whatever has to be allocated to these two specific universities in Andhra Pradesh -- continue as expected in the Act, and we are supposed to establish them as soon as possible. The achievements of the Central Government include the New Education Policy. Many speakers have spoken about the educational outcomes. But I would like to reinstate my appreciation for the increase in women's enrolment. The private sector is growing. As was mentioned, about 50 per cent of the students and faculty are in private-sector institutions. However, I fear that many private institutions are not able to recruit faculty at the quality that the Government institutions are able to. There are some institutions in the Global 200 rankings from India today, and there can be many more. I think we are well underway in that direction. The Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, the IIM, the IIT, NIT, ICER, and all Central Government institutions are in various stages of completion. I request the Government to continue allocating funds in a speedy manner. A campus of the Central Tribal University in particular was allocated in my Parliament constituency during our regime. However, the previous State Government tried to move it to a very different area where the campus did not start. There is a request from the staff of the Central Tribal University to come back to the campus that was allocated in Kothavalasa Mandal in my Parliament constituency where 500 acres of land has already been allocated. Integrating social and emotional learning

into the Indian curriculum and encouraging alternative education models is critical because we have seen mental health challenges grow across the country and I think that support is essential for our education to change. I would like to request for a Budget for research on how outcomes of school education and higher education are changing. I would request the Central Government to invest in that research and change the way we invest our money for the future.

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR:** The NDA government has done an unprecedented job by introducing a new education policy in the field of education. This policy will not only facilitate employment opportunities but also alleviate the burden of heavy books for young students, marking a significant and commendable step forward. I welcome the job-oriented and development-oriented budget presented by the Finance Minister with an emphasis on education and skill development. The budget allocation for education, employment and skills has been increased by 30% in this budget. E-vouchers for education loans have been introduced to enhance the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education. With the amount of this loan, financially weak people will also be able to get their children higher education. This initiative by the Union Government is highly commendable. The Model Skill Loan Scheme is proposed to be revised to help 25,000 students every year, which will prove to be helpful in the skill development of the youth. Additionally, the budget provisions to integrate the e-Shram portal with other platforms will facilitate connections between job seekers, companies, and skill training institutes. Through this scheme, there is a plan to provide employment training to 25,000 youth by setting up 1,000 job training centres. I would also like to request the Government to set up such job training centres in my Parliamentary constituency and West Champaran district as there are very few employment opportunities there. I would like to request the Government that my Parliamentary constituency is a very backward and tribal-dominated area. Therefore, ITI institutes of the Balmikinagar Parliamentary constituency should also be developed, so that local youth can also become skilled by getting technical and industrial training. Under the internship scheme in top companies, the budget provides for a 12-month Prime Minister's internship with a monthly honorarium of Rs 5,000. I would like to urge the Government that in today's era of inflation, this amount is very low. It should be increased to Rs 10,000 per month. The Government has decided that working women hostels will be set up. Higher

participation of working women will be promoted through hostels and crèches. While welcoming this decision, I would like to demand from the Government that such working women's hostels should be set up for women of Tharu and Oraon tribal communities in Harnatand, Belsendi of tribal-dominated Balmikinagar Parliamentary constituency, besides Ratanpurwa or Kadamhwa. Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya should be established in my constituency Balmikinagar. A Kendriya Vidyalaya should also be established in the Madhepura Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar. A Kendriya Vidyalaya has been sanctioned for Birpur in the Supaul Lok Sabha, and funds should be allocated for land acquisition. Considering Balmiki Nagar's historical significance as Mahatma Gandhi's Karmabhoomi, I recommend setting up a research institute focused on Gandhian studies in Narkatiaganj to promote Gandhian philosophy.

**\*SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:**

**\*SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:**

**SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:** Our country has a long-standing tradition of valuing education and teachers, elevating them to a revered status. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping our nation's future, and their contributions are instrumental in achieving our goal of a developed India. It is a matter of pride that the highest-ever allocation has been made for schools, education, and the Department of Literacy in this financial year. Our Government is dedicated to the welfare of India's youth and has taken decisive actions in cases such as NEET to ensure fair practices. Over the past decade, the Government has implemented numerous significant initiatives aimed at providing world-class education. During this period, India has seen the establishment of 7 new IITs, 16 IIITs, 7 IIMs, 15 new AIIMS, 315 medical colleges, and 390 universities. The Government continues to introduce new initiatives for the education and skill development of our youth, including the formulation of a new National Education Policy. This policy emphasizes education in mother tongues and Indian languages, incorporating subjects like Engineering, Medicine, and Law into these languages. As a result of these efforts, the dropout rate has decreased, and there has been a

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\* Please see Supplement

notable increase in the enrollment of girls, as well as students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBC communities in higher education.

**SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:** This Budget is quite revolutionary under the able leadership of our hon. Prime Minister. The Budget in general and the Demands for Grants in particular are very crucial for the implementation of the National Education Policy which is aimed at transforming the entire system of education. The role of the hon. Minister of Finance and hon. Minister of Education is very significant in this process. Education is nothing but the processing of human energy. Infinite potentiality, the tremendous possibility is there within every human being. This has been recognised in this National Education Policy.

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY:** Today, education in India is in a deep crisis. It is facing several problems, and this year's budget has no proposal or vision to address these concerns. This Government has failed to live up to its own promise of allotting six per cent of the GDP to the education sector. We should be ashamed of this paltry sum that we spend on education. How can we expect to become a knowledge society if we cannot provide adequate resources for education? This Government has an inherent apathy towards the institutions that have raised our prestige in the international arena. The IITs and IIMs are the symbols of excellence across the globe. There should have been efforts to strengthen these institutions by providing them with all the help they need. But since 2014, fees in these institutions have been increased many times. India cannot boast of a single university in the world's top 100. This should have been a matter of deep concern for a country with the largest population in the world, and it should have been addressed with top priority. This apathetic and anti-academic Government is preventing universities from blooming. The students and teachers of this country are not free to express their opinions. Faculty members and students have time and again been suspended for criticising and protesting against the Government. The atmosphere of fear pervades in all walks of life in this country and has gripped the education sector also. In the educational field, this atmosphere is forcing the students to flee from this country. In recent years, there has been a surge of Indian youth migrating abroad for studies. The ruling party and its affiliates are responsible for this grave situation. The marginalised sections of this country got

education not only because of the efforts of Governments but also the interventions of the missionaries and visionary leaders. Their service was not restricted to any one community. The current crop of the rabid communal elements are not aware of their contributions to our nation. These elements are creating an atmosphere of fear in the institutions run by the Christian community. The Union Government should ensure the security of the Christians and their institutions if you are serious about the welfare of the poorer sections of our society. Our state strongly demands for an AIIMS in our State, Kerala. My constituency, Pathanamthitta has a literacy rate of 97 per cent which is among the highest in the country. However, higher educational opportunities are very limited in the region. I request the hon. Minister for Education to start a full-fledged University Campus with more courses and teaching staff in the South Campus at Thiruvalla in my constituency. The number of unemployed youth is increasing day by day. Many of them have taken educational loans for their studies. But they are not in a position to repay their loans. Therefore, I request the Government to reduce the rate of interest on educational loans.

**SHRI RAJESH VERMA:** The Nalanda and Vikramshila Universities of Bihar are integral to our historical and cultural heritage, and their legacy will never be forgotten. On behalf of all the people of Bihar, I extend our profound gratitude to our Prime Minister for honouring the heritage of Nalanda on the global stage during the G-20 Summit. Today, Indians hold leadership positions at major global companies such as Google, Microsoft, and IBM, and our country is a leading provider of engineers and doctors worldwide. This is a testament to the strength of our education system, which our Government continues to support and enhance. In this year's budget, an unprecedented allocation of Rs 1.48 lakh crore has been made for education, employment, and skill training. Additionally, five new schemes related to job creation and skill development have been launched, reflecting our ongoing commitment to empowering our workforce and advancing our educational framework. To increase the participation of women in the workforce, the government plans to build hostels for working women and launch various skill development programmes. Over the next five years, 2 million youths will be trained in specialized skills under these programs. Over the past decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of higher education institutions, technical universities, and colleges. The government remains

committed to enhancing the quality of education, with the establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Adarsh Vidyalayas underway. However, I wish to draw the government's attention to the universities in Bihar, where academic sessions are extended to five years instead of the standard three. This delay impedes students' ability to pursue further studies effectively. Additionally, I urge the government to establish an engineering college in Khagaria to provide much-needed technical education. Furthermore, all high schools should be upgraded to model schools to improve educational standards.

**SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH:** This year's budget appears insufficiently focused on advancing education in the country. Only 10 percent of the Central Government's allocated funds are directed to state universities, where 90 percent of students are enrolled. This is deeply concerning. The total allocation for the Ministry of Education is Rs 1.2 lakh crore, but this amount falls short of addressing the sector's growing needs and challenges. The 61 percent reduction in the UGC budget threatens the stability of public institutions. Funding for higher education has been reduced by 16.8 percent compared to last year, and the modest 1 percent increase in the budget for school education and literacy is inadequate given critical issues such as child malnutrition and poor school infrastructure. The reduction in the PM-POSHAN budget exacerbates these problems, necessitating a significant increase in allocation to effectively address malnutrition. Additionally, the Anganwadi budget has been cut by 1.5 percent, further straining an already struggling scheme. Instead of providing scholarships, students are being compelled to take loans, and even prestigious higher education institutions are forced to seek loans from the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) established under the National Education Policy. This trend will make higher education increasingly expensive. India allocates only 0.7 percent of its GDP to research and development, which is insufficient. I request the Union Government to establish a central university named after Guru Vishwamitra in Buxar. Moreover, despite the Prime Minister's 2015 announcement regarding the Vikramshila Central University in Bhagalpur, no funding has yet been allocated for this project.

**DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI:** For the past 10 years, Andhra Pradesh has faced significant challenges due to its reorganisation. The lack of Special

Category status has significant repercussions on various sectors, particularly the education sector. The State Government has taken a number of steps to enhance the quality of education, which have given good results in the state. Moving to IFP classrooms is a significant step by the Government to enhance the education quality. Adequate funding plays a pivotal role in enhancing infrastructure, improving faculty quality, bolstering research capabilities and fostering overall academic excellence. A proposal for the establishment of more than 100 new Kendriya Vidyalayas is awaiting sanction. I would like to request the Government to sanction a new Kendriya Vidyalaya and allocate funds for the establishment of the same, especially in my constituency of Araku. This would complement the Eklavya Schools and increase the avenues of education for the ST Students.

**\*SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R.:**

**\*SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:**

**DR. SAMBIT PATRA:** A nation where educational development is equitable is truly invincible, and such a nation is destined to become a Vishwa Guru. In this Budget, major grants have been allocated towards key areas such as education, skilling, entrepreneurship, and employment. A demography comprising 40 per cent population of the youth is essentially indicative of huge opportunities for growth and development. Our focus on skilling, entrepreneurship, and innovation is critical as India aspires to become a developed nation. We aim to create a talent pool that will transform India into a global skill hub. This Budget reflects a substantial increase in funding for flagship programs such as Samagra Shiksha, PM SHRI, and PM-POSHAN. The Department of School Education and Literacy has received its highest-ever allocation, and funding for higher education has risen by 78 percent. Following the recent Supreme Court ruling on the NEET exam, I am proud to highlight that this Government has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which mandates severe penalties, including 10 years' imprisonment and fine up to one crore rupees, to fix the issue of paper leaks in the examination. The New Education Policy emphasises the respect for the mother tongues and adopts a comprehensive, holistic approach to education. Since the existing Prime Minister assumed his

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\* Please see Supplement

office, the gross enrollment ratio in primary schools has increased by 3.31 percent, and by 4 percent at the upper primary level. There has also been a 9 percent improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio, and a 36 percent rise in school electrification. Special initiatives for children with special needs have resulted in a 14 percent increase in enrollment in schools with accessible infrastructure, such as ramps etc. Moving on to the polemics of providing reservation, the Statistics show that the gross enrollment ratio for Scheduled Castes has risen from 17.1 percent in 2013-14 to 23.1 percent in 2021-22, registering an increase of over 35 percent. Enrollment of Scheduled Caste children now stands at 67.2 percent. Additionally, the establishment of six new IITs, seven new IIMs, sixteen new IIITs, and two new IISERs highlights our commitment to expanding higher education institutions. I urge the Government to consider setting up of a centrally funded university in the Bakudwan Satyawadi area of my parliamentary constituency, modelled after Shantiniketan.

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**UTPAL KUMAR SINGH**  
**Secretary General**

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

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